

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 GBGP, 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 Commissioner McKinzie's comments that recycling is becoming less financially viable. Further comment and discussion ensued on ways to foster a GBGP, 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.

DRAFT
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8th Floor
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
November 26, 2018 - 6:15 PM

Cumulative Attendance					
1/2018 through 12/2018					
	Members	Appt By	Attendance	Present	Absent
1	Jason Liechty, Chair	IV	P	10	1
2	Lawrence Clark, Vice Chair	I	A	10	1
3	Carol Tamburry	III	P	10	1
4	Carolann Mazza	III	P	9	2
5	Cushla Talbut	II	A	5	2
6	Douglas Meade	I	P	8	3
7	Elizabeth Adler	M	P	9	2
8	Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	P	8	3
9	Muge Nurgun	II	P	1	0
10	Owen Cylke	C	P	10	1
11	Susan Wood	M	P	10	1

Staff Present

Public Works Sustainability Division

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Mark Williams, Urban Forester

Aneisha Nicholas, Staff Liaison

Call of Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liechty at 6:18 p.m. The roll was called and it was determined a quorum was present. Ms. Mazza arrived at 6:26 p.m., Ms. Adler arrived at 6:29 p.m., and Ms. Nurgun arrived at 6:32 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Meade and seconded by Ms. Wood to allow Mr. Vadiveloo to participate in the meeting via teleconference. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion

Motion made by Mr. Cylke, seconded by Ms. Adler to advance the below Communication to the City Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Communication to the City Commission

The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) provides the following Communication to the City Commission:

The City of Fort Lauderdale is rightly recognized globally for its leading role in preparing for climate change, particularly sea level rise. The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) is proud of the City's efforts, commends outgoing City Manager Lee Feldman for his leadership on these issues, and applauds the efforts to date of the Public Works - Sustainability Division and other City agencies and their staff members.

We are confident the City will continue to lead on these issues, particularly the adaptation and resilience issues so critical to the City's future. However, as the new City Commission enters the second half of its first year in office, and as a new City Manager takes over, the SAB urges the City Commission to consider adjustments to the structure of the City's environment and sustainability functions and to accelerate the City's efforts in certain areas, as other cities have done. The SAB's main recommendations are listed below, and an Appendix further details a host of specific ideas and suggestions for City policies and programs to address the City's environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

The following are intended as initial recommendations for consideration. Upon the request of the Commission, the SAB can offer more detailed recommendations on any of the items listed below or other sustainability related topics of interest.

Structural Changes

The Commission should:

- Amend Ordinance Division 8, Chapter 2, Section 2-257 to reference explicitly climate change and sea level rise as priority areas of concern for the Sustainability Advisory Board.*
- Relocate the City's principal sustainability officer to the Office of the City Manager, as an Assistant City Manager for Sustainability, with a redefined, broader institutional mandate to consider environmental, economic, and social sustainability, and with appropriate staff to carry out these functions, largely within existing budgets and staff levels.*
- Reposition the SAB and expand its purview from the Sustainability Division to an alignment more closely related to the enlarged mandate and placement proposed for the Assistant City Manager for Sustainability.*

Adaptation and Resilience

- *The SAB requests that the Commission direct the City Manager or his designees (relevant Assistant City Manager, Assistant Public Works Director for Sustainability, etc.) to create and submit to the Commission an annual report on any new information on the risks to the City associated with sea level rise and reporting on the City's progress in implementing strategic plans, programs, and investments to address said risks.*

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

- *The City has already undertaken significant steps to reduce its own energy use and the related emissions, including the use of Energy Savings Contracts (ESCOs) for building energy reductions including LED lighting and HVAC projects; efforts to convert streetlights to LED bulbs; establishment of a Green Revolving Fund for energy projects; and use of electric/hybrid/alternative-fuel vehicles.*
- *The SAB supports these efforts but believes the City should both widen and deepen its work to reduce energy consumption in City facilities and operations, seriously explore the installation of renewable energy systems where feasible, and create similar energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation programs for City residents and businesses.*

Appendix – Specific Ideas for City Innovation and Advancement

Please note: some of the ideas listed below might correctly be listed under both categories. For simplicity, and to avoid redundancy, they are listed only once under the most relevant category.

