

Draft
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE – 8th Floor
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
October 24, 2016 - 6:30 PM

Cumulative Attendance 1/2016 through 12/2016					
	MEMBERS	APPT BY	ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
1.	Alena Alberani, Chair	II	P	10	0
2.	Jason Liechty, Vice Chair	IV	A	9	0
3.	Carolann Mazza	III	A	3	1
4.	Clarke Harlow	II	P	7	2
5.	Douglas Meade	I	P	7	0
6.	Elizabeth Adler	M	P	5	0
7.	Enrique Vadiveloo	IV	P	7	3
8.	Lawrence Clark	I	A	9	1
9.	Susan Wood	M	A	1	1
10.	Vacant	III	--	--	--
11.	Vacant	C	--	--	--

Staff Present

Sustainability Division of Public Works

Glen Hadwen, Sustainability Manager

Aneisha Nicholas, Staff Liaison

Department of Sustainable Development

Jeremy Earle, Deputy Director

Guests Present

Judy Summers, City of Fort Lauderdale Resident

Luisa Agathon, Senior Management Fellow

Richard WhiteCloud, Sea Turtle Oversight Protection

Call of Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Alberani at 6:42 p.m. when it was determined a quorum was present. The roll was called.

Communication to the City Commission

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

Every drop of potable water that is used for irrigation means hundreds of thousands of gallons of water that will no longer be available to drink or grow food. Making conscious, water efficient decisions now with the water we have will go a long way toward ensuring Fort Lauderdale's water supply will continually be available well into the future. The Sustainability Advisory Board respectfully requests that the City Commission consider the following in the hopes of reducing the amount of water the City uses to irrigate medians:

- 1. Upgrading the median irrigation systems to smart irrigation systems in order to properly measure and track the amount of water being used. Based upon a recent pilot program within the City at Middle River Terrace, it has been shown that, over the course of four (4) months, the City was able to reduce its water costs in that area by 78% with the use of a smart irrigation system;*
- 2. The conversion of medians throughout the City to water efficient landscaping. Specifically, authorizing the removal of all turf and to replace and update the medians with drought tolerant, native plants and ground cover; and*
- 3. Explore opportunities to utilize non-potable water for median irrigation.*

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council's recent study, Florida is one of 14 states predicted to face "high risk" water shortages by the year 2050. Due to Florida's unique topography, Florida is unable to retain significant and consequential amounts of necessary rainwater. That, coupled with increasing populations and demands upon our water supply, creates the current situation wherein water is now becoming a scarce resource in South Florida. While there are several ways in which the City can further its efforts to reduce its water consumption, the focus of this communication is irrigation in our City's landscaped medians.

Historically, more than half of our potable water (our drinking water) is used for landscape irrigation. For example, the City uses anywhere from 25,000,000 - 37,000,000 gallons of potable water a month in irrigation alone. Within this irrigation subset, the largest (and most costly) usage relates to irrigating medians. Upon examination of the City's July 2016 water bill, approximately 36% of the City's monthly water expenses go towards irrigating medians; this amounts to approximately \$152,000/month. From a cost perspective, the City is spending close to two million dollars a year to irrigate medians. However, from a water perspective, the City is using hundreds of millions of gallons of our drinking water each year to simply irrigate medians.

Motion

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