

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2022

3:00 p.m. in the Library Board Room, 501 Fairhope Ave

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Jennifer Foutch, Ben Frater, Amy Paulson, Darrel Williams, Nigel Temple, Rick Speight, Nicole Love

Members not in attendance:

None

City of Fairhope: Christina LeJeune -Planning and Zoning Department

City Council: None

Honored Guests: Katy Bolton (Fairhope bike and ped committee)

Minutes taken by: Christina LeJeune

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

Summary of meeting:

1. *FEAB celebrated the success of the litter gitter being approved by the city.*
2. *Guest speaker Darrel Williams gave FEAB the latest updates from SALT and current projects that are now underway.*
3. *Discussion on native plants and the importance of educating others.*
4. *Moving forward with the Community Resiliency index.*
5. *Certification for Clean Marina status.*

AGENDA
THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2022 / 3-4 PM, LIBRARY UPSTAIRS

1. Housekeeping (~5 min)
 - a. Acceptance of prior meeting minutes – Cristina
 - b. Membership - Nicole Love
 - c. Celebrate successes: *Resolution - That the City of Fairhope has voted to procure Litter Booms and Tactical Cleanups for the Planning and Zoning Department from Osprey Initiative as Sole Source Distributor; and authorizes procurement based on the option allowed by the Code of Alabama 1975, Section 41-16-51(13). The total annual cost not to exceed \$27,000.00 for Winn Dixie Pond.*
 - d. Communication – proposal to send agenda to Lisa Hanks beginning of last week of each month (?) to be published by City and thus communicated to residents. Include descriptive summary statement of FEAB roles and priorities.
2. Guest Speaker (~10 min)
 - a. SALTs project updates, including backyard habitats and planting native – Darrel
3. Old Action Items (~20 mins)
 - a. Mayor Meeting / use of Resolutions, Greenspace, CRI – Amy
 - b. Community Resiliency Index – Nicole
 - c. Land Use – Ben
 - d. Resolutions Matrix – Amy / Corey
 - e. Committees Partnerships: introduction to other city committees to discuss mutual priorities and opportunities to partner.
 - i. Bike & Ped Committee: 7/5/22, 4-5, Fairhope Library – Gary / Amy
 - ii. Harbor Board: 7/13/22, 4:30, Mayor’s Conference Room – Rick / Nicole / Gary / Jim
 - iii. Recreation Board: 7/20/22, 5:15, the Rec Center – Ben / Gary
 - iv. Should we also attend: Recycling Committee / Historic Preservation Committee?
 - f. City Council Meeting Rotation – not working out?
4. POC Status Report on FEAB Focus Issues (~5 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
 - 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 – FUNDED!
 - ii. Dumpster Guy
 - iii. MERF update - Baldwin County
 - l. Clean Marina Project –Rick, Jim Gary, Nicole
 - m. Committee Reorganization – Corey

5. New Business / Other Interests (< 10 min)
LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE
 - a. Bike and Pedestrian Committee – Gary / Nigel
 - i. Guest from the Fairhope bike and ped committee – Katie Bolton
 - ii. IMBA Mountain Bike Study and Greenspace - Amy/ Gary / Jim
 - iii. Single Tax Policy for Funding Projects to Make Fairhope a More Utopian Community – Gary
 - b. Stormwater – Jim / Rick / Kim
 - c. Microplastics BRIEF INTRO – Kim / Amy / Gary
 - i. Consideration for an Earth Day 2023 / local outreach project?
 - ii. Should Kim engage FHS Environmental Club to attend a FEAB meeting to strategize an Earth Day 2023 initiative project?
 - d. Sustainable Community Initiatives– Gary
 - i. School Buses – Gary
 1. \$500 million in Federal funding to replace diesel school buses with electric and low-emission.
 2. Recommended to Baldwin County Public Schools Superintendent and our district member of the School Board (Cecil?)
 - ii. Energy Conservation Initiatives (climate change action)
 1. Solar panel roadblocks
 - iii. Alternative pavements (streets, sidewalks, bike paths)
 - iv. Living Shorelines - Gary
 1. Engage Master Gardeners or SALT?
6. 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
 - b. MBNNEP Bays and Bayous Symposium, 2023
 - i. January 24-25, 2023.
 - ii. Theme: Finding Balance: Ecology, Economy, and Community.
7. *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. Organize special discussion with Eric Cortinas re: wetland charette details and planning – Nigel? (See special wetlands collaboration project from Baldwin County Coalition of EABs)
 - d. City Website: review for adequacy/update for wetlands and other outreach materials – Nicole and Darrel – *confirm this is shelved for now?*
8. Wrap up (< 5min)
 - a. New action items – review/list.
 - b. Sept meeting location – library or PW?
 - c. Next Month's meeting topics:
 - i. Highschool representative on FEAB – Kim / Amy
 - ii. Microplastics – Kim
 - d. Adjourn

Celebrate Success for Litter Gitter:

Resolution – That the City of Fairhope has voted to procure Litter Booms and Tactical Cleanups for the Planning and Zoning Department from Osprey Initiative as sole source distributor.

