

FEAB MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING WITH MAYOR
May 21, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Fairhope Nix Center, Fairhope, AL

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Mike Shelton, Michelle Melton, Jennifer Foutch, Ben Frater, Amy Paulson, Jeanine Normand, Nigel Temple

City of Fairhope: Kim Burmeister -Planning and Zoning Department; Mayor Sherry Sullivan

City Council: Corey Martin

Minutes taken by Kim Burmeister

Gary called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Gary:

FEAB hopes the Mayor will recognize FEAB as a solid asset for the City of Fairhope to use at her discretion. He stated some of the projects FEAB has assisted city within the past:

1. Parks Brochure
2. Environmental Ordinances (Wetlands, Red Soil & Clay)
3. Gulley Brochure
4. Countless Resolutions

He would like to increase environmental awareness by providing consultation through: Mayor-Council-Department Heads

Amy:

Asked everyone to introduce themselves. Expertise on the board includes:

1. Fish and Wildlife biologist
2. Ecologist / Living Shorelines scientist
3. Real Estate / Law
4. Environmental Planning
5. Non-profit Environmental Activist
6. Technical service work (paper company)
7. Watershed coordinator
8. Information technology
9. Two veterans on board

Amy showed a short Power Points presentation discussing the FEAB vision and mission as stated on the agenda. She hopes FEAB can be a trusted resource for upcoming projects.

She asked the Mayor to share her top priorities.

Mayor Sullivan:

Top priority is wastewater infrastructure improvements. Other upcoming high priority projects are:

1. Restore project: smoke testing to locate areas of infiltration and areas of concern for improvement
2. Dyas Triangle property

Ben asked the Mayor how she saw FEABs role with the city.

Mayor: There are a lot of city boards and staff needs to be more thoughtful in communications with these boards. If there are items of concern, she suggests FEAB contact her directly. She suggests one point of contact. She is receiving email on FEAB minutes but with so many emails coming through, a phone call is always the best option. She welcomes and appreciates FEABs review and opinions of upcoming projects including the Dyas Triangle project.

Amy: referenced FEABs priorities as listed on the agenda. She would like to know if FEABs expertise can be used on these agenda items:

1. Dyas Triangle
2. Wetland Ordinance
3. Community Resilience Index

Mayor said the City (Jack Burrell, Corey Martin, Mayor Sullivan) has recently met with Mary Riser on the Triangle property regarding the conservation easement potential. One scenario is for the City to donate the Triangle property to the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, who will in turn deed the property into a park and return it to the city, with conservation easements. City has a relation with FST where this would work with very little cost to the City. The ADECA trail grant will encompass 30 acres of the Dyas property and will include a bathroom as part of the project. Gena Todia will be compiling a comprehensive property management plan with considerations for controlled burns, wildlife considerations and timber harvesting. Mayor would like FEAB to review the plan once it's received, to offer their insight. Mayor also envisions plant and wildlife identification as part of the Dyas property development. She hopes to hire a full-time person to manage and oversee the Dyas triangle property.

Jim asked if a park designation would be perpetual. Mayor said it could possibly be undone by future Council. Michelle thought it would be a hard and difficult process to undo a parks designation. There are solid restrictions in place for undoing a park or greenspace designation.

Mayor asked for ideas on property management Dyas Triangle development.

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Jim noted that the trail development is a slow process and the property as a whole needs property management asap. Mayor agreed, thinks it will be about a year before trail is ready to be built. Corey said this project has been stagnant too long and needs to be underway.

Michelle asked if the entire Dyas Triangle property would be included in the conservation easement? Mayor: Yes

Corey said this action will preserve the property as a park.

Jeanine noted the foresters that worked on the Knoll Park property as being a good resource for the Dyas triangle property.

Michelle asked when the ADECA Grant was due: Mayor: July 1, 2021.

Mayor will send FEAB the scope of work for the ADECA grant.

Amy: asked how to get resolutions before council faster. She would like to identify a process for faster reception with resolutions. Mayor asked for a phone call as a heads up on resolution.

Mayor asked Kim to give Lisa Hanks everyone's email address (FEAB) so they can receive council agendas/ work session agendas prior to the meeting.

Ben asked if gullies are being considered as trails. Mayor said there is a safety concern. Ben said city could improve liability by making some areas of the gulley safer. Jim stated the nature of gullies which is to provide stormwater conveyance. Stormwater moving through gullies can be torrential. He questioned if the city should be encouraging pedestrian activity in gullies.

