

1/11/2016

FEAB MEETING MINUTES
Friday, January 9, 2016
3:00 p.m.
Delchamps Room

Attendees: Gary Gover, Terry Hargroder, Tony Pritchett, Ron Allen, Shawn Graham, Mike Shelton

Honored Guests: Bella Graham

City Representative: Kim Burmeister, Planning Department

MINUTES: Minutes from the last meeting (December 2015) were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mosquito spraying businesses in Fairhope:
 - a. Mike thought the private sector representative from the last meeting (Mike with Mosquito Authority) gave the board some good information and some things to think about. Mike Shelton has also extended an invitation to other mosquito spraying businesses to come talk to the board for their perspective as well. Mike wants to continue looking at ways the board can help improve the existing (city) mosquito control program, by gathering some facts and base line information.
 - b. Tony has experience with misting systems (in his yard) and thinks the product used has changed.
 - c. Michael will invite Jennifer Fidler to an upcoming meeting so the board can learn more about the City spraying system and find out how the board can assist to improve source control (including public education).
 - d. Michael will draft an article for Sherry / Jennifer to consider for City Sketches (Spring 2016) regarding source control.
 - e. Mosquito source control information has been placed on the City website (Public Works page) but does not include information on the City spray program:
<http://www.cofairhope.com/departments/public-works/streets-and-construction>

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Fly Creek 108 Acre Tract City Purchase, 2014
 - a. City purchased this corridor to Fairhope (Fly Creek watershed) in 2014.
 - b. Terry asked if the City had made any movements on projects for the “Triangle” property. Kim isn’t aware of any recent meetings or plans. Hopefully there will be community or public input meetings on this in the future, or contact the Mayor for more direct information.
 - c. Mike said this piece should be made accessible to the public.
 - d. Gary hopes the City will consider a greenway strip from Grand Hotel to Auburn Extension property (on east side of Hwy. 98, which would require some sort of pedestrian bridge).
 - e. Terry said the City should look into Urban Forestry grants to help improve this property. Kim thinks Jennifer works with Urban Forestry on projects already. Kim will send Jennifer a copy of these minutes (once approved).
 - f. Triangle plan proposals, including reforestation efforts, will likely be long and lengthy, if anything like the Knoll Park management project (re-forestation). The Knoll Park project included control burns as the strategic plan for bringing this area back to a natural state. Mike said Knoll Park is undergoing great improvements and is looking good but the project has been met with some resistance; some residents are not accustomed to seeing or smelling fires, which are what it takes to maintain healthy forests, including urban forests.
- 2) Fly Creek and Rock Creek Bridge @ Hwy. 98
 - a. Gary said the bridge is deteriorated and structurally unsound at Hwy. 98 @ Fly Creek. This is an AL-DOT issue, though it is in the City limits. Similar issues noted at the Rock Creek bridge. Kim will send AL-DOT (Kevin James) a copy of these minutes, once approved.
- 3) Sea Cliff Drive City owned marina
 - a. Tony said the entrance at Fly Creek from Mobile Bay is an eye sore. This marina is leased to Eastern Shore Marine by the City. City should consider aesthetic improvements (landscaping, etc.) so it is more attractive. Tony said was landscaping here in the past but now it just appears to be a boat junk yard.
 - b. Kim referred FEAB to James Gillespie, who is the City representative to the Harbor Board, which oversees maintenance and operations of the marina at end of Sea Cliff Drive. Part of the marina is leased to Eastern Shore Marine and other part is managed by the City of Fairhope. Kim will send James a copy of these minutes (once approved).
 - c. Kim said there is a pump out station here (for boat sewage) and this was installed over 10 years ago as part of the Clean Marina Program. She thinks this is a requirement for all marinas where boats are kept/lived on. Fairhope Pier marina has (or is supposed to have) a portable unit managed by restaurant leasee.

- d. Gary said there are more boat slips available at the City marina (end of Sea Cliff Drive) than ever before. In the past, there was a waiting list for these slips.
 - e. Gary said the parking area at end of Sea Cliff Drive (City owned and operated) needs to be maintained. Kim said this would be a Public Works issue.
 - f. Gary said the fuel tanks at Eastern Shore Marine need to be evaluated; they are floating tanks and could be subject to spills in bad weather
 - g. Tony will set up a meeting with James Gillespie to discuss marina issues.
- 4) Volanta boat access
- a. Terry said end of Volanta would make a good small boat launch but is not easily accessible. Public Works maintains this.
- 5) BP Money for shoreline projects
- a. Many FEAB members voiced a need for BP monies (any received by the City) to go to shore line projects. The following were suggested and are in no particular order (some are old agenda items not yet resolved):
 - i. Duck Pond retrofit – to redo overflow and evaluate wetland pond size –up size if needed to accommodate all of duck pond effluent. Mike said he has recently sent Rich Mueller an email asking status of duck “no feeding” sign at North Beach Park (duck pond).
 - ii. Bluff drainage evaluation and retrofit (North Bluff Park on Bayview). The North Beach Park bluff continues to erode.
 - iii. Sea Cliff Drive - marina and parking lot maintenance and aesthetic improvements.
 - iv. Volanta boat access @ end of Volanta – maintenance to make it more accessible
 - v. Triangle 108 acre tract – greenspace plans for community development, trails, etc. / connectivity to other areas.
 - vi. Pier Street shore line (Magnolia Beach Park) – continues to wash; needs other solution other than adding sand periodically (which is what Public Works has been doing). Mike emphasized how bulkheads displace water and can sometimes cause erosion elsewhere so City has to be careful what kind of structure they consider here. Living shorelines might be a good consideration for Pier Street boat ramp/beach area.

6) SWMP

- a. Kim said the Planning Commission recently approved the 2016 Storm Water Management Plan , which is a requirement of the City MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. The SWMP (viewable on-line) is a blue print of how the City manages storm water, and includes 6 minimum control measures:
 - i. Public Education
 - ii. Public Involvement
 - iii. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 - iv. Construction Site Monitoring
 - v. Post Construction Monitoring
 - vi. Good Housekeeping / Pollution Prevention (Municipal Operations)
- b. View SWMP: www.cofairhope.com/home/showdocument?id=6499
- c. Gary and Ron asked how the storm water program is going and how the FEAB could assist. Kim said that improvements are ongoing; currently City is meeting our “Measurable Goals” listed but always encourages the public to read the overview of the program (SWMP) and make suggestions. In 2016, City will have to submit the Annual Report (a yearly requirement) which is a list of how we accomplished our goals, and specifics on record keeping of the program. Both reports (Annual Report and SWMP) are available on line, for public viewing, as per permit requirements.
- d. Gary asked if there was a budget for storm water facility repair. Kim said City owned structures are maintained by Public Works. City storm water projects are listed in the Annual Report. Other facilities are privately owned. City frequently sends “Courtesy Letters” to property owners, POAs, of properties that have storm water facilities potentially in failure.
- e. Planning Dept. coordinates the storm water program for the City

7) Watershed Organizations

- a. Mike mentioned the need for more civic groups specific to storm water alliance groups.
- b. Kim mentioned the “Keep Mandeville Beautiful” program in Mandeville, LA. Works with local schools for art contests for artistic pole banners, which show pollution or littering themes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.