

City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

12:00 PM

Joint Workshop with Sustainability Advisory Board

City Commission Conference Room

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

*DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor - Commissioner
BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III*

*CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney*

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the Workshop to order at 12:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Excused: Commissioner Heather Moraitis

Sustainability Advisory Board Members Present: Chair Jason Liechty, Vice Chair Lawrence Clark, Elizabeth Adler, Owen Cylke, Carolann Mazza, Muge Nurgun, Cushla Talbut, Carol Tamburry, and Susan Wood

Not Present: Douglas Meade, and Enrique Vadiveloo

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain Boileau, and City Auditor John Herbst

OLD/NEW BUSINESS[19-0233](#)

Sustainability Advisory Board - Recommendations

Mayor Trantalis explained the focus of the Workshop is to address recommendations and priorities contained in the Sustainability Advisory Board's (SAB) Communication to the Commission.

A copy of the SAB Communication to the Commission is attached to these minutes.

Chair Jason Liechty expounded on the duties and role of the SAB. They include the review of topics requested by the Commission, working with Staff as programs are implemented and presenting sustainability recommendations. Under the SAB's enabling Ordinance, the SAB is not tasked with addressing sea level rise or climate change.

Mayor Trantalis said that sustainability issues are at the forefront of Commission policy, commenting on the need to be proactive with SAB proposals and recommendations that could be brought forward at the state legislative level. Mayor Trantalis noted the broad mandate of the

SAB and its individual member's expertise that provides important perspectives, experience and recommendations regarding environmental items. The Commission is sensitive to both near and long-term environmental concerns, requesting that the SAB provide the Commission with strategic options.

Commissioner Glassman requested review of SAB recommendations and input from City Manager Lagerbloom regarding a realistic evaluation and timeline.

Chair Liechty explained SAB's process when establishing recommendations. Each member identifies three long-term and short-term priorities. The highest priority was consideration to create a Green Business Certification Program (GBCP) for the private sector. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Chair Liechty expounded on the GBCP, discussing models around the country which recognize and acknowledge environmental efforts of participating businesses. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need for businesses to recycle, expounding on details. Further comment and discussion ensued on implementing guidelines and Staff's management. Chair Liechty confirmed he would provide a detailed list of specifics. Further comment and discussion ensued on promoting business recycling, existing residential recycling and recycling within City departments.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director. Dr. Gassman said commercial businesses have the option to engage in recycling. A draft ordinance mandating commercial recycling is being prepared for consideration by the Commission. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question on how to manage this policy, Dr. Gassman explained commercial waste management companies addressing the collection of recyclables and expounded on details. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Dr. Gassman confirmed that there would be no additional cost to the City. Commissioner McKinzie commented on recycling vendor's costs and industry discussions regarding continuation of services. He recommended Staff consult with recycling vendors. In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Dr. Gassman confirmed after the ordinance has been drafted, there would be engagement with businesses to provide feedback.

Mayor Trantalis commented on discussions with other municipal mayors within Broward County, commenting on the disposition of some recycled materials into landfills. The City's recycled materials go through a recycling plant, concurring with Commission McKinzie's comments that recycling is becoming less financially viable. Further comment and discussion ensued on ways to foster a GBCP, including recognition of

participating businesses. Board Member Owen Cylke commented on additional benefits of being recognized as an environmentally conscious City. The GBCP best practices model was discussed. Vice Mayor Sorensen requested SAB reach out to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce on the topic of implementing a GBCP.

Board Member Carol Tambury suggested taking further action to ban plastic items in the City. Mayor Trantalis noted the possibility of preemption at the State legislative level. Further comment and discussion ensued. Board Member Carolann Mazza reviewed the structure of the SAB's priorities. She discussed the two levels of projects, those easily implemented and others requiring critical fundamental changes, expounding on details which would include policy decisions. Mayor Trantalis commented on addressing strategic priorities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Liechty reviewed SAB's Adaptation, Resilience, and Sustainability recommendations listed in the Appendix to its communication, expounding on related details and recommendations.

