

FEAB May 12, 2023

FEAB MEETING MINUTES

May 12th, 2023

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

Member Attendees: Gary Gover, Amy Paulson, Nigel Temple, Nicole Love, Steven Scyphers, Anna Miller, Jim Horner, Ben Frater, Carole Tebay

Members not in attendance:

Jennifer Foutch

City of Fairhope: Nicole Love- Grant Coordinator; Kim Burmeister -Planning and Zoning Department; Christina LeJeune-Planning and Zoning Department

City Council: None

Honored Guests: Carl Couret (Active participant); Cynthia Rush

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

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

FEAB Minutes:

April minutes were approved as written. Jim 1st , Nigel 2nd, unanimous.

Summary:

1. New FEAB Member: Carole Tebay
2. Nicole gave FEAB a list of suggested items city needs help with: Grants-letter of support; locating and information; invasives – maintenance and park management plan for control of invasives; quarterly social media outreach PSA draft
3. Carole will note non-natives currently listed in City Tree Ordinance
4. Butterfly garden needs kudzu removal and park management plan
5. Anna is working on draft of stretch goals, water conservation tips for residents

Membership:

Carole is officially a FEAB member.

Agenda from Amy:

AGENDA

THE CITY OF FAIRHOPE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

MAY 12, 2023 / 3-4 PM, LIBRARY

1. **Housekeeping** (~3 min)
 - a. Last month minutes – Kim
 - b. Carole Membership Status – Kim
 - c. FEAB Google Share File

2. **POC Status Reports and Action Items: FEAB 2023 Priority Initiatives** (~40 min)
LIMITED DISCUSSION ~ PASS IF NO NEWS TO SHARE
 - a. **Natural/Native Habitat Solutions**
 - i. **Native Planting / Invasives Outreach** – Carole, Ben, Carl
 1. **ACTIONS:** Partnership with city for pollinator gardens: FEAB’s subcommittee Native Planting team (Ben, Carl, Carol) plus Steven will work with Fairhope landscape crew (Jamie):
 - a. Jamie and FEAB subcommittee meet on site (South Mobile Street north of Orange Street – Butterfly Garden) to discuss further action
 - b. Develop an education plan
 - c. Identify local pollinators to be protected and invasives to be removed (if feasible), specifically in the butterfly garden area to start with.
 2. **ACTION:** Post Giant Salvinia material on City FB page
 3. **ACTIONS:** Fairhope Elementary Schools outdoor classrooms
 - a. Carole to follow up with Julie Pierce, FWES and Brinkley Hutchings, Nature Connect
 - b. NOAA funding opportunity targeting schools and community groups. Maybe something we can explore to help support the elementary school outdoor classrooms? <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/planet-stewards/psep-supporting.html>
 4. **STATUS:** Resolution to remove Chinese Elm from list of suggested species in Tree and Landscape Ordinance, Section 20.5-14
 - ii. **Shorelines, Streambanks, Gullies** – Nigel, Stephen
 - iii. **Greenspace Establishment and Management** – Ben, Carl
 1. 2021 Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) - www.alabamaoutdoorrecreation.org POC: Brian Rushing (205) 915-5402 or brushing@ua.edu
 - b. **Resilient and Efficient Buildings / Stretch Goals** – Anna, Jennifer
 - i. **ACTION:** Outreach materials to mayor
 - ii. **ACTION:** RFI for *DOE Office of State and Community Energy Programs to Make \$1 Billion Available to State and Local Governments for Improved Energy Codes*
 - iii. **Green Shores system** – Nigel
 - c. **Trash and Recycling** – Jennifer
 - i. **ACTION :** County MERF liaison
 - ii. **ACTION:** Osprey Initiative Data
 - d. **City Planning Efforts**
 - i. **Eastern Shore Watershed Management Plan** – Amy / Kim
 1. Fairhope Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMPP), a component of the MS4 program, has been updated on-line.
 - ii. **Land Use Plan Steering Committee** – Ben
 - iii. **Dyas Triangle Park Steering Committee** – Nigel
 1. **ACTION:** Upload 2020 Todea veg study to FEAB share drive (Ben?)
 - iv. **Community Resiliency Index** – [Nicole]
 - v. **Clean Marina** – Amy / Steven(?)

