

**FEAB MEETING MINUTES**

June 10, 2022

2:30 p.m. @ Library Board Room

**Member Attendees:** Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Nigel Temple, Jennifer Foutch, Ben Frater, Amy Paulson, Rick Speight

**Members not in attendance:**

Michelle Melton

**City of Fairhope:** Hunter Simmons, Kim Burmeister -Planning and Zoning Department; Jessica Walker, Economic and Community Development

**City Council:** None

**Honored Guests:** Nicole Love (Thompson Engineering); Casey Gay Williams, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce; Jody Thompson, Auburn University; Darrel Williams (pending Council approval for membership on June 27th)

**Minutes taken by:** Kim Burmeister

Amy called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**Summary of meeting:**

1. *No motions passed*
2. *Three action items:*
  - a. Amy will attempt to get FEAB rep and MS/AL SeaGrant rep on upcoming Work Session with Council, pending contact with Corey Martin, for CRI discussions.
  - b. Amy asked FEAB members to bring budget wish items to the July FEAB meeting
  - c. Gary will check with other city boards (Harbor, Rec, Bike & Ped) to schedule 15 minute presentation by FEAB on projects and goals
3. Jody Thompson and Casey Gay Williams gave a presentation on the importance of the MS/AL SeaGrant CRI scoring for the city of Fairhope (recommended every year or after every significant storm event). They can assist Fairhope with this process.
4. Darrell will tentatively be accepted as a FEAB member at Council Meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
5. Nicole's FEAB membership is pending resignation from Michelle Melton, who has been hired as a City Planner, starting end of June.
6. Triangle property is in the RFQ stage, engineer commitment coming soon.

7. FEAB would like to organize a field trip for FEAB, Bike Ped and possibly city council to walk through the Triangle property and the Fly Creek portion of the Triangle property.
8. Darrell noticed a lot of invasive species on the Triangle property.
9. FEAB discussions on by-law amendments for membership increase and time change (to 1.5 hours) have been dismissed for now.
10. Hunter encouraged FEAB to draft a summary of goals prior to contacting Erik regarding the planned wetland charette. Goals will determine the audience.
11. FEAB members are taking turns attending the Planning Commission meetings and may attend City Council meetings or work sessions in the future.
12. Jessica was recognized as being vital in city obtaining \$750K in stormwater project funding, coming late 2022 or early 2023.
13. FEAB would like to be part of comp plan review before finalization.

**FEAB Minutes/Updates to Board and By-laws:**

1. Amy made a motion to approve FEAB May minutes; Nigel asked that his comment on pg. 19 be amended to say "...presenters should be encouraged to present concise points throughout the presentation".
2. Darrell's membership to FEAB still pending council approval
3. Nicole's membership to FEAB still pending vacancy of a position
4. Hunter announced that FEAB member Michelle Melton has been hired as a City Planner, tentative start date June 27<sup>th</sup>. This will free up a position on FEAB.
5. Amy said the discussions for by-law amendment to raise the number of FEAB members from 9 to eleven will be placed on hold for now; everyone indicated agreement to do this for now.
6. Amy mentioned the discussion on by-law change to amend time from 3 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. to allow for 1.5 hour meetings instead of 1 hour meetings. Jennifer suggested to leave it as is for right now. Consensus was to discontinue discussions on this for now, leave it as is for now.

**Agenda:**

Amy drafted this agenda to share with FEAB:

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**AGENDA**

**THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING**

**JUNE 10, 2022 / 2:30 PM LIBRARY, GIDDENS ROOM**

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1. **Special Meeting: Organization of Community Resiliency Index – Nicole (~30 min)**
  - a. **Guests: Jody Thompson, MS/AL SeaGrant and Casey Gay Williams, President of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce**
  - b. **Discussion: What are the next steps?**
  
2. **Housekeeping (~5 min)**
  - a. **Acceptance of prior meeting minutes – Kim**
  - b. **Membership – send a Resolution for membership increase via Corey to Council**
  - c. **Meeting Duration – send a Resolution for official time change via Corey to Council: Meeting to have 30-minute initial public session for guest presentations and then 1 hour for FEAB housekeeping and deliberation, for a total 1.5 hours (2:30 – 4:00).**
  
