

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
Tower 101, Suite 1100  
101 NE 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
November 18, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2024 through 12/2024					
	Members	Appt by	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Robert Daoust	II	P	8	2
2	Kelly Charles	IV	P	8	2
3	David Blattner, Chair	I	P	9	1
4	Suzee Bailey	C	P	9	1
5	Whitney Dutton	IV	P	7	3
6	Vacant	III	-	-	-
7	Jason Kirchhoff	II	A	7	3
8	Robert Landers	III	A	3	2
9	Nicole Barnett	M	P	7	0
10	Vacant	I	-	-	-
11	Vacant	M	-	-	-

**Staff Present**

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager  
Melissa Doyle, Sustainability Division Manager (via Zoom)  
Valentina Padron-Rasines, Sustainability Analyst, Staff Liaison

**Guests**

Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair David Blattner. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A **motion** to approve the October 28, 2024 minutes, with corrections to the references to Mr. Dutton, was made by Ms. Charles and seconded by Ms. Barnett. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**Liaison Report**

**New SAB Liaison**

Ms. Valentina Padron-Rasines, Sustainability Analyst, Staff Liaison, introduced herself as the new liaison SAB Liaison, and provided a brief biography.

### SAB Communication - Youth Chair

Ms. Padron-Rasines, Sustainability Analyst and Staff Liaison, stated that Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti, Youth Chair, would present to the City Commission on November 19, 2024. She will share her interest in serving on the Sustainability Advisory Board and why she believes it is important to have youth representation on the board. At a future Commission meeting, Mr. Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager said that the City Commission will be asked to approve a Resolution ratifying Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti as the non-voting Youth Chair of the SAB.

Ms. Padron-Rasines will send information to the Board Members so they may attend the City Commission meeting to support Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti.

### 2025 Board Meeting Calendar

Ms. Padon-Rasines stated that the City Clerk had confirmed the Board calendar for 2025. She presented the dates, including the ones that would be changed. She noted that the December 2025 meeting location will be announced at a later date due to a scheduling conflict in the regular meeting space.

### ULI Presentation to Commission Conference November 19th

Mr. Hadwen, the Sustainability Manager, stated that the ULI Advisory Services Panel on roadway elevation met in March 2024 and their findings will be presented to the City Commission on November 19, 2024, providing an overview of its final report, including recommendations. That meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., and at the end, Dr. Gassman will ask the Commission for direction on the next steps. The most likely next step would be to prepare a Master Plan to apply the framework as set forth by the ULI Panel to the City's roads and to identify and prioritize the roads to be considered for elevation.

Chair Blattner asked Dr. Gassman if king tides were higher this cycle than they had been in the past. Dr. Gassman said yes, this has been the highest king tide seen in the last five or more years that was not aided by some sort of storm surge. She said some relief was expected after Wednesday, and only three more days of potential king tide flooding had been predicted over the second weekend in December. Ms. Bailey thanked Dr. Gassman for providing in-depth information about when to expect king tides.

### **Presentations**

There were no presentations.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Old Business**

### 2025 SAB topics discussion

Chair Blattner stated that today's goal was to identify the top issues for discussion during the upcoming fiscal year. He thought six topics should be the maximum. He noted ten topics that had been mentioned repeatedly over the last several months.

The discussion centered around determining top priorities and effective communication strategies. Ms. Barnett noted that community outreach plans should be made equitable, targeting the disadvantaged members of the community.

Board members further discussed the importance of ensuring that all topics chosen have maximum exposure to the public.

Mr. Hadwen said the Net Zero Plan will be completed in December or January. The Net Zero Plan is focused on reducing greenhouse gases emissions in the City.

Mr. Daoust made a point about finding balance between environmental concerns and other priorities. Dr. Gassman acknowledged the associated challenges with finding balance, and the sustainability team and advisory board deal with many topics where compromises are important.

Mr. Dutton suggested leveraging community outreach and social media to amplify the impact of board presentations, emphasizing platforms like Instagram for younger demographics. Mr. Hadwen explained the City's social media policy, noting that communications must go through the City's Strategic Communications Team. Discussion ensued about exploring alternative outreach methods, such as linking specific meeting highlights for easier public access, dedicated social media platforms, and equitable education outreach.

Mr. Hadwen said there will be a lot of recommendations associated with the Net Zero Plan and the Urban Forestry Master Plan. He said that setting a specific policy for the electrification of the City fleet would be an important part of the Net Zero Plan and suggested that a SAB Communication to the Commission that would make it more likely to be adopted as an official policy.

Mr. Hadwen noted that the Net Zero Plan is currently scheduled to be presented to the SAB in January 2025 as a final plan before it goes to the City Commission. The Urban Forestry Master Plan will not be presented to the City Commission until mid-year, allowing the SAB additional time for input.

*Ms. Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m.*

Dr. Gassman stated that at the October 1, 2024 City Commission meeting, consultant Hazen and Sawyer, provided an update on the *Fortify Fort Lauderdale Plan*, which is phase 2 of the stormwater master planning process. The first phase consisted of eight projects encompassing approximately fifteen neighborhoods, and the second set of neighborhoods is currently under construction. Phase 2 of the stormwater master plan is

doing the conceptual design work and, eventually, the major design work for an additional twenty-five neighborhoods in the City. She said the public outreach on the second phase has begun, and the basic concepts of what the project will be are being introduced.

Ms. Bailey thought the SAB should discuss flood water and storm management. Mr. Hadwen said a resiliency category could be added to address these issues.

Ms. Bailey mentioned that Public Safety should be included and thought that the objectives and policies in the comprehensive plan should be reviewed.

There was brief discussion about grants and the process by which grant applications are filed and how grants are approved.

*Mr. Landers joined the meeting at 7:43 p.m.*

Board members offered additional 2025 focus topics including waterway quality, Net Zero Plan, Urban Forestry Master Plan, and budgeting for waterways.

Concerns were raised about heat islands and environmental impacts. There was also discussion of concerns with artificial turf and whether it should be addressed in the Net Zero Plan.

The Board agreed to focus on the following on 2025 SAB Topics:

1. Net Zero Plan (Multimodal Transportation in the City (e.g., more accessible sidewalks, bike infrastructure, include LEED standards))
2. Urban Forestry Master Plan
3. Resiliency (Living Sea Walls, Stormwater Management, Water Quality, Review Objectives and Policies (Comprehensive Plan))

The Board agreed to revisit the 2025 SAB planning at the next meeting, prioritizing key focus areas and deciding on a process for board recommendations.

### **Proposed Communications**

None.

### **Comments**

**MOTION** made by Mr. Whitney, seconded by Ms. Barnett to cancel the December 2024 SAB meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Items for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be a discussion of 2025 SAB topics.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on January 27, 2025.

[Prepared by G. Johns, Prototype, Inc.]