- f. City Liaisons
 - i. Mayor – Amy / COF staff
 - ii. City Council – [biweekly report highlights] / Corey
 - 1. Steven Scyphers - 5/8 (report)
 - 2. Carole Tebay - 5/22
 - 3. Carl Couret - 6/12
 - 4. Amy - 6/26
 - iii. City Departments – Kim, Christina, Nicole, Anna
 - g. Other Boards Liaisons
 - i. Fairhope Committees: Bike and Ped (Carl/Carole/Gary), Harbor Board (Amy/Steven), Parks and Recreation Board (Ben), Recycling Committee (Jennifer), Historic Preservation (Ben), Tree Committee (Carole & Gary)
 - 1. ACTION: get on agendas / take priorities discussion to monthly meetings.
 - ii. Local Nonprofits: SALT (Carole), ACF (Gary?), Baldwin County Master Gardeners (Carole), Nature Connect (Carole)
 - iii. Baldwin County: Env Advisory Committee (Kim), BC EAB Coalition (Amy/Gary)
3. **New Business / Other Interests (< 5 min)**
- a. City budget recommendations - Due October(?)
4. **Involvement & Education Opportunities (< 5 min)**
- a. *Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting*. Tuesday, June 6th, at the Baldwin County Annex Building in Robertsdale, 4 p.m. Special Guest Speaker Dr. Scott Douglas will give a presentation on coastal erosion and resiliency, with emphasis on Mobile Bay.
 - b. *Water Watch Bacteriological & Water Chemistry Monitoring Workshops*. Graham Creek Reserve, 23140 Wolf Bay Drive, Foley AL, May 19, 2023, 1-4pm.
 - i. Registration: contact the AWW Office: 1-888-844-4785 or Email: awwprog@auburn.edu
 - ii. Register by 5/8/23
 - iii. Complete the Self-Paced, Online Coursework for Monitoring Types of Interest
 - iv. Participate in the Field Day to Demonstrate Monitoring Methods
 - c. *City of Huntsville Sustainability Report* - includes many recommendations that align with our priority issues): <https://www.huntsvilleal.gov/environment/green-team/education-awareness/sustainability-energy-initiatives/huntsville-environmental-sustainability-committee/>
 - d. *Water is Life: Forever Chemicals with Ryan Anderson (SELC) and Eric Reidy (ADEM) 5/9/23*
The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided significant new funding for water infrastructure in Alabama, including dedicated funds for water utilities to address emerging contaminants in our drinking water. These funds are being distributed through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The most urgent emerging contaminants in our drinking in Alabama are PFAS/PFOS also known as “forever chemicals” and EPA is currently proposing new stricter standards for these chemicals in drinking water
 - e. *Protect Local Authority to Restrict Pesticides; Stop Congress from Preempting Local Ordinances*
The Farm Bill in Congress - the pesticide industry would like to insert a provision that takes away (preempts) local authority to restrict pesticide use. Petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use is contributing to health threats, biodiversity collapse, and the climate emergency.
 - i. [Part 1: Tell your local officials to sign onto a letter opposing the preemption language.](#)
 - ii. [Part 2: Tell your U.S. Representative and Senators to support communities by opposing anti-democratic preemption language in the 2023 Farm Bill.](#)
 - f. *2023 Alabama Water Resources Conference (ALWRC)*, Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, September 6-8, 2023. Hosted by Auburn University Water Resources Center
 - g. *Mobile Bay Resiliency Plan TAKE SURVEY*: <https://www.mobilebaynep.com/news/city-of-mobile-city-wide-resilience-assessment-and-plan>
The City of Mobile is undertaking an 18-month effort to develop a City-wide Resilience Assessment and Plan. The goal of this effort is to ensure that Mobile can withstand, adapt, and thrive no matter what challenges the city may face in the future—including, but not limited to, climate change, sea-level rise, and changing social and economic conditions.
 - h. *The Secret Life of Forest Bees* <https://www.xerces.org/publications/wings-magazine/wings-452-fall-2022-natural-history>