3. **Old Action Items (~10 mins) – Any Progress?**
  - a. **Ben to arrange onsite field trip with FEAB, Mayor, City Council at Dyas to discuss use of property. (Invite Bike and Ped rep? Auburn extension to attend.)**
  - b. **Amy / Gary to request agenda presence at Harbor Board, Recreation Board, Bike & Ped Committee regular monthly meeting to present FEAB slideshow/ discuss mutual priorities and opportunities to partner.**
  - c. **Ben / Amy to follow up with Pat White / Recreation Dept. for park planning (Colony, Dyas) (any more thoughts on how to proceed since last month)?**
  - d. **Amy to reach out to ~~highschool~~ for representative on FEAB – tabled until fall.**
  
4. **POC Status Report on FEAB Focus Issues (~15 min)**

**LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE**

  - a. **Planning Commission Meeting Rotation – Jennifer 6/6**
  - b. **Fairhope City Council – Jennifer / Corey**
  - c. **Fairhope Mayor’s Office – Amy / Gary**
  - d. **Fairhope City Departments – Kim / Christina**
  - e. **Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee and EAC sub-committees (wetlands and neighborhoods) – Kim**
    - i. **Rotational responsibility? (First Tuesday of every month, 4PM, Robertsdale Baldwin County Annex.)**
  - f. **Community Resiliency Index – Nicole**
  - g. **Dyas Triangle – Ben / Michelle**
  - h. **Fairhope Wetlands Protection – Nigel**
    - i. **City goal to write wetland ordinance requirements into subdivision regulations.**
  - i. **Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan and Hotspot identification– Kim / Nicole**
  - j. **Fairhope Comprehensive LUP – Ben**
  - k. **Recycling – Jennifer**
    - i. **Litter Gitter update?**
    - ii. **Establish FEAB subcommittee?**
  - l. **Clean Marina Project – Gary, Rick, Jim?**
  
5. **New Business / Other Interests (~10 min)**

**LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE**

  - a. **Stormwater – Jim / Rick / Kim**
  - b. **Bike and Pedestrian Committee – Gary / Nigel**
  - c. **Energy Conservation Initiatives (climate change action) – Gary**

6. Involvement Opportunities – Gary (<5)
  - a. **Wetland Regulations and Compliance Workshop. Guidance for Professionals Involved in Land Use Issues** Thursday, June 16, 2022. Mobile Area Association of Realtors\* 2827 Airport Boulevard Mobile, AL 36606 Registration Deadline: Thursday, June 9 OR Tuesday, July 19, 2022 Baldwin REALTORS 23280 County Road 65 Robertsdale, AL 36567 Registration Deadline: Tuesday, July 12
  - b. **Advanced Wetland Regulations and Compliance Workshop: Additional Topics for Professionals Involved in Land Use Issues**, Thursday, June 16, 2022, 8:30am - 3:10pm Mobile Area Association of Realtors 2827 Airport Boulevard, Mobile, AL 36606
7. Wrap up (< 5min)
  - a. Potential Topic for July?: special discussion with Erik Cortinas re: wetland charette details and planning? – Nigel?
  - b. New action items – review/list
  - c. Adjourn

Amy introduced speaker, Jody Thompson with Auburn Extension:  
Jody gave out information on CRI as well as a Invitation Worksheet. Links to information below:

[coastal\\_community\\_resilience\\_index\\_2021.pdf\(masgc.org\)](#)

<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system>,

<https://coast.noaa.gov/snapshots/#&state=eyJmaXBzIjoiMDEwMDMiLCJzbnFwc2hvdEIEIjoiZnV0dXJIRmxvb2QiLCJzZWNoaW9uSUQiOiJoZWFKZXJTZWNoaW9uIiwiaXNUaGVtZURhcmsiOmZhbHNiLCJiYXNpbWFWIjoibGlnaHQiLCJzbnJWYXN1ZSI6IjIifQ==>

#### NOAA's Flood Exposure Mapping Tool.

1. CRI Self-assessment tool is not to compare Fairhope to other communities.
2. CRI updates are recommended every year or after every significant storm event.
3. Fairhope's last CRI was conducted in 2018
4. CRI may open grant opportunities
5. CRI can be a good planning tool
6. 75 communities along the Gulf Coast have participated in recent CRI scoring.
7. Jody takes CRI information from the community and gives it back to them in a useable format.
8. Next step would be for Jody/Casey to open discussions with Mayor and Council.

