

FEAB September 2019

**FEAB MEETING MINUTES**

**September 13, 2019**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Fairhope Public Library Board Room, Fairhope, AL**

**Member Attendees:** Gary Gover, Mike Shelton, Ben Frater, Jim Horner, Tony Pritchett, Jeanine Normand, Amy Paulson

**City Council:** None

**City of Fairhope:** Kim Burmeister, Planning and Zoning Department; Christina LeJeune, Planning and Zoning Department

**Honored Guests:** Lee Faulk; Mike Nance; Jason Kudulis, Mobile Bay NEP; Madison Blanchard, Mobile Bay NEP

**Minutes taken by:** Kim Burmeister

**FEAB MINUTES:**

August minutes and attachment were approved

**DISCUSSION OF ITEMS:**

**New Member:**

Amy Paulson is now officially a FEAB member. Her appointment was approved by Council on August 26, 2019.

**Water Quality Testing Program**

Jason with Mobile Bay NEP was invited by City staff (Jessica Walker) and Gary Gover to present to the FEAB testing options and assistance which can be provided by NEP. NEP would provide training: water sampling certification. City would purchase testing kits from NEP. Testing parameters are PH, dissolved oxygen, temperature hardness and turbidity. Salinity might be tested in some areas. Testing for pathogens (E. coli and/or enterococcus) is a separate sampling certification. NEP uses the Water Ranger app to upload information. Jason suggested city add water quality testing to the current Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMPP) so that the program has teeth. Jason said that Mike Shelton with Weeks Bay also has information on water quality testing, training and kits available for purchase. Mike has discussed this with FEAB in the past.

Mike said the Water Watch program does not have any active volunteer monitoring in Fairhope but might have some test kits available.

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Gary suggested city staff monitor Fairhope Docks (Fly Creek) and North Beach Park. Gary is still concerned about high bacterial counts at North Beach. He has been conducting his own testing and counts are still high, even with the reduced geese population.

Christina said she would like to be involved as city staff to test Fairhope North Beach Park area monthly.

Kim will check with Jessica Walker to get the specifics of the program (costs, etc.) and will see if Hunter Simmons, Planning and Zoning Manager, approves of the Planning and Zoning Departments involvement in tentative water sampling program.

Planning and Zoning Department possible involvement would include:

1. Gathering information on training and cost of program so FEAB can draft a motion/resolution for Council.
2. Working with Jessica Walker on outreach to find volunteers (Facebook, subdivision contacts via email, etc.)
3. Confirming city staff samplers for two locations: Fairhope Docks and North Beach Park
4. Conducting sampling of North Beach Park
5. Coordinating data and program with Mobile Bay NEP

Gary said resident volunteers will definitely be needed. The first step is to determine a list of testing areas (Jason said he will assist) and see if the city will support this program at least for 12 months.

Jason said he will help Gary / FEAB pinpoint or define monthly testing spots. He is suggesting 10 volunteers (10 testing spots). Jason said data would eventually be uploaded to Water Watch on-line.

Jeanine said that once information is gathered and the plan is written up, FEAB will need to make a formal resolution for council to consider the program and purchase of the testing kits. Resolution might be a good way to have city acknowledge commitment to water sampling.

Mike said testing should be a minimum of once per month. Mike mentioned some of the pitfalls with sampling and volunteers. He said volunteers should be given information ahead of time of the site conditions, snakes, etc.

Amy mentioned possible school involvement.

Kim mentioned FHS environmental club.

Mike cautioned against counting on schools for monitoring but thought we should give them an opportunity to be involved as a supplement to their programs. He did not think we should rely on schools for regular monitoring though.

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Kim suggested volunteers be looked at in the area of each sample point, since someone living close to the sampling site will likely be more accountable.

Kim said the Waste Water Treatment Plant has been involved in bacteriological testing in the past at the duck pond/ wetland pond at North Beach Park.

Tony asked about a map of area outfalls. Kim said there is a map and data sheets on-line of all the cities designated "outfalls". There are 13 major outfalls into the bay and 630 minor outfalls.

<https://www.fairhopeal.gov/departments/planning-and-zoning/storm-sewer-inventory-mapping-project-2012>

### **Climate Change:**

Mike Shelton researched how the city can address climate change, per Gary's recommendation. See attachment provided by Mike of Climate Action Plan from Carrboro, NC.

Mike suggested a resolution by the City to reduce carbon emissions by acknowledging climate change.

Kim suggested city include a municipal action item as part of this resolution.

Amy gave a kudos to Meredith Montgomery of the Bike to School program. This year, over a hundred kids showed up as the first bike to school day of 2019.

Lee said it is time for the city to be more aggressive on conservation issues like this.

Tony said the "Blue Zone" program is a good resource for information.

Jim said reducing single use plastics like plastic bags is a good start. Many progressive cities have grocery stores that charge for plastic bags, which encourages bringing your own bag.

### **Tree Protection:**

Tony is still trying to contact Public Works (Paul Merchant) about the tree ordinance.

Kim will give Paul a heads up that Tony is trying to reach him.

### **FEAB Membership**

Gary suggested an amendment to the FEAB ordinance 1435, code of ordinance. This will address non-attending members. He suggested this amendment (bold, italics) as a motion to amend:

(b) The board will consist of six to ten active members. Members may be nominated by the mayor, city council or other members. Members will be appointed by city council.

***An appointed member with unwarranted absences from three (3) consecutive meetings in a twelve-month period shall have resigned their appointment.***

Jim made the motion to accept the motion: Mike seconded. This passed unanimously.

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**\*MOTION\***

*Add An appointed member with unwarranted absences from three (3) consecutive meetings in a twelve-month period shall have resigned their appointment to ordinance 1435 Section 2-82 "Membership"*

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Next meeting is October 11, 2019, Fairhope Library Board Room

**FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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