

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 10th, 2023

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

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Amy Paulson, Nigel Temple, Jennifer Foutch, Nicole Love, Steven Scyphers, Anna Miller

Members not in attendance:

Jim Horner, Ben Frater

City of Fairhope: Kim Burmeister and Christina LeJeune -Planning and Zoning Department

City Council: None

Honored Guests: Hadley Scyphers and Carl Couret (FEAB active participants)

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

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

Summary of meeting:

1. Draft minutes were revised from January:

- a. Reworded Summary Item #7 to read: FEAB suggests city consider website update and include a place for FEAB to offer information / environmental outreach items.
- b. Reworded Summary Item #8 to read: City should promote natural nature based features (versus bulkheads and other hardened features) with possible demonstration projects on city property.

2. FEAB is using a Google share on-line source for document sharing

3. Membership is now full (9 members) with the two nominees accepted at January's meeting: Anna Miller and Steven Scyphers.

4. FEAB would like to set up the annual meeting with Mayor and Staff in March as a special meeting. Time and date to be set at Mayor's request.

5. FEAB has approved the evaluation of stretch codes into Building Codes for potential relevance to Fairhope building codes to incentivize sustainable building practices, above and beyond code.

6. Fairhope's social media presence (Instagram) could be one source of outreach from FEAB (monthly or quarterly item of interest from FEAB, etc.)

7. Fairhope Dock's is close to receiving certification as a "Clean Marina".

FEAB Minutes:

January's minutes were approved with these amendments:
See summary above.

Amy accepted the amended minutes for approval; Gary- 2nd. Minutes approved as amended.

Amy provided an agenda for today's meeting:

AGENDA
THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2023 / 3-4 PM, LIBRARY

1. Housekeeping (~5 min)
 - a. Last month minutes – Kim
 - b. Dr. Steven Scyphers – Amy
 - c. Use of document share site – Nigel / Amy
 - d. Membership progress – Kim
 - e. Annual Spring meeting with Mayor / City Employees

2. Discussion Items (~30)
 - a. 2023 Draft Priorities – review goals, action items, POCs
 - i. Outreach (website, earth day?, living shorelines presentation), water quality, recycling/trash
 - ii. POCs for volunteer boards, committees, etc. – one presentation?
 - b. Schedule annual presentation to Mayor – March/April?
 - c. Internships? – Stephen
 - d. Giant Salvinia – Carole, Stephen
 - i. Stephen's discussion with Ben Raines: salt intolerance may limit Bay proliferation, especially in summer (has been present in Delta for 100+ years).
 - ii. Carole's City FB PSA outreach – review draft post?

3. **POC Status Reports on FEAB 2023 Priority Initiatives (~10 min)**
LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE
 - a. Native Habitat
 - i. Native Planting / Invasives Outreach – Carole, Ben, Carl
 - ii. Living Shorelines – Nigel, Stephen
 - iii. Greenspace Establishment and Management – Ben
 - b. Energy Conservation Initiatives – Anna, Jennifer
 - c. City Planning Efforts
 - i. Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan – Nicole / Amy
 - ii. Land Use Plan Steering Committee – Ben
 - iii. Dyas Triangle Park Steering Committee – Nigel / Nicole
 - iv. Community Resiliency Index – Nicole
 - v. Clean Marina – Nicole
 - d. Outreach / website development – Gary
 - e. City Liaisons
 - i. Mayor – Nicole
 - ii. City Council – [biweekly report highlights] / Corey
 - iii. City Departments – Kim, Christina, Anna
 - f. Other Boards Liaisons
 - i. Fairhope Committees: Bike and Ped (Carl/Carole?), Harbor Board (Nicole), Parks and Recreation Board (Ben), Recycling Committee (Jennifer), Historic Preservation (Ben)
 - ii. Local Nonprofits: SALT (Carole), ACF (Gary/Nicole?), Baldwin County Master Gardeners (Carole),
 - iii. Baldwin County: Env Advisory Committee (Kim), BC EAB Coalition (Amy/Gary)

4. **New Business / Other Interests (< 5 min)**
LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE

- a. Plastic bag ban – Article: <https://www.mobilebaykeeper.org/bay-blog/2023/1/25/breaking-the-habit>
5. Involvement Opportunities (< 5 min)
 - a. Baldwin County Land Use Plan: www.baldwinourvision.com
6. Wrap up (< 5 min)
 - a. New action items – review/list
 - b. Adjourn

***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.*

***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.*

FEAB Membership

Anna Miller and Steven Scyphers were accepted for FEAB membership in January at Council. Membership is now full at 9 members.

