

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
Tower 101, Suite 1100  
101 NE 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
January 27, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

| <b>Cumulative Attendance</b>  |  |                    |                   |                |               |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>1/2025 through 12/2025</b> |  |                    |                   |                |               |
|                               | <b>Members</b>   | <b>Appt<br/>by</b> | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
| 1                             | Robert Daoust  | II                 | P                 | 1              | 0             |
| 2                             | Kelly Charles  | IV                 | P                 | 1              | 0             |
| 3                             | David Blattner, Chair                                  | I                  | P                 | 1              | 0             |
| 4                             | Suzee Bailey   | C                  | P                 | 1              | 0             |
| 5                             | Whitney Dutton   | IV                 | P                 | 1              | 0             |
| 6                             | Robert Landers   | III                | P                 | 1              | 0             |
| 7                             | Nicole Barnett   | M                  | P                 | 1              | 0             |
| 8                             | Vacant   | I                  | -                 | -              | -             |
| 9                             | Vacant   | M                  | -                 | -              | -             |
| 10                            | Vacant   | III                | -                 | -              | -             |
| 11                            | Vacant   | II                 | -                 | -              | -             |
| 12                            | Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti,<br>Non-Voting Youth Chair | C                  | P                 | 1              | 0             |

**Staff Present**

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager  
Luz Ramirez, Sustainability Coordinator  
Melissa Doyle, Sustainability Division Manager (via Zoom)  
Valentina Padron-Rasines, Sustainability Analyst, Staff Liaison  
Laura Tooley, Urban Forester  
Jamie Opperee, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

**Guests**

Deborah Mandell (via Zoom)  
Jon Dickinson (via Zoom)  
Rebecca Holzwarth (via Zoom)  
Mike Flood (via Zoom)  
Robin Christians (via Zoom)

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Blattner. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Mr. Hadwen welcomed the attendees and confirmed audio/visual functionality. He also noted the presence of four screens in the room for enhanced visibility.

Mr. Hadwen reviewed the agenda, outlining the following items: Roll call, approval of minutes, reports, a presentation by John Dickinson (WSP) on the Net Zero Plan (approximately 15 minutes, followed by Q&A), and Board discussion and potential approval of a communication to the City Commission in support of the Net Zero Plan.

Roll was called and receipt of emailed documents was confirmed, including the executive summary of the Net Zero Plan and accompanying infographics. Some members noted delays in receiving or reviewing the materials due to large file sizes and busy schedules.

## II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- November 18, 2024 minutes

**Motion** made by Ms. Charles, seconded by Ms. Barnette, to approve the November 18, 2024, minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## III. **Liaison Report**

- Youth Chair Resolution

This matter was deferred pending arrival of Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti.

- Florida Urban Forestry Council Outstanding Ordinance Award

Mr. Hadwen introduced Laura Tooley, the Urban Forester. Ms. Tooley announced that the City had received an award from the Florida Urban Forestry Council recognizing the revised tree preservation ordinance. She emphasized the hard work and collaboration between various City departments and stakeholders that contributed to the updated ordinance and its subsequent recognition. Ms. Tooley also noted that further changes and recommendations are expected as the Urban Forestry Master Plan progresses.

## IV. **Presentations**

- City of Fort Lauderdale Net Zero Plan WSP

Mr. Hadwen introduced John Dickinson and the WSP team. Mr. Dickinson presented the Net Zero Plan to the Board acknowledging the intensive collaboration between the City and WSP since April, with accelerated efforts in recent weeks to finalize the Net Zero Plan.

Mr. Dickinson began his presentation by defining "Net Zero" as the balance between greenhouse gases emitted and those removed from the atmosphere. He stressed the opportunity for Fort Lauderdale to assume a leadership role in addressing climate change, both nationally and globally, through the adoption and implementation of this plan. He highlighted the potential co-benefits across various sectors, including reduced energy

costs, improved public health through reduced air pollution, enhanced water conservation, promotion of mixed-use communities and non-vehicle transportation, and reduced waste and plastic pollution.

Mr. Dickinson then detailed the plan's components: eight community-focused strategies and seven municipal government-focused strategies, all grounded in a rigorous technical analysis based on the City's 2019 greenhouse gas emissions inventories. He presented the projected emissions reductions—97% for the community and 96% for municipal operations by 2050. He explained the prioritization matrix used to rank the plan's 55 individual actions, considering factors such as return on investment, cost to the city and community, level of effort, lifecycle costs, alignment with existing city strategic priorities, social equity considerations, greenhouse gas impact, co-benefits, and implementation timeframe.

