

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2022

3:00 p.m. in the Public Works Conference Room, 555 South Section Street

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Jennifer Foutch, Ben Frater, Amy Paulson, Darrel Williams

Members not in attendance:

Rick Speight (excused); Nigel Temple (excused)

City of Fairhope: Christina LeJeune, Kim Burmeister -Planning and Zoning Department; Jessica Walker, Economic and Community Development

City Council: None

Honored Guests: Nicole Love (Thompson Engineering)

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

Amy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Summary of meeting:

1. *Two Motions passed (other than minute approval):*
 - a. *Jim Horner and Ben Frater's FEAB membership, expired in January / February 2022, has been approved for renewal by members, pending council consideration*
 - b. *Nicole Love is accepted for membership pending Council approval*
2. *One action item:*
 - a. Budget item requests from FEAB (related to recent motions passed):
 1. Support of litter gitter program with Winn Dixie pond as initial location
 2. Encouragement for City of Fairhope to initiate comprehensive study of litter and its relation to stormwater pollution concerns for watersheds in Fairhope
 3. Encouragement for City of Fairhope to engage environmental professional to update 2010 Colony Park management plan
 4. General encouragement for City of Fairhope to fund the preparation and implementation of land management plans for all natural park areas in the city, including the Dyas Triangle, Colony Park and the City's beach front properties (i.e., South Mobile Street)
3. Fly Creek pathogens: City is encouraged to do source tracking as another component of the monthly water sampling program, and pursue septic tank inventory as part of the source tracking (coordinate with Health Dept.)

4. Water Sampling program (Christina/Planning and Zoning) has been on hold for most of this year pending supplies needed per Christina
5. Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan may provide needed source tracking for Fly Creek, including the Fairhope sampling area.
6. FEAB is reviewing Wetland and Red Soil and Clay ordinance for upcoming charette; details to be worked out with Erik Cortinas later.

Amy called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. It is noted that Darrel is now an official member of FEAB. Agenda was handed out

AGENDA

**THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 8, 2022 / 3-4 PM, PUBLIC WORKS UTILITIES CONFERENCE ROOM, 555 SOUTH SECTION STREET**

1. Housekeeping (~5 min)
 - a. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes – Kim
 - b. Membership
 - i. Send Resolution for Nicole Love membership
 - ii. Reappoint Jim, Ben
 - c. Next meeting (holiday reschedule from Friday)
 - i. Thursday, 11/10
 - ii. Friday, 11/4 or 11/ 18

2. Old Action Items (~10 mins)
 - a. Next Steps for Community Resiliency Index – Nicole (Jody Thompson and Casey Gay Williams)
 - i. Communicate with Cory to get on City Council work session agenda
 - ii. Prepare/send 1-pager re: CRI
 - iii. Presentation to City Council
 - b. Gary requested agenda presence at regular monthly meeting to present FEAB slideshow/ discuss mutual priorities and opportunities to partner.
 - i. Bike & Ped Committee: 7/5/22, 4-5, Fairhope Library – Gary / Amy
 1. Overlap Priority Issues: Comprehensive LUP, Triangle Property, Working Waterfront
 - ii. Harbor Board: 7/13/22, 4:30, Fairhope Municipal Complex, Mayor's Conference Room, 161 North Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36532 – Gary / Jim / Rick
 - iii. Recreation Board: 7/20/22, 5:15, the Rec Center – Gary / Ben
 - c. Budget Recommendations – All
 - i. Land Management Plans (Triangle, Colony)
 - ii. Litter Gitter
 - iii. Comprehensive Study for Litter and Stormwater Concerns
 - iv. ?
 - d. Resolutions Matrix – Kim
 - i. Action items/follow up on open resolutions (see matrix)
 - e. Wetlands Ordinance and City Website materials – Nicole and Darrel

3. POC Status Report on FEAB Focus Issues (~15 min)

LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE

 - a. City Council Meeting Rotation – SEE ATTACHMENT / report out
 - 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
 - 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?
 - 1. Clean Marina Project – Gary, Rick, Jim
 - 4. 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
 - i. Solar panel roadblocks
 - 5. Involvement Opportunities – Kim / Gary (<5)
 - a. ACF Green Coast Council
 - i. Invite Mark Berte to speak at an upcoming FEAB meeting?
 - ii. Does FEAB think COF or Fairhope or Fairhope Public Utilities should join, pass a motion of support.
 - 6. *Tabled Until Further Notice*
 - a. Ben to arrange onsite field trip with FEAB, Mayor, City Council at Dyas to discuss use of property. (Invite Bike and Ped, auburn extension.) – *to occur in October.*
 - b. Ben / Amy to follow up with Pat White / Recreation Dept. for park planning (Colony, Dyas)? – *tabled until after rec meeting.*
 - c. Amy to reach out to highschool for representative on FEAB – *tabled until fall.*
 - d. Organize special discussion with Eric Cortinas re: wetland charette details and planning – Nigel? (See special project from Baldwin County Coalition of EABs)
 - 7. Wrap up (< 5min)
 - a. New action items – review/list.
 - b. Next Month's meeting: SALT's current movement based on backyard habitats and planting native. – Darrel
 - c. Future topics: plan wetlands charette for Eric
 - d. Adjourn