Document Sharing

The on-line account Nigel set up on Google is working well for most. Jim Horner is being mailed updates via regular mail.

Amy suggested edits to documents be done using the track changes feature. If there is a difference in opinion, comment with bubble.

Amy said she would “approve” or “deny” the tracked changes.

Carl (non member but active participant) is welcome to make changes per Amy.

Kim will use the documents on line to be copied into the minutes.

Priorities, Goals for 2023

Amy went over the current draft of goals and priorities for 2023, noting she is recommending removing water quality and recycling.

Gary would like to keep recycling on the priorities list.

Amy gave Nicole kudos for her work on the Clean Marina program. Certification is coming soon, per Nicole.

FEAB has representation on all relevant City Committees, and FEAB representative is listed on this document:

WORKING PAPER

THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

2023 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 / Public Works Conference Room

Special Meetings: The FEAB invites guests to bring presentations or new discussion topics to our attention. To give guests our full attention and also adhere to our regular agenda items, these guest presentations/discussions are typically scheduled 30-minutes prior to the regular meeting and are officially publicly announced by the City Clerk in advance.

City Points of Contact: City of Fairhope, FEAB-Assigned Councilmember, Corey Martin
City of Fairhope, Special Projects and Grant Manager / Admin Dept, TBD
¹City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Kim Burmeister
¹City of Fairhope, Planning and Zoning Department, Christina LeJeune

¹ Appointed by City to attend Board functions

FEAB Organization, 2023

Page 1

January 2023

Member Information:

- **Gary Gover, Co-Chairperson, Business Administration/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 member of the Eastern Shore Metropolitan Planning Organization Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He is a board member and officer of the Local Food Production Initiative, Inc. and Earth Day Mobile Bay, Inc. Has lived in retirement in Fairhope since 1997. *FEAB since 2006, (FEAB Chairperson "many" years).*
- **Amy Paulson, Co-Chairperson, MS Conservation and Sustainable Development / BS Ecology**
25+ years in environmental planning, including the evaluation of project environmental impacts for private corporation site development and for federal decisions under the National Environmental Policy Act; sustainability, resiliency, habitat and watershed management 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.*
- **Kim Burmeister, City Liaison, Biology / USACE Wetlands Delineation Certified and Qualified Credentialed Inspector - MS4 Management Certified**
27+ years working for the City of Fairhope, initially with Public Works and currently with the Planning and Zoning Department as the Code Enforcement Officer (since 2006). *City FEAB liaison since 2006.*
- **Christina LeJeune, City Liaison, Master Environmental Educator, Certified Alabama Water Watch tester (pathogens), Qualified Credentialed Inspector**
8+ years working for the City of Fairhope, currently as a Planning and Zoning Enforcement officer (since 2018) and previously as Correction Officer for Fairhope Police Department.
- **Jim Horner, Engineer**
After serving in the U. S. Navy, Jim was employed as an engineer for Scott Paper Company in Mobile and then in St. Louis, MO, and Appleton, WI, again doing technical service work for the paper industry. He and his wife returned to Alabama through the rest of his working career and into retirement. Jim's focus in the FEAB has been mainly on the regulation and control of stormwater run-off. *FEAB since 2003 (FEAB Director 9 years).*
- **Ben Frater, MS Fish and Wildlife Biology / BS Biology. Master Gardener**
25+ years in environmental mitigation and habitat management. Moved from Panama City, FL to work on Deepwater Horizon-related restoration projects through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf Restoration Office. 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 CA and FL. 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, ~~community service~~~~urban conservation~~, and green space drew him to volunteer for FEAB. ~~He lives with his wife and three daughters within walking distance to many~~

FEAB Organization 2023

~~gullies and the Fly Creek/Dyas property, and he is eager to see them properly celebrated as a lure to citizens and visitors to Fairhope. FEAB since 2017.~~