5. **Wrap up** (< 5 min)

- a. New action items – review/list
- b. July Guest: Osprey Initiative - data collected
- c. 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 Goals and Assistance to the City of Fairhope

Nicole suggested FEAB focus on needed projects, to include but not be limited to:

1. Letter of support for grants
2. Gathering of information for grants
3. Seeking and forward grant opportunities to her
4. Locate funding sources or maintenance groups for control of invasives in park area
5. Identify best treatment method city should adopt for invasive control
6. Provide subject matter and draft information for quarterly Facebook post from FEAB, environmental hot topic area. Provide draft to Kim. PSA will have to be approved by Paige and Mayor.

Nigel asked for more information on what is needed for #6: what is and is not acceptable? Kim suggested any hot topic of environmental concern FEAB thinks warrants outreach to our community. Giant Salvinia, or information on invasives, for example, would be a good start.

Nicole said grants with no match are preferred and easier to run through the approval process than grants with match. Steven said he will be glad to assist with seeking of grant opportunities.

Jim said city staff should bring ideas to FEAB more often.

Amy said this has been the goal all along, to assist city as needed.

Action Plan: Steven to seek grant opportunities for the City; will send information found directly to Nicole.

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Butterfly Garden and Pollinator Habitats / Native Plantings

Jamie, city horticulturist, recently met with Carole and Ben at the butterfly garden area. Main concern is maintenance and control of invasives, mostly kudzu. Carole identified some native bloomers still there but struggling to thrive under the kudzu.

Carole said the options for invasive / kudzu removal are goats, herbicides and/or manpower to pull. Jamie said city has limited staff to perform maintenance and removal of invasives. He is in support of butterfly garden enhancements, plantings. City will need assistance with maintenance.

Carole said the bluff area "Magnolia Beach Park" needs a park management plan. Per Carole, Jamie would prefer one butterfly garden area vs. several, for maintenance. Ben said step one is treating and removing the invasives. Professional advice is needed. Amy said it would be helpful to have a group adopt certain areas for garden maintenance. Community could be invited to help with an outreach day for invasive control on the bluff.

Action plan: Carole will identify non-natives listed in the city Tree Ordinance. Non-native does not necessarily mean invasive or problematic.

Action plan: Steven will send Auburn Extension contact information to FEAB; Auburn Extension may be of some help with invasive removal and park management plan for kudzu control.

Action plan: Kim will add park brochure to Google Drive so FEAB can see location and names of existing city parks.

Per Carol, Jamie stated city will use Chinese elm that they have on hand but will not purchase any more, since it is listed as an invasive species.

Nature Based Solutions

Nicole said city has applied for GOMESA grant for shoreline improvement (nature-based) of Magnolia Beach shoreline, south of Pier Street boat launch.

Giant Salvinia

Carole previously submitted a PSA for FEAB to consider recommending for Fairhope social media. It is an invasive aquatic nuisance plant.

Action Plan: Amy will recirculate Giant Salvinia PSA to FEAB.

Fairhope Outdoor Classrooms

Carole is waiting on a call back from Fairhope West to see how FEAB can help.

Stretch Building Codes

Anna has been asked by Mayor to provide Paige Crawford, Community Affairs Director, with draft of clear information on stretch codes and water conservation tips for residents and business owners. Anna will provide this to Paige within 2 weeks. Anna will place draft will be on Google Drive for FEAB review.

Gary said City had an energy audit several years ago and is overdue for a new one.

Action plan: Anna to provide Paige with draft of water conservation and stretch code tips.

City Budget

Gary wants FEAB connected and to stay in touch with city of Fairhope budget deadlines.

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Osprey Initiative, end of year data

Osprey Initiative representative reached out to Amy and would like to come speak at an upcoming FEAB meeting to discuss findings from the Winn Dixie Pond project. Amy suggested having Osprey Initiative at the July meeting, tentative.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Next meeting: Friday, June 9th @ Fairhope Municipal Library, 3 p.m.

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairman:

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