

FEAB Minutes
October 14, 2016
3:00 pm
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL

Attendees: Mike Shelton, Gary Gover, Ron Allen, Jeanine Normand, Shawn Graham, Terry Hargroder,

Honored Guests: Bella Graham

City Representatives: Kim Burmeister, City of Fairhope Planning and Zoning Department

City Council Members: None

Mike called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

September 2016 FEAB minutes were approved as amended. Amendment: Change honored guest to “None”.

Clean Marina:

Mike said he, Rick and Ron attended the recent Harbor Board meeting to discuss the Clean Marina program. Rick brought summary documents to the meeting and discussed the primary objectives. Overall it was agreed FEAB should pursue having the City adopt the program, and assist with this effort. Initial assessment should include boat slips that are directly managed by the City (not Eastern Shore Marine, the leased part). Areas under lease could be evaluated over time, with the hopes of writing specific Clean Marina language into lease renewals which would support the Clean Marina program. There are other marinas to consider as well: The City owned marina at the pier (which is leased by the Shux restaurant owner) and private marinas, such as Fly Creek Marina and the Yacht Club. These should be encouraged to come on board with the Clean Marina program as well. Mike said the Yacht Club had representation at the Harbor Board meeting when the Clean Marina program was discussed. He said the Yacht Club has a marine pump out station, but it is not clear whether the boat pump out is fully operational or not. Mike mentioned the Clean Marina program as fitting in well with the City’s MS4 program (storm water management) and Code Enforcement responsibilities. Ron suggested that FEAB (Rick?) and a City representative move forward to assess the City managed slips (end of Sea Cliff Drive). Gary said there are already some documented storm water issues at this marina (Harbor Board has the list). Mike said the marina needs to be looked at during a rain event. Gary mentioned some erosion issues coming from the rocked parking area (City owned) at end of Sea Cliff Drive. Mike will discuss with Rick and Christian Miller (Clean Marina representative) to meet at this marina (possibly with Ed Wall, owner of Eastern Shore Marine). Mike said FEAB should recommend language to be incorporated into upcoming marina leases. Gary said there is a private marina at the north end of the Sea Cliff Drive marina, formerly known as Charles Gay’s boat club. Mike is not sure if this qualifies as a marina or not (he will check on regulations and see if it does). Mike thinks ADEM recognizes marinas as having 7 or more boat slips. If that is the case, Charles Gay’s property would qualify as a marina. Many of the boats in the

“boat club” appear to have been there unmoved for decades. Gary said there may be another small “marina” at the dead end of Creek Drive. Kim said these are privately owned boat slip lots. She thinks the Coast Guard has authority over enforcement of illegal sewage dumping of boats / occupied boats with no operating heads, etc.

Beach Management Plan

Mike provided a link for more information on the beach management plan proposal:

www.cofairhope.com/home/showdocument?id=12088

He attended the recent public meeting and said it appears the sand is not washing away but instead is moving back and forth. Proposed plans will include installation of two (2) rock break waters (curved rock jetties installed parallel to the beach area) off Magnolia Beach (these structures would not connect to the shore lines like historical rock jetties do). If implemented, this will result in a larger sandy beach area. Vegetative growth on and around the break waters may be encouraged as well. If this project proposal is accepted and work is done, beach area here will likely look very different than it does now. Next step will be City Council approval and cost analysis (cost analysis should show project cost vs. cost if City kept doing as they are doing, adding sand every year or two). Jeanine said this project should have favor from S. Mobile Street residents since it should help stabilize the shorelines in this area. Gary has worked on similar projects in the Chesapeake Bay area. It is a low cost effort. Jeanine suggested the FEAB show their support of the proposed plan. Motion passed unanimously that FEAB should document support.

Potential Direction for FEAB

Mike said the new mayor (Karin Wilson) has been invited to the FEAB meeting.

Hopefully she will attend next one, and she will be in office at that time (November).

Mike hopes the FEAB can offer discussions on Comp Plan changes, and voice concerns.

Mike reviewed the Comp Plan “Goals and Tasks”. Jeanine asked about gullies, are they private? Some have small easements. Can we regulate private gullies? Two problem areas were noted regarding gully erosion:

West side of Myrtle between Olive and Cedar; and Holly Drive behind Jeanine’s house.

Kim mentioned that Jennifer Fidler, over the past few years, has been engaging watershed assessments and the Volanta watershed was recently assessed, and several bio-retention areas added to help downstream areas.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.