- **Jennifer Foutch, JD / BA in Administration of Justice and Political Science**
24+ years, including practicing law 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 she is a member of the Baldwin County Bar Association. She is employed as the Association Executive Officer for the Baldwin Realtors Association. *FEAB since 2021.*
- **Nigel Temple, Ph.D. Coastal Restoration Ecology**
10+ 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.*
- **Nicole Love, MS Biology / BS Biology**
20+ years in the environmental field working in state government, non-profit, and the private sector. Nicole brings an extensive environmental background as well as community outreach and engagement experience to the Board that will assist our communication of scientific data and research out to the general public and increase support for important City projects. *FEAB from X – X and since 2022.*
- **Anna Keene Miller, BS Environmental Studies**
10+ years in the environmental field as a building consultant specializing in energy efficiency and indoor air quality ~~for 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 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, including a Department of Energy Housing Innovation Award winner that uses ~~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. *CoF Recycling Committee, 2013 – 2015; FEAB from 2008 – 2010 and 2023.*
- **Dr. Steven B. Scyphers, Ph.D. Marine Sciences, Postdoc, Social-Ecological Systems**
~~XX~~ 15+ years in the environmental field, currently Associate Professor in the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences and Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Director of the Center for Socio-Environmental Resiliency at the University of South Alabama, and Senior Marine Scientist 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. *FEAB from 2023.*

2023 Priorities: These select initiatives are chosen to organize our energy, monthly agenda, action items, individual labor, Board discussions, and local government interactions. Additional priorities may be added to this list as they arise. 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
Environmental Outreach: COF Website	(1) Environmental information is available to all COF stakeholders (2) FEAB has a repository of publicly available information to reference in various outreach communications.	a. Work with COF IT Dept to strategize best options for establishing an Environmental page b. Organize page to include: native planting, living shorelines, greenspace parks habitat management, wetlands protection, etc. c. Review materials currently available on COF website and include as appropriate or identify for update.	Gary Gover All
Native Habitat			
(1) Native Planting	TBD Promote awareness and opportunities for Fairhope residents and neighbors to increase the use of native plants and reduce the presence of invasive non-natives species. This would support existing efforts and facilitate connections where needed.		Ben, Carl, Carole
(2) Living Shorelines	TBD		Stephen, Nigel
(3) Greenspace Establishment and Management	(1) City of Fairhope establishes a network of protected greenspace by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally planning / selecting parcels, including restoration or enhancement Intentionally maintaining and protecting parcels for designated outcomes and uses. Intentionally interconnecting green spaces across the City and beyond. (2) Colony Park is intentionally maintained as functional floodplain ecosystem and greenspace for the City of Fairhope; selected recreation amenities are compatible with floodplain function.	a. Partner with SALT, COF Bike and Ped Committee, Parks and Rec Board, and other entities to continuously identify and promote specific areas as greenspace. a. Revise City of Fairhope Parks Brochure.	Ben, Carl
Colony Park		a. Engage in natural resource land management and compatible use designations.	
Resource Conservation Initiatives	(1) City formally adopts stretch goals for building code and or planning and zoning regulations.	a. Explore overlap between priorities identified in community planning efforts and existing sustainable development standards (e.g., National Green Building Standard, Florida Green Building Coalition). Identify and communicate.	Anna Miller Jennifer Foutch

Active Participants

- **Carole Tebay**, *Alabama Master Gardener / Certified Florida Master Naturalist / Baldwin County Extension Master Environmental Educator*
50+ years of native plant gardening, including membership in the Santa Rosa County, FL Master Gardeners Speakers' Bureau, Longleaf Chapter of the Native Plant Society, Francis M Weston Chapter of the Audubon Society (Board Member), and Santa Rosa County RESTORE Council. As a Friends of Pensacola State Parks volunteer, Carole led weekly bird walks through Big Lagoon State Park. Led many citizen science projects on plastics, invasives, oysters, terrapins, and seagrasses. Active with the South Alabama Land Trust Natural Habitat Steering Committee, including 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. As a Baldwin County Extension Master Environmental Educator Program, Carole teaches Backyard Wildlife Habitat lessons to elementary school classes. *FEAB since 2023.*
- **Carl Couret**, *BS Biology and Zoology*
34+ years in the environmental field, retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as specialist in wetland and aquatic ecosystems of the Gulf Coast, Pacific Islands, and desert Southwest. After serving in the US Air Force in Japan and Hawaii, graduated University of Hawaii with a published paper on an endemic Hawaiian shrimp. Served as the lead biologist for relicensing of Alabama Power Co. hydropower plants and project leader for protection of the endangered Alabama beach mouse. Selected as a federal representative for the Department of Interior in Compact negotiations during the early years of the Alabama-Georgia-Florida water wars. Managed an Everglades Restoration Project biological team. Resident of Fairhope since 1991, occasional instructor for ESILL and speaker at the Fairhope library, leader of the Eastern Shore Ukulele Club, and president of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. I am fortunate to have a daughter and 2-yr-old grandson who live in Daphne. *FEAB since 2023.*

