

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 9, 2022

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

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

Members not in attendance:

Nicole Love

City of Fairhope: Kim Burmeister -Planning and Zoning Department

City Council: None

Honored Guests: Anna Keene Miller, Keen Living; Dr. Steven Scyphers, University of South Alabama; Carole Tebay, resident of Fairhope

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

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

Summary of meeting:

1. *FEAB will be utilizing active participants (non-members who actively participate in FEAB meetings) to assist with projects and goals*
2. *FEAB has a membership vacancy since Darrell Williams has resigned*
3. *Nigel is now the FEAB representative for the Triangle planning project. Rick Speight was the FEAB representative but he has resigned.*
4. *Motion approved: Accepted Carole Tebay and Stephen Scyphers as “active participants” to the FEAB*
5. *Action Plan: Carole will draft outreach document / PSA regarding invasives, particularly new invasive giant salvinia, which is a threat to our local water bodies.*
6. *Park management suggestions are still not be used for Colony Park (Twin Beech Road). FEAB would like to work with Rec Board to increase awareness on the importance of park maintenance plans.*
7. *Action Plan: Ben to follow up with Rec Board regarding park management plans*

FEAB Minutes:

October minutes were approved as written. Nigel 1st: Jim 2nd.

Agenda provide by Amy:

AGENDA	
THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING	
DECEMBER 8, 2022 / 3-4 PM, PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM	
1.	Housekeeping (~15 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Last month notes – Kimb. Guest Bios – vote for non-voting FEAB membership / voting member vacancy – Amy<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Anna Millerii. Dr. Steven Scyphersiii. Carole Tebayc. January agenda will be dedicated to priority setting for 2023+ - Amyd. Biweekly attendance at Council Meetings and talking points document – Amy
2.	Discussion Items (~10) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Giant Salvinia – Ben, Gary, Kim, Carole<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Josh Tolbert, Mobile Baykeeper Patrol Member – looking for partnerships (Baldwin County, MBNEP, Mobile, Dog River, MAWSS)ii. ADCNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (included, but no \$)iii. Outreach opportunity for FEAB – draft Facebook PSA to share w/HOAs – Kim
3.	POC Status Reports on FEAB 2022 Priority Focus Issues and Old Action Items (~10 min) LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. City Liaisons<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. City Council – Corey, Jenniferii. Mayor – Amy, Nicoleiii. City Departments – Kim, Christina<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. New Jessica?iv. Baldwin County Env Advisory Committees – Amy/Gary, Kim<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Baldwin County wetlands protection standardization initiative – Amy2. Upcoming (red clay, LID, etc.)v. Fairhope Committees' Joint Projects<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Bike and Ped, Harbor Board, Recreation Board, Recycling Committee, Historic Preservationb. Greenspace – Ben<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. (Comprehensive LUP and COF Boards Joint Subcommittee for Greenspace) - ?c. Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan - Nicoled. Recycling and Trash – Jennifer
4.	New Business / Other Interests (< 5 min) LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Stormwater – Jim / Nigel<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. SWMPP 2023 – Kim (inventory, WQ Testing (recertification, equipment)b. Resilient Building Codes (Babcock Ranch, FL) – Jim / Annac. Internships – Steven
5.	Involvement Opportunities (< 5 min) – Gary <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. MBNEP Create a Masterpiece Surveyb. UA Online Survey Software Qualtrics Survey Solutionsc. Baldwin County Master Plan (is comment period closed?)
6.	Wrap up (< 5 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. New action items – review/listb. Adjourn

Anna Keene Miller, BA Environmental Studies

10+ years in the environmental field, Anna is a building consultant specializing in energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Her experience ranges from residential retrofit consulting to above-code certifications for new construction. Anna's company, Keen Living, provides technical support, HVAC design, and field verification for high performance building projects. She is a RESNET HERS Rater, Fortified Evaluator, and a National Green Building Standard (NGBS) Verifier. Keen Living was a key partner on the first two homes in the country to achieve both the Zero Energy Ready Home and Fortified Hurricane Gold certifications. This includes the 2021 Mobile Bay Magazine Inspiration Home, a Department of Energy Housing Innovation Award winner that combines affordable design strategies with solar + battery storage to use over 70% less energy than a code-built home. Anna serves on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Gulf Housing Committee, Green Coast Council Sustainability Summit Planning Committee, and the South Alabama Land Trust Native Habitat Steering Committee. She advocates for sustainable development at the local level and strives to improve the quality of housing throughout the Gulf Coast. *FEAB from 2008 – 2010; CoF Recycling Committee, 2013 – 2015*

Carole Tebay

After gardening with native plants for almost 50 years, I relish sharing the possibilities of benefiting the local ecosystem by including native plants in our home landscapes. As a member of the speakers bureau with the Santa Rosa County, FL Master Gardeners I was able to share my message with others.

Before moving to Fairhope, I was active with the Longleaf Chapter of the Native Plant Society and a longtime board member of the Francis M Weston Chapter of the Audubon Society. In Santa Rosa County I served on the RESTORE Council which reviewed potential projects and expenditures under the RESTORE Act and solicited public input.

As a volunteer with the Friends of Pensacola State Parks, I led weekly bird walks through Big Lagoon State Park.

A certification through the County Extension Program as a Florida Master Naturalist has allowed me to participate in many citizen science projects on plastics, invasives, oysters, terrapins, and seagrasses.