SD-107

Mayor mentioned recent legislation changes that may reduce the City jurisdictions to at or near the City limits. This will limit the enforcement of the City of Fairhope on wetland issues and red soil and clay issues to only the City limits. County will have the

Amy said FEAB is a group of volunteers and professionals who care about Fairhope. FEAB is eager to help.

Meeting adjourned: 4:05 p.m.

Next meeting: Friday, June 11th, 3 p.m. Delchamps Room, City Hall

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairman:

Gary Gover govers@bellsouth.net (251) 990-8662

Members:

Jeanine Normand drjnormand@aol.com (251) 928-2284

Ben Frater ben.frater@gmail.com (404) 314-8815

Mike Shelton yaupon3@gmail.com (251) 270-9042

Jim Horner none (251) 928-9722

Amy Paulson amy.paulson@yahoo.com (251) 654-7401

Nigel Temple 757nigel@gmail.com (757) 803-3589

Michelle Melton michelleleemeltonlee@gmail.com (423) 504-8253

Jennifer Foutch Foutch.jennifer@gmail.com (618) 318-0354

CITY CONTACTS:

Corey Martin, City Council corey.martin@fairhopeal.gov

Kim Burmeister, Planning and Zoning Department kim.burmeister@fairhopeal.gov

Christina LeJeune, Planning and Zoning Department christina.lejeune@fairhopeal.gov

agenda attached- 5 pgs.

FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
POC AMY PAULSON
MAY 21, 2021

WORKING PAPER
THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
2021 ORGANIZATION AND PRIORITIES

Mission: To provide policy advice to the City Council, Mayor, and City Departments regarding environmental matters that concern the City of Fairhope.

Vision: to serve as a trusted, scientific resource providing a local environmental perspective to policy decisions to ensure environmental matters are given full consideration in the City's decision making processes. We strive to positively affect the quality of life for all residents, their connection to our local ecosystems, and the resilience and sustainment of Fairhope as a small, yet world-class, city.

Role: the FEAB is dedicated to increasing awareness of environmental issues, offering recommendations to City administrators, and providing state-of-the science consultation in the implementation of sustainable solutions.

The Environmental Advisory Board may review and make recommendations to the City Council, Mayor, and City Departments on environmental policy issues as follows:

- (1) Proposed ordinances and codes of an environmental nature.
- (2) Proposed changes to existing environmental ordinances and codes.
- (3) Other environmental matters affecting the City as referred to the Board by the City Council, Mayor, City Department, and public citizen stakeholders.
- (4) Relevant partnerships with other City Boards, Committees, Commissions, or other volunteer functions.
- (5) Other environmental matters affecting the City that are initiated by the Board.

Regular Meeting Timing/Location: 3-4pm on the second Friday of each month / DelChamps Room, City Building, Section Street

City Points of Contact: City of Fairhope, Councilmember, Corey Martin
City of Fairhope, Community Development, Jessica Walker
¹City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Kim Burmeister
¹City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Christina LeJeune

Member Information:

- Gary Gover, Board President, *MS Business Administration / MS Public Administration / BS Biological Science.*
Gary served in the U.S Marine Corps as an electronics instructor and worked for the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs as a manager in information technology. He is a member of the Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee, Recycling Committee, Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee, and Environmental Advisory Board. He is a board member and officer of the Local Food Production

¹ Appointed by City to attend Board functions

Initiative, Inc. and Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc. Has lived in Fairhope 24 years. *FEAB since 2006, (FEAB Director "many" years)*