Action item: Amy will set up discussion at upcoming Council Meeting (for Work Session) with Jody/Casey in attendance for CRI Q&A, pending contact with Corey first.

Amy said some industries, such as tech industries, require CRI be done for the industry to be considered in a community.

Hunter said large industries are not targeted or desired for Fairhope, but clean industry is encouraged.

Nigel asked how far forward in the future Fairhope should be projecting when conducting CRI. Jody said that is for Fairhope to decide.

Hunter said CRI has been in the comp plan discussions but reminded FEAB that the comp plan will not be a regulatory mechanism. Ordinance and regulation updates are being done separately from the comp plan.

Casey offered a handout/questionnaire on "Community and Business Resiliency" which can be used to engage downtown merchants. She encouraged FEAB and staff not to overthink the CRI. It should be a simple straight forward process, which she and Jody can assist with for Fairhope.

Nicole emphasized the importance of CRI to help develop and be supportive of new policy.

#### **Wetland Charette Planning**

Amy asked Hunter about the status. Hunter advised Amy to get with Erik Cortinas on this. This will be up to Erik. Hunter suggested FEAB draft a summary of objectives/goals and then target audience can be developed, but Erik is the contact.

#### **Comp Plan update**

Jim asked for update; when will draft be available for review? FEAB / Amy had previously submitted some very specific comments for comp plan consideration, and Jim would like to know to what extent these may be included.

Hunter said next comp plan meeting will likely be a virtual meeting and will include the steering committee members, of which FEAB has representation on. Hunter said the regulatory / policy change comments will not be included in the comp plan but will be used for ordinance and regulation reviews, which are ongoing.

Nicole said comp plans are usually visionary and are used for planning guidance.

#### **Triangle Update:**

Jessica said RFQ is out now for engineer bids on the property. Engineer should be in place soon. City is requesting more funding. City's vision for the property right now is for property to serve as an easily accessible outdoor classroom.

Amy said city needs to define ecological value of property before engineer comes in (and conduct field trip tour).

Jessica said there will likely be no on site construction for at least 6 months. Engineering will be purely discussions and planning/documenting of project specifics. Amy asked Jessica to keep FEAB in the loop with progress.

Ben said the next step for FEAB would be to coordinate on site meeting with FEAB and Bike Ped committee, possibly City Council as well, for a field tour walk through. Conditions might be more favorable for Fly Creek walk through in Fall when it's cooler and vegetation is not as dense. Tour should be .5 hours max for summertime visit; one hour for Fall visit. Jim suggests trial run on field tour by FEAB before meeting with the group.

Darrel mentioned the "bike trails" within the property appear to have held up well after rain events. He has noticed a lot of invasive species on the property.

**Litter Gitter:** Kim has an update from Mayor Sullivan: 2023 budget will likely include money for Litter Gitter.

**2023 Budget:**

City is currently working on 2023 budget.

Action item: Amy asked FEAB members to bring ideas for City of Fairhope budget request items to the July FEAB meeting.

**Bike and Ped Board, Rec Board, Harbor Board:**

Amy asked Gary to check with other boards he is attending to see if FEAB rep could give a 15 presentation at future meeting. Action item: Gary will coordinate FEAB 15 minute presentation with other boards.

**Park Management Plan:** Gary said Pat White is still referring to 2010 Colony Park Management plan. Mowing of drainage areas appear to have stopped for now.

**Planning Commission FEAB rotation:**

Jennifer attended recent Planning Commission meeting, which was 4 hours long. She stayed 2 hours. Amy said there may be a need for FEAB to develop a rotation list for the City Council (work session meetings) as well.

Jessica reminded FEAB that the meetings (Planning Commission and City Council/Work Session) are live streamed and can be viewed virtually as well as in person. Public input is not allowed at the work session.

**Stormwater Infrastructure update:**

Jim gave kudos to Jessica for her part in acquiring the \$750k grant from Restore. Jessica said it will likely be 6 months to a year before the funds are available. The grant money may also cover additional projects such as the study of stormwater conveyance through gullies and a critical loss study.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next meeting is Friday, July 8th @ 3:00 p.m. @ Library Board Room

**FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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