Adaptation, Resilience, and Sustainability

- *Convert landscaped medians to low-water/drought-tolerant plants. The City has already explored the use of low-water/drought-tolerant plants via pilot projects in certain landscaped medians. These pilots should be expanded wherever possible.*
- *Rainwater harvesting. Rainwater from the region's wet weather could be stored in cisterns or tanks and used for irrigation, reducing demand on potable water supplies.*
- *Reclaimed water. Semi-treated wastewater (i.e., not to full potable standard) can be used for landscape irrigation, reducing demand on potable water supplies.*
- *Dune restoration and creation. Beach dunes protect people, property, and infrastructure from storm surge flooding and erosion, and dunes should be created and/or restored wherever possible along the City's beaches. Mangroves are another protective option for non-beach waterfronts, e.g., along the Intracoastal Waterway.*
- *Fertilizer ordinance. Nutrient pollution from fertilizers and other sources threatens the health of coral reefs, which serve as a critical defense against storm surge by attenuating wave energy.*
- *Ban coral-unsafe sunscreen. Certain chemicals in many sunscreens interfere with coral biology and threaten reef health. The state of Hawaii recently banned several of these chemicals.*
- *Redirection of urban development to higher-elevation/lower-flood-risk areas. Areas known to be susceptible to recurrent flooding now or in the coming decades should be de-emphasized for development (e.g., via downzoning, transfer of development rights, property buyouts, conversion into open space, etc.), with more intense development encouraged in areas of higher elevation and/or lower flooding risk (e.g., via upzoning, transfer of development rights, lower parking requirements, etc.).*
- *Cool streets. Use of paving materials, coatings, street trees, and landscaping to reduce the urban heat island effect generated by asphalt and hard paved surfaces.*
- *Urban gardening and farming. The City should encourage food production within its borders, both on its own property (e.g., parks) and among its residents.*

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation – Energy, Transportation, Waste, Urban Design

- *Adopt a 100% renewable energy goal, e.g. participation in the Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" Campaign, and pursue efforts to achieve that goal.*
- *Examine the City's goals to reduce City facilities/operations energy consumption by 20% by 2020, including possible extension of the date and a formal analysis detailing how to*

reach the goal and the benefit-cost calculations for specific strategies to ensure the goal is met in the most efficient, cost-effective way.

- *Energy benchmarking ordinance. Other jurisdictions (including Miami-Dade County) have adopted or are considering adoption of legislation to require large commercial buildings to measure and report their energy consumption. The act of collecting and reporting this information usually triggers significant energy-efficiency actions by commercial property owners.*
- *Use land development code/development incentives to require green-building construction of large buildings by the private sector (e.g., Miami Beach has an ordinance requiring that buildings of over 10,000 sf achieve certification via a green-building standard)*
- *Create a City green business certification program.*
- *Adopt a cool-roof ordinance. To reduce the urban heat island effect and reduce energy use in buildings, many jurisdictions have adopted legislation requiring buildings to have a green/vegetated roof, use “cool” roofing materials that reflect heat and light, or install solar panels.*
- *Expand bike-sharing, car-sharing, and scooter-sharing programs to reduce automobile traffic and provide alternatives.*
- *Complete a City-wide network of safe bike lanes. Without separated and/or very-well-marked bike lanes, many potential cyclists do not feel safe riding in the City.*
- *Install cogeneration (electricity and heat) plants at City water treatment facilities. The Broward County wastewater plant on Copans Road uses the biogas from by water treatment processes to generate electricity and heat for its operations.*
- *Ban single-use food and beverage containers (e.g., polystyrene, plastic bottles, straws, etc.) from City facilities and on City property, and by City vendors. Despite a preemption on city-wide bans by the State of Florida, the City still has the ability to regulate these containers on its own property.*
- *Set a date for transition of City fleet to 100% electric vehicles and develop a plan for the installation of the needed charging infrastructure and vehicle purchases.*
- *Work with the Broward County Schools to create a friendly competition for green activities for schools within the City.*
- *Encourage the use of vegetated walls.*
- *Adopt an ordinance requiring careful deconstruction of buildings being demolished so materials and equipment can be reused or recycled instead of sent to landfills.*
- *Increase waste diversion and recycling rates.*
- *Use the Design and Construction Manual being developed for the City’s activities as basis for ordinances and guidelines for design and construction of commercial and residential buildings and sites.*