- **Ben Frater, MS Fish and Wildlife Biology / BS Biology**
Moved here from Panama City, Florida 10 years ago to raise a family and work on Deepwater Horizon related restoration projects through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf Restoration Office. He currently serves as the Chief of Planning and Compliance for the Department of the Interior on activities throughout the Gulf related to the RESTORE Act, NRDA, and Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. Earlier in his Fish and Wildlife Service career, Ben worked with city and county planners to permit mitigation banks and habitat conservation preserves for endangered species in California and Florida. Ben has also worked many years in fisheries management and as a Forest Planner for the U.S Forest Service. His love for his community and interest in outdoor recreation, compromise, urban conservation, and green space drew him to volunteer for FEAB. He lives with his wife and three daughters within walking distance to many gullies and the Fly Creek/Dyas property, and is eager to see them properly celebrated as a lure to citizens and visitors to Fairhope. *FEAB since 2017.*
- **Mike Shelton, MS Biology / BS Biology**
Is the Training /Watershed Program Coordinator at Weeks Bay Reserve in the Lands Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and a component of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Estuarine Research Reserve System. He has worked in environmental science, research, and compliance for over 30 years. Since coming to Weeks Bay Reserve in 2001, Mike has collaborated with agencies, decision-makers, and area residents to achieve better use of the natural resources of coastal Alabama. Duties include professional training, water quality monitoring and research, and assisting watershed stakeholders with on-the-ground pollution prevention and restoration projects. Mike has been a resident of Fairhope for over 26 years and has served the City as a member and chairman of the Environmental Advisory Board. Wendy, spouse, and Mike raised their two sons, James and Charles, in Fairhope. Mike earned a Master of Science degree in Biology at Emory University and a Bachelor of Science degree at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Prior to Weeks Bay Reserve, Mike managed the applications and environmental testing laboratory for an engineering firm in Charlotte, North Carolina. He worked with both the regulators and the regulated communities on stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater treatment issues. *FEAB since 2013 (FEAB Director "many" years).*
- **Amy Paulson, MS Conservation and Sustainable Development / BS Ecology**
25+ years in environmental planning, including project analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act; sustainability, resiliency, and watershed plans; pollution prevention and environmental compliance; military installation master planning; renewable energy systems; and conflict negotiation and facilitation. Worked special environmental projects for the Environmental Protection Agency; the Mayor of Denver, CO; and various federal, state, local, and international agencies. *FEAB since 2019.*
- **Michelle Melton, J.D. with emphasis in Natural Resources and Land Use / BA Political Science**
15+ years negotiating real estate transactions acquiring property to create local parks and greenways and adding significant acreage of critical habitat to state and national parks. Michelle has worked with several municipalities in the U.S. using capital improvement, brownfield, RESTORE, NFWF, private/public partnership and many other funding sources to enhance natural and recreational amenities. She has worked with The Nature Conservancy and for the Trust for Public Land and currently serves as Deputy Director of Real Estate Asset Management for the City of Mobile. *FEAB*

since 2021.

- **Nigel Temple, Ph.D. Coastal Restoration Ecology**
9+ years developing, implementing, and managing research projects related to freshwater and coastal ecology, conservation, restoration, environmental engineering, sensor development, science communication, nutrient management, and other drivers of events, relevant to restoration and conservation project outcomes, and development and implementation of robust project monitoring programs. Current work is focused on the development, permitting, and installation of small- to large-scale living shorelines projects and monitoring of success criteria while also developing novel research on coastal resilience issues. *FEAB since 2021.*
- **Jim Horner, Engineer**
After serving in the U. S. Navy, I joined Scott Paper Company in Mobile as an engineer. I then moved to St. Louis, MO and Appleton, Wisconsin doing technical service work for the paper industry. But, taking a girl (my wife Sandy) from Robertsdale to Appleton was not a smart thing to do. We then returned to Alabama to finish out my working career. My focus in the FEAB has been mainly on the regulation and control of stormwater run-off. *FEAB since 2003 (FEAB Director 9 years).*
- **Jennifer Foutch, JD / BA in Administration of Justice and Political Science**
Jennifer earned her Juris Doctorate from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 1998. She practiced criminal law in Perry County, Illinois for over 18 years. She held positions as the Assistant State's Attorney and then as the Public Defender for Perry County, IL. In 2016, she relocated to Fairhope with her husband and two daughters. She is currently licensed as a member of the Alabama Bar, and is a member of the Baldwin County Bar Association. She is employed as the Government Affairs Director for the Baldwin Realtors Association. *FEAB since 2021.*
- **Jeanine Normand**
Born in New Orleans, grew up in Fairhope, and roamed the swamps here and in southern Louisiana with my uncles who were Conservation Officers - cementing my enthusiasm for ecology field work, protection of the environment, and species diversity. An environmental activist since 1972, I graduated FHS, moved away for undergrad studies in premed, eventually earning several graduate degrees, including an MBA equivalency focused on environmentally safe agribusiness. I served for two years in the 1990s as an adviser to the state of Georgia on environmentally-friendly accessibility (ADA) in Georgia State Parks and have participated on several city of Fairhope boards since 2002, including the nonprofit "Earth Day Mobile Bay" committee and the FEAB. *FEAB since 2003.*
- **Kim Burmeister, Biology / USACE Wetlands Delineation Certified and Qualified Credentialed Inspector - MS4 Management Certified**
Has worked for the City of Fairhope since 1996 (Public Works initially) and with the Planning and Zoning Department as the Code Enforcement Officer since 2006. *City FEAB liaison since 2006.*

2021 Priorities:

The FEAB will focus on a handful of priorities in 2021, organizing our energy (monthly agenda, action items, individual labor, Board discussions, and local government interactions) around making real progress on these select initiatives. Additional priorities may be added to this list as they arise in 2021. Note that POCs are designated to lead an effort but may be assisted by other FEAB members or assemble a community subcommittee as desired.