PRIORITY ISSUE	DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD
		c. Identify, communicate, eliminate roadblocks to solar power provision d. Promote ULEV, electric, or hybrid school busses	
Water Quality	(1)	a. Microplastics – Kim/Gary (also in WWTP sludge) b. Oil in our Stormwater – Gary c. PFAS – Gary (well 4; APFF discharge sites include airport, firefighting facilities, and WWTP / sludge to agriculture) d. US Highway 98 Fly Creek Bridge – Gary e. Alternative pavements (streets, sidewalks, bike paths) – Gary	
Recycling	(1) City of Fairhope has functional, reliable, and economical recycling system / partnerships.	a. Assist in brokering partnerships among contributing jurisdictions and accepting businesses. b. Assist in marketing and communicating revamped and revitalized recycling process. c. Reestablish recycling subcommittee as part of FEAB.	Jennifer Foutch
Meaningful Participation in City Planning Efforts	(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) <i>Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan (ESWMP) Steering Committee</i>	(1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of ESWMP. (2) ESWMP implementation recommendations are continuously pursued and implemented by City of Fairhope.	a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Provide FEAB Resolution with compiled recommendations on draft documents for WMP Study Team. c. Report ongoing progress to FEAB.	Kim Burmeister Nicole Love
(2) <i>Land Use Plan (LUP) Steering Committee</i>	(1) FEAB is champion of, and active participant in, development and ongoing implementation of City of Fairhope Comprehensive 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.	a. Attend all stakeholder group meetings. b. Provide FEAB Resolution with compiled recommendations on draft documents for LUP Study Team c. Report ongoing progress to FEAB.	Ben Frater
FEAB Organization, 2023 January 2023			Page 6

FEAB February 10th, 2023 Minutes

PRIORITY ISSUE	DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD
(3) <i>Dyas Triangle Park Steering Committee</i>	(1) Dyas Triangle Park is restored to appropriate ecological endpoint and developed as greenspace for the City of Fairhope.	a. Engage in natural resource land management decisions (Restoration and Maintenance Plan) b. Engage in Recreation Plan and compatible use designations.	Nigel Temple
(4) <i>Community Resiliency Index</i>	(1) The City of Fairhope rescors the 2017 Community Resilience Index (CRI) in light of 2020 hurricane season.	a. Perform CRI review b. Document and communicate findings c. Provide to Comprehensive Land Use team to incorporate into planning process	Nicole Love
(5) <i>Clean Marina</i>	(1) Fairhope Marina is operated to selected Clean Marina standards.	a. Assist Harbor Board in selecting and implementing relevant commitments.	Nicole Love
Maintain connection to / relationship with Fairhope governing bodies	(1) FEAB offers relevant, dependable, and consistent support to City governing entities. (2) City governing entities 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	
(1) <i>Mayor's Office</i>			Amy Paulson / Nicole Love
(2) <i>City Council</i>			Rotation / Corey Martin
(3) <i>City Departments -Fairhope Public Utilities</i>			Kim Burmeister Anna Miller
Maintain connection to / relationship with volunteer Boards, Committees, and other local entities	(1) Identify shared priorities (2) Support each other / share resources (3) Communicate with consistent message to City (4) Engage new partnerships	(1) Serve as liaison / POC between boards. (2) Attend meetings as relevant, including requesting at least 1 annual agenda session for priorities discussion.	
(1) <i>Parks and Recreation</i>			Ben Frater
(2) <i>Harbor Board</i>			Nicole Love