Since moving to Fairhope, I've become active with the South Alabama Land Trust Natural Habitat Steering Committee. Our current projects include developing a native habitat certification checklist, offering tours of homes using native plants, a book club discussion group on Douglas Tallamy's Bringing Nature Home, and Zoom sessions with Dr Tallamy.

I participate with the Baldwin County Extension Master Environmental Educator Program teaching their Backyard Wildlife Habitat lessons to elementary school classes.

Dr. Steven B. Scyphers

Associate Professor in the School of Marine & Environmental Sciences and Director of the Center for Socio-Environmental Resiliency at the University of South Alabama, and he is a Senior Marine Scientist II at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Steven's research integrates ecology and sociology to understand and overcome major challenges facing coastal communities. His work focuses on sustainable coastal fisheries, shoreline development, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation. He lives in Fairhope with his wife Mallory and daughters Hadley and Maren.

Membership:

Darrell has resigned and there is a vacancy on FEAB.

Gary would like to review any membership applications at the next meeting (January)

Anna has seniority over attendance as a non-member right now, and Amy encouraged her to apply for membership.

Anyone interested is encouraged to apply.

Amy made a motion for actively participating non-members (Anna, Stephen and Carol) to be accepted as active participants of FEAB. Jim 1st; Ben 2nd.

Motion approved unanimously to accept Anna, Carol and Stephen as active participants of FEAB.

Ben asked for this role to be defined.

Active participant duties defined by Amy:

Actively attend FEAB meetings. Missing 2 consecutive meetings “unexcused” will indicate withdrawal from this duty. Also, active participant may be asked to attend meetings, such as Council meetings, to represent FEAB’s opinions. Active participants do not count towards quorum and cannot vote.

Ben mentioned a benefit of being an active participant versus a member: sunshine rules don’t apply.

Stephen asked about the history of FEAB and what has been accomplished. Kim will send him the matrix from the past year and a link to past minutes of FEAB. Amy said goals for 2023 are forthcoming.

Master Plan

Gary said Baldwin County P&Z will be releasing another draft of the County Master Plan. He hopes the City is working with Baldwin County P&Z so master plans are cohesive.

Amy said the ESWMP reached out to the consultants for the master plan for the City but it’s her understanding they have not heard back. She will check with Nicole on that status.

Triangle Property

Amy is removing the field trip to the triangle property suggestion from the agenda. Everyone has seen or walked the triangle.

Gary said Bike & Ped has representation on the steering committee for the Triangle Property. FEAB has representation on the Steering Committee (Nigel). Rick Speight was assigned as the FEAB rep but he has resigned. Richard Johnson is the City of Fairhope contact for the Triangle property.

Invasives

Jennifer asked if invasives would be addressed on city properties such as the triangle. Nigel stated that there are significant invasives on all city properties- not being actively addressed. Benefits have to be weighed : removing the invasive and causing a disturbance area or leaving as is. Jennifer would like to know about invasives and suggested outreach to the community to define invasives, why we would want to remove them, and suggest a guideline for native plants that work well in Fairhope landscapes. Carol will work on this. She has an extensive background as a master gardener and with native landscaping.

Amy suggested the city horticulturist Jamie Rollins be invited to the FEAB meeting to discuss his role with the city and if invasives are addressed in the city landscape plan. Kim

will send Jamie an invitation for February and suggested FEAB member call him a day or two ahead of time with a personal invitation.

Amy mentioned local and state outreach for giant salvinia removal and thanked Carol and Ben for the information and links they provided. Carole will work on a PSA to be used for possible City Facebook announcements and to be shared with subdivision groups. This will assist with community knowledge and awareness of giant salvinia, a new invasive being seen in our waterways. Carol said it could potentially infect subdivision ponds as well. She said Big Creek lake is closed because of giant salvinia.

Stephen said residents and groups finding giant salvinia should tag the location, and suggested the phone app "iNaturalists".

Ben is seeking state funds to help with invasive education and removal.

Council Attendance by FEAB

Amy will attend first one in January. Official schedule for FEAB and talking points have not been finalized.

Preservation of property

Gary said preservation of property and historic homes is directly related to the environment since it prevents or restricts land disturbance and demolition activity. It may also prevent larger homes from being placed on small lots. He mentioned the recent conflict with property/historic home at Ingleside and Nichols.

Recreation Board, Park Management Plans

Gary has given the Recreation Board the park management plan for Colony Park, but it is not being implemented or suggested yet. Amy said the Colony Park ditch (tributary to Cowpen Creek) was recently mowed again, and this encourages invasive species growth. She suggests FEAB help Rec Board understand the objectives and benefits of a park management plan. She asked Ben to approach this group with his expertise on the subject.

Ben mentioned the Volanta ball park project next to the swimming pool had failed BMPs (silt fences) in back of project. Kim will refer to Christina (North side enforcement officer) and also Pat White, Parks Manager.

Action Plan: Ben to confer with Recreation Board on park management plans, specifically Colony Park.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next meeting is Friday, January 13th @ 3 p.m. @ Public Utilities Conference room.

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairman:

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

Co-Chair:

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

Members:

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

Jim Horner none (251) 928-9722

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

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

Rick Speight rspeight@game7publishing.com (828) 551-3966

Nicole Love nlove@thompsonengineering.com (407)-312-1362

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