

FEAB September 2020

FEAB MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2020
3:00 p.m.
Fairhope Civic Center Council Chambers, Fairhope, AL

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

City Council: Jimmy Conyers

City of Fairhope: Christina LeJeune, Planning and Zoning; Jessica Sawyer, Community Development; Buford King, Developmental Services Manager

Honored Guests: None

Minutes taken by: Christina LeJeune

FEAB MINUTES:

August 2020 FEAB minutes were approved as written.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS:

Update on Dyas Triangle:

Amy announced that the Dyas Triangle would be discussed at the next City Council meeting on September 14, 2020. Jimmy confirmed that the FEAB Bylaws and the Dyas Triangle were on the workshop agenda for that date. Jimmy suggested that someone from FEAB may want to be there to represent the board. Jimmy said while having discussion on what to do with the property it was very important to get an inventory report for the Dyas Triangle. Amy to attend 9/14 meeting.

Idea for a possible “committee member meeting of Advisory Boards/Committees”

Amy’s idea would be for the City to host a large group meeting that would increase communications between the different Boards/Committees. It would also help with expectations between the City and Boards/Committees. Jessica thinks this is a great idea for outreach and should be open to the public to help invigorate the Community and to help make them aware that there are requirements that the members must meet. Jim said they may want to consider limiting attendance to 2-3 persons from each Board/Committee. Jessica mentioned a possible committee fair and recommended all ideas to be run by Lisa Hanks first. Tony stated that right now it is hard to communicate with other Boards/Committees due to them not meeting as often.

Update on Climate Action Plan (CAP):

Amy “This update is intended to identify work already done in Community Resiliency Index (CRI) for Fairhope that was initiated/complete in 2017 and how a CAP-like effort can evolve from that effort”. Amy would like to receive old information from the City, dig up prior resiliency determination, and rescore selves to see where we stand on progress - and to identify missing elements or areas for improvement / create a plan to move forward. Starting first with the CRI may help “sell” the idea of a CAP to the community – a robust CRI effort would highlight the relevance of the science, planning, and potential impacts at our local scale. Additionally, a higher CRI score for the community is often used by insurance companies to lower rates – a tangible outcome that would benefit the City and ALL residents. Amy recommends that the CRI effort would stand as step 1 and then could quickly evolve into a CAP as step 2. Mike stated that he would be happy to lead the City in rescoring ourselves for the CRI. Afterwards, there are several ways to pursue a CAP, including technical or grant assistance from the NOAA Climate and Resilience Community of Practice, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium. Anna Miller will speak to FEAB further on this topic upon our request in a future FEAB meeting.

Jim asked how they came up with the questions that are asked in a CRI. Mike explained you would pick a past storm event from within the community and do a self-assessment from that info gathered. Gary stated this was big in finding out how your community will rebound afterwards. Mike said this was also helpful with recovery and response from all City departments, Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, Immanuel Services, etc.

Gary suggested that the CAP could be umbrellaed under the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (LUP). In doing this no separate funding or approval would be needed. Jessica indicated that, while some resiliency and sustainability planning is included in a LUP, performing a detailed CAP analysis may not be in the existing contractor’s scope of work for the LUP to the extent that would be necessary to complete a useful/meaningful effort for the CAP task. Amy stated that she can pull and share several additional examples of CAPs for similar communities across the U.S. for us to review and discuss as potential endpoints for a Fairhope CAP.



Update on Living Shorelines:

Amy is proposing that the FEAB can table this as an action item for the time being because it is a priority for other ongoing efforts, including shoreline engineers and other scientists, at this time. She stated that researching options for living shorelines is a component of the current Watershed Management Plan, and may also be included in the Land Use Plan and Working Waterfronts Plan. Additional FEAB direction and ideas could be brought straight to the WMP, LUP, and WWP, and as such it is recommended that the Advisory Board designate a liaison(s) that may participate directly and facilitate communication between these projects and the Board.

Comprehensive Land use Plan:

Gary shared his concern for trouble of understanding what it is that the community wants and their acceptance of a plan. Jim said the City has tried hard to get info from the community. Amy suggested using a third party for recommendations. Tony said input from the public is needed. Mike said that most comprehensive plans have integrated sustainability and resiliency. Gary mentioned looking at other models out there to get input.

Update on Fly Creek Watershed Management Plan:

Amy shared that the WMP has started with the preparation of a video intended to promote participation in the effort as it gets off the ground. Additionally, a team of scientists are collecting and reviewing data to characterize the watershed. Full watershed stakeholder engagement is anticipated within the next few months (Dec/Feb).

Other Business:

Tony shared that Shawn Graham was not longer a FEAB member and should be removed from contact info. Amy said Nicole Love has resigned as well. Next meeting is Friday, October 9th @ 3 p.m. Delchamps Room (*subject to change*)

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

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