PRIORITY ISSUE	DESIRED OUTCOMES	ACTION ITEMS	FEAB LEAD
(3) <i>Bike and Pedestrian</i>			Carl Couret
(4) <i>Historical Committee</i>			Ben Frater
(5) <i>South Alabama Land Trust (SALT)</i>			Carole Tebay
(6) <i>AL Coastal Foundation / Green Coast Council</i>			Gary Gover
(7) <i>Baldwin County Master Gardeners</i>			Carole Tebay
(8) <i>Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee</i>			Kim Burmeister
(9) <i>Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Board Coalition</i>	(1) Assist Baldwin County in communication of County initiatives (2) Streamline/implement where appropriate	(1) Develop and champion streamlined regulations for wetlands and streams, red clay, and Low Impact Development	Amy Paulson / Gary Gover

FEAB Organization, 2023
January 2023

Page 8

Council Meeting Attendance Schedule and Talking Points:

Amy shared the current draft which also includes agenda POC (Point of Contact) for each item.

Kim commented, per Jim (absent today): there appear to be four members left off the Council attendance agenda for end of the year.

SCHEDULE AND TALKING POINTS
THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
ATTENDANCE AT BI-MONTHLY CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS/WORK SESSIONS: 2023

Attendance Schedule		
Date – Second and Fourth Monday of Every Month		FEAB Assigned Representative
Second	January	Amy Paulson
Fourth	January	Nigel Temple
Second	February	Ben Frater
Fourth	February	Nicole Love
Second	March	Gary Gover
Fourth	March	Jennifer Foutch
Second	April	Jim Horner
Fourth	April	Anna Miller
Second	May	Steven Scyphers
Fourth	May	Carole Tebay*
Second	June	Nicole Love
Fourth	June	Nigel Temple
Second	July	Ben Frater
Fourth	July	Amy Paulson
Second	August	Gary Gover
Fourth	August	Jennifer Foutch
Second	September	Jim Horner
Fourth	September	Anna Miller
Second	October	Steven Scyphers
Fourth	October	Carole Tebay*
Second	November	Gary Gover
Fourth	November	Jennifer Foutch
Second	December	Jim Horner
Fourth	December	Anna Miller

*Carole is not an official voting member of FEAB and therefore cannot speak directly for the Board. However, she is a subject matter expert for green building and should be engaged as relevant.

Procedure / Purpose:

- Before Council meeting:
 - **PREPARE**
 - Get on City email list to receive agenda before meeting (contact the City Clerk's office at 251-928-2136 or lisa.hanks@fairhopeal.gov). Agenda may be available at COF website (but don't count on it): <https://www.fairhopeal.gov/government/agendas-minutes/city-council-4032>
 - *If agenda includes any discussion on FEAB 2022 priority focal issues, contact FEAB issue POC to assess relevance of swapping attendance (see talking points below).*
 - Assigned FEAB representative attends on their day OR swaps with another *in advance*. It is the assigned representative's responsibility to find a replacement.
 - Bring most recent version of messaging sheet / talking points to meeting.
 - It is often very beneficial to attend the working Session that occurs prior to the meeting. Attendance is recommended, but it is a time commitment so whether you want to go to both is your decision.
 - **OBSERVE** discussion, including:
 - Any topics identified as 2022 FEAB Priority Focal issues.
 - New environmental issues faced by City.
 - Any other issues that may have indirect impacts on the environment but were not identified as such or otherwise highlighted during Council discussion.
 - **PARTICIPATE**. The purposes of FEAB regular attendance are:
 - *to support Councilman Martin with environmental expertise*
 - *to speak on 2022 FEAB priority issues as needed (see talking points below)*
 - *to alert Council and City where environmental issues may be relevant and FEAB could further assist*
 - *to thank / acknowledge / support Councilmembers when appropriate environmental action is taken or decision is made*
 - *to inform FEAB of relevant meeting details*
 - **REPORT**. Communicate back to FEAB:
 - Be prepared to present short discussion of relevant items at next FEAB monthly meeting.
 - If immediate response was requested on a given issue, email group directly or contact Amy to help identify POC and communicate issue / next steps.
- At Council meeting:
 - **OBSERVE** discussion, including:
 - Any topics identified as 2022 FEAB Priority Focal issues.
 - New environmental issues faced by City.
 - Any other issues that may have indirect impacts on the environment but were not identified as such or otherwise highlighted during Council discussion.
 - **PARTICIPATE**. The purposes of FEAB regular attendance are:
 - *to support Councilman Martin with environmental expertise*
 - *to speak on 2022 FEAB priority issues as needed (see talking points below)*
 - *to alert Council and City where environmental issues may be relevant and FEAB could further assist*
 - *to thank / acknowledge / support Councilmembers when appropriate environmental action is taken or decision is made*
 - *to inform FEAB of relevant meeting details*
 - **REPORT**. Communicate back to FEAB:
 - Be prepared to present short discussion of relevant items at next FEAB monthly meeting.
 - If immediate response was requested on a given issue, email group directly or contact Amy to help identify POC and communicate issue / next steps.