The presentation included specific examples of community actions (e.g., incentivizing net-zero development, expanding community solar, developing an EV charging master plan, advocating for single-use plastics reduction, and enhancing tree canopy) and municipal actions (e.g., securing funding streams, monitoring progress, electrifying the City fleet, implementing energy and water conservation measures in City buildings, and transitioning to renewable energy for city facilities). Mr. Dickinson also outlined the cost projections for the next five years, differentiating between community-focused and municipal government-focused costs. He explained the modeling methodology, comparing business-as-usual projections with legislative adjusted forecasts that incorporate FPL's Real Zero Plan and other relevant factors. He acknowledged the City's vulnerability to climate change impacts and emphasized the plan's contribution to climate resilience. He concluded by painting a vision of a future Fort Lauderdale with accessible streets, robust public transit, energy efficiency, improved air quality, a cleaner environment, green jobs, and increased attractiveness for investment and tourism.

An extensive Q&A session followed the presentation, with Board members posing questions to Mr. Dickinson and the WSP team.

The discussion covered a wide range of topics, including:

- how to effectively engage residents and secure community buy-in for the plan;
- what the board's priorities should be in advancing the plan;
- clarification on the definitions and parameters used in the prioritization matrix (Appendix C);
- the resources and methodology used for assessing the co-benefits of different actions;
- a noted discrepancy in the projected waste reduction figures;
- the inclusion and potential of nature-based solutions like mangrove restoration;
- the feasibility of certain actions, particularly those related to biking infrastructure, given the local climate and space constraints;
- strategies for advocating for actions that may conflict with existing state regulations, such as the reduction of single-use plastics;

- how the plan accounts for potential shifts in federal policy related to climate change;
- WSP's experience developing and implementing similar plans in other cities, and the degree of success achieved;
- the specific calculations used to estimate energy savings at water and wastewater treatment plants, including consideration of the new water treatment plant and its technology;
- the plan's reliance on FPL's Real Zero Plan and the potential impact if FPL deviates from its commitments; and
- the availability of the full report for the board's review.

The meeting then returned the discussion to **Item III. Liaison Report, Youth Chair Resolution.**

Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti was officially welcomed as the first youth chair of the SAB. This appointment was celebrated as a significant step in recognizing and empowering youth involvement in the City's sustainability efforts.

#### V. **New Business**

None.

#### VI. **Old Business**

- 2025 SAB topics discussion

Mr. Hadwen, referring to a document provided to the Board, walked through the timeline put together by the Board.

Additional potential topics for future meetings included a presentation by the fleet manager on electrifying the City fleet, and a discussion of green building standards for new City constructions, particularly the new City hall.

Further discussion addressed exploring opportunities related to renewable energy programs within the community such as Florida Solar for All program which has \$150 million to give out statewide with grants for low income communities for solar installations, as well as another grant opportunity to unlock additional funding for renewable energy; addressing private sector resiliency, encompassing topics such as floodplain management, living seawalls, mangroves, and reef arches; updates on water quality issues; and continued updates and deeper research into specific aspects of the Urban Forestry Master Plan, including public outreach efforts, tree ordinance incentives, and strategies for improving the City's tree equity scores. There was a suggestion to prioritize floodplain management discussions over the living seawalls topic.

## VII. **Proposed Communications**

Mr. Hadwen introduced a draft Communication to the City Commission, expressing the Board's support for the Net Zero Plan. A discussion ensued regarding the timing and content of this Communication. Several Board members expressed concern about the limited time available to review the full report before the upcoming Commission meeting on February 18th. There were also questions about the specificity of the language in the draft Communication, particularly regarding its alignment with existing City plans, given that the full report had not yet been thoroughly reviewed.

Several alternative approaches were considered. Some members suggested revising the Communication to use more general language, while others proposed tabling the Communication entirely until the next Board meeting, allowing more time for review. Another suggestion involved providing verbal support for the plan at the Commission meeting on February 18th, followed by a written Communication after the Board had more time to review the full report.

Ultimately, the Board decided to table the written Communication until the next meeting. One or more members volunteered to attend the February 18th Commission meeting to verbally express the Board's general support for the plan.

VIII. **Comments** – none.

## IX. **Items for Next Meeting**

Net Zero Plan actions will be scheduled, beginning with the fleet manager's presentation on electrifying the City fleet. Discussions regarding future meeting topics will continue, with the possibility of adjusting the proposed schedule based on the Board's priorities.

## X. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next meeting of the SAB will be held on February 24, 2025.