PRIORITY ISSUE	DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD
Dyas Triangle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) City of Fairhope makes definitive decision and initiates action on Dyas Triangle restoration and public use. (2) Dyas Triangle is restored to appropriate ecological endpoint and developed as greenspace for the City of Fairhope. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Focus on Plan input (obtain Plan) 	<p>Michelle Melton</p> <p>Ben Frater (natural resource planning)</p>
Fairhope Wetlands Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) City of Fairhope is empowered and equipped to protect local wetland resources. (2) Subdivision regulations are congruent with City of Fairhope Wetland Ordinance 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assist Erik Cortinas, City of Fairhope Building Official, in planning charrette for City of Fairhope Wetlands Ordinance review. b. Communicate benefits, value, and function of Grady Ponds c. Develop language for zoning and subdivision regulations regarding wetlands protection standards in Fairhope 	Nigel Temple
Community Resiliency Index	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The City of Fairhope rescors the 2017 Community Resilience Index (CRI) in light of 2020 hurricane season. (2) The City sets triggers (e.g., Cat 2 hurricane makes landfall within 50 miles) or schedule for next update. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Designate City liaison for effort (i.e., Cory champions, mayor partners, departments participate) b. Review/prepare materials c. Schedule review d. Perform review e. Document and communicate findings 	Mike Shelton
Meaningful Participation in City Planning Efforts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The FEAB provides Meaningful participation in ongoing City planning efforts, including designating FEAB liaison to participate in/report on the following Plans. (2) The FEAB provides objective input to City governing members on these initiatives. 		ALL
(1) Fly Creek Watershed Management Plan (WMP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ONGOING implementation of Fly Creek WMP. (2) Fly Creek WMP implementation recommendations are continuously pursued and implemented by City of Fairhope. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Review and provide comments on all draft documents (solicit discussion and recommendations from FEAB and compile for WMP Study Team). 	Kim Burmeister
(2) Land Use Plan (LUP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ONGOING implementation of City of Fairhope LUP. (2) City of Fairhope policy, zoning, and permitting decisions are continuously informed by LUP. (3) City of Fairhope establishes, protects, and links greenspace areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Review and provide comments on all draft documents (solicit discussion and recommendations from FEAB and compile for LUP Study Team). 	Amy Paulson

PRIORITY ISSUE	DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD
(3) <i>Climate Action Plan (CAP)</i>	(1) City of Fairhope prepares, implements, and promotes a CAP, including our risks FROM and our contribution TO climate change.	a. Integrate CRI b. Find funding / hire consultant (?) c. Perform energy audit d. Integrate pedestrian-friendly planning e. Transition City fleet to alternative fuel/electric f. Promote/install electric vehicle charging station infrastructure g. Install small-scale renewables	TBD – follow on from CRI
(4) <i>Alabama Community of Excellence (COE) designation</i>	(1) City of Fairhope is designated as a COE (2) City of Fairhope takes advantage of the technical and granting assistance available through this program	a. Obtain City of Fairhope permission to pursue COE b. Perform assessment and develop “report card” c. Develop Strategic Plan and Leadership Development Plan d. Develop Comprehensive Plan e. Implement plans and promote benefits of accreditation.	Gary Gover
Maintain connection to / relationship with Fairhope governing bodies	(1) FEAB offers relevant, dependable, and consistent support to City governing bodies. (2) City governing bodies access FEAB for support, perspectives, or recommendations.	a. Attend appropriate meetings b. Report relevant items to FEAB for consideration and Resolution c. Communicate FEAB recommendations and initiatives	a-b. Jennifer Foutch
(1) <i>Mayor’s Office</i>			TBD
(2) <i>City Council</i>			TBD
(3) <i>Specific Departments?</i>			TBD
(4) <i>Other Groups?</i>			TBD

Agenda prepared by Amy