

FEAB January 2020

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Fairhope Public Library Board Room, Fairhope, AL

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Ben Frater, Jim Horner, Jeanine Normand, Amy Paulson

City Council: None

City of Fairhope: Kim Burmeister, Planning and Zoning Department

Honored Guests: Lee Faulk; Mike Nance

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

FEAB MINUTES:

December minutes were approved. Motion: Jim; Second; Ben

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS:

Membership:

Gary discussed membership and by-laws status. Currently FEAB has 9 members. There is one vacancy. Lee Faulk may be interested in becoming a member. She is considering applying. In September 2019, FEAB approved a motion to revise the language of the by-laws:

*From Sept. 2019 FEAB minutes: Gary suggested an amendment to the FEAB ordinance 1435, code of ordinance. This will address non-attending members. He suggested this amendment 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. FEAB September 2019 *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"*

Gary has not moved this motion forward to Council because he is still in discussion with Lisa Hanks, City Clerk, for clarification on quorums and membership. There is some discrepancy on what constitutes a quorum. Gary mentioned the Educational Committee by-laws as being a good guidance tool for the FEAB by-laws if changes are made. Gary will follow up with Lisa on clarification of quorum rules and possible by-law changes.

Coastal Management Living Shoreline Tool

Amy recently attended a Living Shoreline workshop at Five Rivers. Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Training Program and other partners presented a free guidance tool (still being developed) for regulatory employees, property owners, contractors and developers. According to the workshop brochure: *“The Living Shoreline Sustainability Model (LSSM) identifies locations where living shorelines are suitable based on a suite of shoreline conditions. The workshop demonstrated data layers necessary to run the model and provide examples of selected sites along the Coastal Alabama region.”* Permit guidance is also offered. This tool targets shoreline management alternatives to bulk heads. Amy suggests the City promote this tool for community use and possibly as an inclusion item in the Comprehensive Plan and on the City website. Gary said this would be a good example of a positive input item and suggested Amy present this to Planning Commission on February 4th. It was unclear as to whether Amy will present this on behalf of FEAB or as a citizen. Jim felt like FEAB needed more discussion on this before presenting as a FEAB item. Amy will check with Mike Shelton on this, since he is the expert on the living shoreline guidance tool.

<https://cmap2.vims.edu/Livingshoreline/DecisionSupportTool/index.html>

Jeanine mentioned the need to encourage more sea grass growth along our shorelines at the shoreline and also just off-shore. Ben said the “working waterfront” program might fit with this as well. Kim suggested including Richard Johnson, Public Works Director and City engineer, in on these discussions. He is in charge of park shoreline projects and might have experience with this tool and with living shoreline projects in Fairhope. Jeanine said the City needs to offer better direction to the public on wetlands and shoreline improvement project alternatives. Citizens are not sure who to call. Kim also mentioned gully protection as an important line item relative to shoreline protection.

Triangle Conservancy

Ben has invited the Triangle Conservancy group to the February FEAB meeting. This group is advocating environment options for the triangle property. Richard Johnson should be invited to the next meeting. Kim will include him on the email invite, as well as Jessica Walker, Community Development. <https://triangleconservancy.org/>

Natural Resource Inventory

Jim would like to know the status of the City performing an environmental audit on the Triangle property, as was passed on a motion by FEAB in 2019. Gena Todia, Wetland Resources, has provided a quote. Kim said it might be pertinent for the City to update the existing Natural Resource Inventory from 2003, which was a city-wide environmental resource audit. It is available on-line but needs to be updated.

[2003 Fairhope NR Inventory](#)

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Climate Change

Amy said she and Mike are working on climate change action plans which may be considered for implementation by the City. This will be available before Earth Day for ratification consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting is February 14th: Fairhope Library Board Room

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

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