Amy made a motion to:

1. Approve June's minutes as written. Jim seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. (Motion #1)
2. Renew Jim Horner and Ben Frater's FEAB membership, which expired in January/February. Gary seconded the motion. Unanimously approved, pending council approval (Motion #2)
3. Approve Nicole's membership with FEAB, pending council approval (Motion #3)

Community Resilience Index:

Nicole will work with Jim / Corey to get CRI on an upcoming Council schedule (tentatively a workshop item). Jessica said this would be an appropriate course of action.

Other Committees:

Amy drafted a presentation to be used to introduce FEAB to other committees (hard copies since power points may not be available).

1. Bike & Ped committee: Amy and Gary recently attended recent meeting and had requested 15 minutes for a short presentation. Only 4 minutes was available, but she did present a rushed version of the presentation.
2. Harbor Board: Amy suggested Gary and Jim work together to set up time to attend and offer the drafted presentation. Gary will pull together current Clean Marina information. Kim can print for Gary ahead of time.
3. Recreation Board: Ben will plan to attend with presentation and discuss park and beach management plans. Kim said 2016 Beach Management Plan (not approved by council but partially implemented) can be used as a reference on updates.

Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board

2022 INTRODUCTION & PRIORITIES
DISCUSSION WITH CITY OF FAIRHOPE COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

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Discussion Topics and Meeting Goals

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ FEAB Mission and Vision
- ▶ Introduction to FEAB Priority Focal Issues
- ▶ Focal Issue DISCUSSION: Setting each other up for success!
 - ▶ Do our **focus issues** align or overlap? Do our **goals** align for these issues?
 - ▶ Do you have additional priorities we should support?
 - ▶ How best do we engage each other?
- ▶ **OUTCOME:** *Ongoing partnerships, mutual accessibility, issue engagement, and communication*

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INTRODUCING YOUR VOLUNTEERS!

Fairhope's Environmental Advisors:

Over 235 collective years of related professional experience.
7 advanced environmental degrees, one engineer, and one lawyer.
And they care a whole awful lot about their town.
We are at your service.

- ▶ Gary Gover, BS – Co-Chairperson
- ▶ Amy Paulson, MS - Co-Chairperson
- ▶ Kim Burmeister - City of Fairhope Liaison
- ▶ Christina LeJeune - City of Fairhope Liaison
- ▶ Ben Frater, MS
- ▶ Jennifer Foutch, JD
- ▶ Jim Horner, PE
- ▶ Nigel Temple, PhD
- ▶ Rick Speight, BS
- ▶ Darrel Williams, MS
- ▶ Nicole Love, MS

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Our Mission and Vision

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

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Our Role

- ▶ FEAB 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 FEAB 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.

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Our Priorities

FEAB Pursuits, 2022

- Parks and Greenspace: establish and manage, for example:
- Dyas Triangle: decision + planning + action = restoration + public use + protection
- Colony Park: continuation of original restoration
- Fathope Wetlands Protection: City is empowered to protect wetlands, including isolated wetlands
- Community Resiliency Index: re-score with lessons learned from Sally and utility and process upgrades
- Meaningful Participation in City Planning Efforts: Eastern Shore WMP, Comprehensive Land Use Plan (especially greenspace)
- Recycling and Litter Management: support City efforts
- Clean Marina: support Harbor Board
- Maintain relationship and connection to Fathope governing bodies: Mayor, City Departments, City Council
- Establish relationship with adjacent and overlapping municipalities
- Establish relationship with other committees

... HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?