Talking Points / Messages:

Greenspace Establishment and Management

- **POC:** Ben Frater
- **INTENT:** City of Fairhope establishes a network of protected greenspace by 1) selecting natural areas to maintain, restore, or enhance AND 2) planning and maintaining areas for compatible designated natural outcomes and recreational uses.
 - Many natural area goals are compatible with multi-use recreation goals IF the area is well planned and appropriately maintained.
 - Mixed use is vulnerable to failure without proper planning – resource will degrade, upkeep will be costly or ineffective (i.e., erosion, weeds, growth inhibition).
 - FEAB has a joint subcommittee with the bike and ped board to help identify new parcels to recommend.
 - There are a variety of means to acquire, control, or otherwise use private property for public use (i.e., purchase and City-maintenance is not always required). FEAB can provide further detail as needed.
 - World-class cities all have intentionally interconnected green spaces – increases quality of life and property values.
- **PRIOR FEAB INVOLVEMENT:**
 - *Dyas Triangle* – we assisted the Council and Mayor by providing deed research, recommended deed restrictions, and provided several Resolutions regarding possible ways forward for planning and design.
 - *Colony Park* – we have provided Council and Mayor with previous Management Plan (Single Tax 2010) and Resolutions regarding recommended ways forward for planning and design.
 - *Land Use Plan* – we provided an extensive, detailed recommendation letter to the City and the LUP consultant planning team. We have several members serve on the LUP Steering Committee, and most of the FEAB attended at least one planning workshop, charette, or presentation.

Fairhope Wetlands Protection

- **POC:** Amy Paulson
- **INTENT:** City of Fairhope is empowered and equipped to protect local watershed resources.
 - FEAB is working with Daphne and the County to standardize minimum wetlands protection and best management practice language across the County (draft language expected by Q1 2023).
 - FEAB is available to assist the review and adoption of revised COF wetlands ordinance and subdivision ordinance.

Coastal Community Resilience Index

- **POC:** Nicole Love
- **INTENT:** The City of Fairhope rescors the 2017 Coastal Community Resilience Index (CRI) in light of 2020 hurricane season and other upgrades and improvements.
 - The CRI is a tool to showcase improvements made and identify remaining challenges that could be corrected in advance of the next major storm.
 - The CRI is a Mississippi Sea Grant-facilitated event where City employees and other knowledgeable officials evaluate if their community will reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning after a disaster.

- o The CRI is a step toward preparing the City to enter into the Community Rating System (CRS), which ultimately could result in the lowering of flood insurance premiums for all citizens of the City.
- **PRIOR FEAB INVOLVEMENT:**
 - o The Council and Mayor have approved the next CRI scoring, to occur in approximately Jan-Feb 2023.

Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan

- **POC:** Nicole Love
- **INTENT:** A watershed-wide approach to identify problems that threaten the quality of receiving waters and recommends prioritized solutions to those problems.
 - o The Plan includes the Cities of Fairhope and Daphne and will provide recommendations for projects and potential funding solutions.
- **FEAB INVOLVEMENT:**
 - o Nicole Love is on the Project Team for the Plan. Amy Paulson was on the Project Team and is a member of the Steering Committee. Several members have provided input into the Plan.