Mayor Trantalis discussed feedback from neighbors regarding drought tolerate sustainable landscaped medians and sources of irrigation water. Dr. Gassman said most of the irrigation water is from the City's potable water system, expounding on details. Board Member Mazza commented on irrigation water costs. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding drought resistant landscaping.

Chair Liechty commented on SAB's support of redirecting urban development to higher elevation/lower flood-risk areas and his work with Broward County regarding this topic. Discussions ensued on areas most susceptible to flooding. Dr. Gassman commented on the Stormwater Master Plan Model identifying those areas. The Community Investment Plan identifies 17 action areas requiring adaptation. She expounded on details.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the annual Evaluation Appraisal Report (EAR) and its translation into the Comprehensive Plan regarding development. This information needs to be translated into the Department of Sustainable Development. Dr. Gassman discussed work on the Comprehensive Plan and conversations with Staff to make adjustments in the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) which would guide policy changes. She expounded on details that would result in these adjustments being brought to the Commission for policy decisions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Liechty discussed the SAB's endorsement of urban gardening and farming. Further comment and discussion ensued on community gardening efforts and viability, the City's gardening project in Snyder Park and models in other municipalities. Commissioner McKinzie commented on the history of the region's agriculture. Board Member Susan Wood commented on prior neighborhood efforts encouraging grass areas on residential property. Further comment and discussion ensued on challenges and opportunities. Vice Mayor Sorensen suggested implementing the Snyder Park program in other parks located near schools to encourage student participation, commenting on possible coordination with the Broward County School Board. Board Member Susan Wood concurred that this would be an education tie-in opportunity. Dr. Gassman commented on creating gardens at school properties.

Chair Liechty commented on the SAB's support of an energy benchmarking ordinance that would require large commercial buildings to address energy efficiency, commenting on how other municipalities address this topic. Commissioner McKinzie discussed green incentives, noting costs. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Chair Lawrence Clark commented on the EPA's free online energy rating tool entitled *Energy Star Portfolio Manager* that could be used with an energy benchmarking ordinance. Further comment and discussion ensued on this topic.

Dr. Gassman commented on the number of LEED Certified buildings included in annual performance measures. She also noted costs, incentives and opportunities and expounded on details related to energy benchmarking ordinances. Mayor Trantalis inquired about how to implement this type of program. Dr. Gassman commented on green business certifications which would lead to a mandatory reporting requirement, commenting on the associated implementation costs. Mayor Trantalis suggested working with the Florida Power and Light (FPL) Liaison to begin addressing energy sustainability.

Board Member Muge Nurgun commented on the opportunity to engage the City's college intern students to measure the energy efficiency of businesses, similar to programs in other states.

Chair Liechty commented on the SAB's support of a 100 Percent Renewable Energy Goal. He also discussed its support of installing cogeneration (electricity and heat) plants at water treatment facilities, expounding on the use of the bio-gas from the water treatment processes to generate electricity and heat. This is being done at Broward County's Wastewater Treatment Plant on Copans Road and has reduced energy

usage by 30 percent. Mayor Trantalis commented on a forthcoming consultant report on the City's water treatment plants and the future opportunity to utilize cogeneration.

Commissioner Glassman requested further information regarding the SAB's recommendation for *cool streets* - using paving materials, coatings, street trees, and landscaping to reduce the urban heat island effect generated by asphalt and hard paved surfaces. He also requested additional information regarding the adoption of a *cool-roof* ordinance - reducing the urban heat island effect and reduced energy use in buildings. Dr. Gassman commented on the topic of *cool streets* and the City's sustainable parking lots. Staff is in the process of drafting a *cool-roof* ordinance.

Board Member Cylke discussed the additional range of sustainability items, citing examples. The South Florida Region's municipalities have respective SABs and Sustainability Officers which are associated with the Office of the City Manager. This provides a platform to address sustainability matters, allowing a broader reach at no cost. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his upcoming State of the City Address at the Nova Southeastern University Museum of Art on Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. He said that topic of sustainability would be included, inviting SAB Workshop attendees to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the Workshop at 1:24 p.m.