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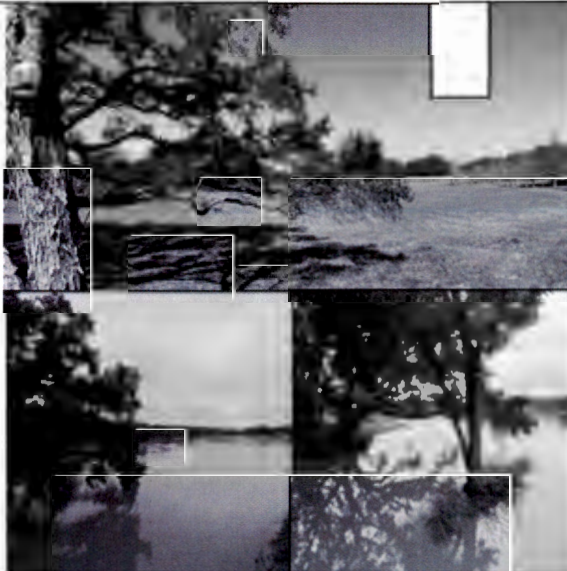
Discussion

- ▶ Do our **focus issues** align or overlap?
- ▶ Do our **goals** align for these issues?
- ▶ Do you have **additional priorities** we could support?
- ▶ How can we work **TOGETHER** and set each other up for **SUCCESS**?

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Parkspace

- ▶ The FEAB recommends that the City create, balance, and maintain our green space inventory to include outdoor recreation opportunity, habitat for local native flora and fauna, watershed protection, and aesthetic value (i.e., not limited only to stormwater management).
- ▶ Some, but not all uses are compatible.
- ▶ We strongly advise the City to develop and implement Management Plans specific to its green space assets.



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Wetlands Protection

- ▶ City of Fairhope is empowered and equipped to protect local wetland resources.
- ▶ Subdivision regulations are congruent with City of Fairhope Wetland Ordinance

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF LAND DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF WETLANDS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL POLICE OR JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA, AND THE CITY'S WETLANDS PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

As a website by the City of Fairhope, Alabama (the "City Website")

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Resiliency

The City of Fairhope rescues the 2017 Community Resilience Index (CRI) in light of 2020 hurricane season and utility and process upgrades.

The City sets triggers or schedule for future update.



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City Planning Participation

Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan (ESWMP):

- FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of ESWMP.
- ESWMP implementation recommendations are continuously pursued and implemented by City of Fairhope.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan (LUP):

- FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of City of Fairhope Comprehensive LUP.
- City of Fairhope policy, zoning, and permitting decisions are continuously informed by LUP.
- City of Fairhope establishes, protects, and links greenspace areas.

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Trash & Recycling

- ▶ FEAB encourages the City of Fairhope to initiate a comprehensive study of litter and stormwater pollution concerns for all 12 City watersheds.
- ▶ City of Fairhope has functional, reliable, and economical recycling system / partnerships.



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Clean Marina

- ▶ Fairhope Marina is operated to selected Clean Marina standards.
- ▶ FEAB assists Harbor Board in selecting and implementing relevant commitments.



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Resolution Matrix:

Amy presented the Motions / Resolutions Matrix drafted by her and Kim. It will be used to help keep up with status of motions.

City of Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board Motions, 2022

	MFA - No Future Action NA - Not Applicable								
	Date of Motion	Initiated By	FEAB Pass/Fail	FEAB Status	COF Council Status	Motion For:	Follow-Up Action	Date at Council	COMMENTS:
4	11-Feb-11	Amy	Pass	Corey	Active	SUPPORT OF LITTER GITTER PROGRAM WITH AN INDEPENDENT AS INITIAL LOCATION	FEAB to send as budget priority.		PER MAYOR, 2022 BUDGET SHOULD INCLUDE FUNDING FOR LITTER GITTER.
5	11-Feb-11	Gary	Pass	Corey	Active	ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CITY OF FAIRHOPE TO INITIATE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF LITTER AND STORMWATER POLLUTION CONCERNING FOR WATERSHEDS IN FAIRHOPE	FEAB to send as budget priority.		
5	11-Feb-11	Ben	Pass	Corey	Active	ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CITY TO FOLLOW PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN COLONY NATURE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN (2010)	Corey to deliver recommendation to Council. This recommendation is specifically to accept the 2010 Single Tax Land Management Plan and implement it as an interim plan until it can be updated. Note that accepting this plan does not preclude future uses or designations of the Park, it simply protects the natural assets within until such time as intended use and development is decided.		IDM SENT COPY OF MANAGEMENT PLAN TO MAYOR, RICHARD JOHNSON AND PAT WHITE. MAYOR SAID PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010 WAS NEVER ADOPTED BY COUNCIL.
7	11-Feb-11	Ben	Pass	Corey	Active	ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CITY TO ENGAGE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL TO UPDATE COLONY NATURE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN	FEAB to send as budget priority.		
8	13-May-22	Jim	Pass	N/A	Approval	ACCEPT DANIEL WILKINS MEMBERSHIP TO FEAB PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL		7-Jun-22	
9	13-May-22	Gary	Pass	Dismissed	NA	AMEND BY-LAWS FROM 9 MEMBERS TO 11 MEMBERS			
10	11-Feb-11	Jim	Pass	N/A	NA	JIMMY WAS RECOGNIZED FOR HER HARD WORK AND WAS AWARDED THE TITLE CO-CHAIRPERSON			Per Hunter Simmons, the letter was included in JJP discussions; regulatory suggestions will be considered with regulation changes in 2022.
1	11-Feb-11	Amy	Pass	Dismissed	NA	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN / LAND USE PLAN COMMENTS FROM FEAB TO BE INCLUDED FOR CONSIDERATION IN COM PLAN UPDATES (FINAL DRAFT, FEB. 11, 2022)	Kim to confirm that the letter was mailed to the JJP consultant team.		
2	14-Jan-22	Gary	Pass	On Hold	NA	GARY TO CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN FOR ANOTHER TERM			
3	5-Jul-22	Amy	Pass	N/A	NA	BEN AND JIM TO BE REAPPOINTED TO ANOTHER TERM ON FEAB			
4	5-Jul-22	Amy	Pass	Corey	Active	ACCEPT NICOLE LOVE MEMBERSHIP TO FEAB PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL			

Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan:

Nicole said steering committee groups should be formed after completion of the plan and this will help to guide follow up action and implementation of the plan. FEAB member or members will be included on steering committee per Nicole.

Dyas Triangle:

Gary said the GOMESA grant as he understands it just covers the upper 70 acres of the park. Jessica said there is a plan to connect the parcels of the triangle property, and that city is still seeking more funding other than the GOMESA grant. Nicole said GOMESA grant is not allocated just to Triangle property bike trails. Thompson Engineering has been tentatively awarded the engineering work for the Triangle project, pending council approval July 11th.

Fly Creek Water Quality:

Gary said Fly Creek was extremely turbid after last rain event. Kim checked all known construction sites in the Fly Creek watershed; no significant project run off was found. She did not check the triangle property. Code Enforcement will check Triangle property for run off after or during next rain event to make sure bike trails are not contributing to Fly Creek turbidity.

Christina oversees water sampling for pathogens (Fly Creek) and has not been able to test lately because of equipment issues. She will either request an order of necessary equipment and supplies, or get with Gary to help her resolve. Kim said Planning and Zoning has a small budget for water testing. Gary would like the city to expand upon the monthly sampling (currently allotted at three spots in Fly Creek per month) to include source tracking when pathogens are high. This might target failing septic tanks. Jennifer noted the importance of septic tank function, since many on Fly Creek are likely on septic tank. She would like to see routine inspections of septic tanks. Kim said this would be a Health Dept. initiative since Health Dept. has authority over septic tanks. City Building Dept. has the right to cut off water supply for septic tank issues that are unresolved.

Wetland Charette:

Kim previously sent out word documents and pdf copies of the Wetland and Red Soil & Clay ordinance. It is requested FEAB members review and make specific changes to the documents if there are requested changes. Jim said Wetland Ordinance needs a complete overhaul but did not give specifics. Amy suggested Wetland Charette planning be put on hold for a while. She and Gary are meeting with Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee representatives and wishes to collaborate on efforts.

Park Management Plans:

Beach front parks are managed by Public Works and other parks (including Colony Nature

Park) are managed by Pat White. This was verified by Kim. Council must approve any required management plans for parks. Jessica suggested FEAB discuss park management plans with Council (this should be led by Corey's initiative) to see if there is support of adopting specific park management plans. FEAB has recommended park management plans and updates through recent motions. This has not been present to or approved by council as of yet.

Budget Items for 2023

FEAB suggested these as budget item requests per email from Amy:

1. Support of litter gitter program with Winn Dixie pond as initial location
2. Encouragement for City of Fairhope to initiate comprehensive study of litter and its relation to stormwater pollution concerns for watersheds in Fairhope
3. Encouragement for City of Fairhope to engage environmental professional to update 2010 Colony Park management plan
4. Encouragement for City of Fairhope to fund the preparation and implementation of land management plans for all natural park areas in the city, including the Dyas Triangle, Colony Park and the City's beach front properties (i.e., South Mobile Street)
5. General encouragement for the City to fund the preparation AND implementation of land management plans for all natural park area in city, including Dyas Triangle, Colony Park, and the City's beach front properties (e.g., on Mobile St.).

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next meeting is Friday, August 12th @ 3:00 p.m. @ Library Board Room

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairman:

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