Gary asked who the project manager over the litter gitter would be and mentioned Kim as the go to person. FEAB could assist with a presentation on how to approach the project and provide information on the findings.

Amy said FEAB could encourage the city to initiate a comprehensive study of the litter gitter and its relation to storm water pollution concerns for the watersheds in the city.

Wetland Charette:

Amy advised the Wetland Charette planning with Erik Cortinas be put on hold for a while. She and Gary are meeting with Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee to try and collaborate on a common language.

Jim advised that Hunter and Michelle have taken charge and suggested FEAB move ahead with the wetland, red soil, and clay Ordinance revisions. He expressed that FEAB deserves a seat at the table and should be a part of the dialogue for the Wetland Ordinances.

Communication for Agenda:

Amy proposed FEAB send an agenda to Lisa Hanks to be published by the city and communicate to residents. This would include a descriptive summary statement of FEAB roles and priorities.

Gary mentioned getting this to Lisa the beginning of the last week of each month.

Jennifer suggested keeping the agenda short and condensed.

SALT project updates:

Darrel said SALT has current projects in Pole Cat Creek/Fish River and the Mary parcel/Tide swamp in Fairhope. They will be working to conserve several hundred acres to protect corridors and are continuously looking for other parcels of land. Landowners can do a conservation easement and receive a sales tax reduction. SALT is encouraging citizens to plant native species in your back yard to help the need for connectivity and not reduce biodiversity. SALT would also like to reach out and help educate local nurseries on the importance of native species.

Gary said the tree committee puts together Arbor Day and he asked Darrel if he could reach out to them and give advice on having native species available to hand out.

Ben used Knoll Park as an example of being restored and having rare native species planted. The butterfly garden on S. Mobile Street also has native plants. FEAB could help highlight city properties.

Nicole shared that native species were also planted at the Hatch property (old K-1 Center) and the Pelicans nest science lab.

Katy said Mayor had mentioned having QR codes to scan for learning purposes for any future nature trails in the Dyas Triangle property. Katy agreed it would be a great learning opportunity.

Land use:

Amy said the city needs to acquire additional park land to conserve and use for preservation purposes. It was noted that Fairhope single tax owns a large portion of land.

Gary stated the city doesn't want land unless it has immediate use. It is a burden on public works to maintain.

Nicole said a Steering committee would be good idea to address comprehensive land use connectivity for the Dyas Triangle property.

Darrel would like to work with and include the Bike and Ped Committee.

Katy suggested it would be great for all boards to share common resolutions and goals for the triangle property. She also mentioned connecting all green spaces and being able to include the gullies. Easements could also be used to build trails.

Christina advised that some of the Gullies in Fairhope are privately owned.

Community Resilience Index:

Amy and Nicole recently met with Mayor to discuss community resiliency and use of resolutions for green spaces. It was noted Nicole did a great job presenting to the Council and Mayor. Mayor was unsure of supporting until Nicole explained starting out with the community rating system that would be free for the city to use. The latest update from Hurricane Sally shows the city has already done a lot of CRI. The Council has agreed for Mayor to initiate the process.

Gary shared an incentive to having the CRI in place is a reduction in the cost of flood insurance.

Nicole said the city needs to get the community on a voting system. It was noted Erik mentioned utilizing staff to help.

Ben reported he has yet to hear any updates on the land use plan.

Jim would like to work with the mayor on preserving additional properties.

Resolution Matrix:

Amy suggested a resolution matrix initiative to reach out to the other boards such as the Bike & Ped Committee, Harbor Board, and Recreation Board. She suggested partnership introductions to other city committees to discuss mutual priorities and opportunities to partner.

Clean Marina Project:

Nicole shared that the Fairhope Docks marina has a few items to be checked off the list before moving forward with certification. The estimated time frame is 3 months. As of now electrical work is the biggest hold up due to the city having to wait for the contractor. Advantages of being certified are you must follow specific rules and meet certain requirements that can't be changed once being designated a clean marina.

Microplastics:

Amy said Kim mentioned microplastics as a possible theme for Earth Day 2023 or even as an outreach project. Should Kim engage FHS Environmental Club to attend a FEAB meeting to strategize an Earth Day 2023 initiative project?

Sustainable Community Initiatives:

Gary shared there is \$500 million in Federal funding to replace diesel school buses with electric and low-emission buses. It has been recommended to Baldwin County Public Schools Superintendent and our district member of the school board (Cecil Christenberry?).

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next meeting is Friday, September 9th @ 3:00 p.m. @ Public Utilities Conference room

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairman:

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