Recycling

- **POC:** Jennifer Foutch
- **INTENT:** City has functional, reliable, and economical partnerships and a well-communicated recycling system with high-participation rate.
- **FEAB INVOLVEMENT:** We are available to:
 - o Assist in brokering partnerships among contributing jurisdictions and accepting businesses.
 - o Assist in marketing and communicating revamped and revitalized recycling process.
 - o Reestablish recycling subcommittee as part of FEAB.

Clean Marina

- **POC:** Nicole Love
- **INTENT:** Fairhope Marina is a designated Clean Marina and operated under selected Clean Marina standards.
 - o Clean Marina is a voluntary program that gives managers the resources they need to minimize pollution.
 - o The designation results a "Certified Alabama-Mississippi Clean Marina" and helps to reduce costs associated with waste disposal and attracting responsible boaters.
- **FEAB INVOLVEMENT:** FEAB is available to assist Harbor Board upon request in selecting and implementing relevant commitments to achieve Clean Marina standards. Designation is anticipated early-2023.

Stormwater Management

- **POC:** Jim Horner
- **INTENT:** Improve stormwater management to ensure post-construction volume and velocity does not exceed pre-construction. This will help minimize downstream flooding.
- **FEAB INVOLVEMENT:**

- o Helped COF obtain \$650,000 grant for developing an inventory of the City's stormwater infrastructure.
- o Helped rewrite subdivision regulations to improve stormwater management. This was part of the FEAB recommendations to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- o Proposed using siltation standards to improve stormwater detention effectiveness.

Fairhope Water Quality Initiative: Litter Abatement

Nigel and Gary both have been in discussion with Don Bates, Osprey Initiative, who is in charge of the litter abatement program at the city-owned Winn Dixie pond.

Jennifer has concerns over boom not being within the pond. Kim mentioned the boom is not a floating boom but instead is placed in the flow of the stormwater outside of the pond. The litter collected has been minimal, but is being profiled and appears to be mostly plastic. She said City may consider outreach programs for Fairhope soon similar to Mobile's program. Mobile's program does not ban plastic from being used in businesses but instead encourages and celebrates the companies pledging to be single use plastic free.

[Breaking The Habit: Mobile's Kiss-Off To Single-Use Plastic — Mobile Baykeeper](#)

Nigel said Don has a good concept for Fairhope which is to bring the litter abatement program to all Fairhope watersheds in one fashion or another, and to improve the Fairhope recycling program.

Jennifer mentioned the natural barriers (plants) in the pond and their usefulness in collecting/trapping litter. Nigel has more ideas on enhancing the natural habitat here at the Winn Dixie pond.

Stretch Building Codes / CRI

Anna discussed her stretch goal ideas which would enhance current building code with optional methods and mentioned how these ties into CRI. She would like to include economic impacts of stretch goals.

Stephen thinks including economic impact might limit the ability to push the green agenda of stretch goals.

Nigel suggests a 2 page hand out for the stretch goals.

Nicole said Erik and Auburn Extension had a meeting and identified a potential date and initial list of invitees for the CRI workshop.

Internships:

Per Steven: If city needs interns, USA may be able to provide internships as early as Spring 2023 and then every quarter.

Social Media:

Nigel would like to suggest that City implement Instagram and/or Facebook for environmental outreach, which could be drafted by FEAB (quarterly or monthly).

March Annual Special Meeting with Mayor and staff:

Action item for Kim: Amy asked Kim to reach out to the Mayor to get a tentative time and date for special annual meeting. This one hour meeting will preferably be held aside from regular FEAB meeting. March is the projected month for the meeting. Meeting will target staff:

- 1. Mayor
- 2. Corey – Council
- 3. Department heads- to include as many as possible:
 - a. Richard Johnson, Public Works
 - b. Hunter Simmons, Planning and Zoning (Michelle Melton also encouraged to attend, staff Planner).
 - c. Jason Langley, Water and Sewer
 - d. Pat White, Recreation Department
 - e. Erik Cortinas, Building Official

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next regular monthly meeting is Friday, March 10 @ 3 p.m. @ Library Board 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

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

Steven Scyphers sscyphers@scsengineers.com (334)-701-8864

Anna Miller anna@keenliving.pro (251) 279-0395

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