

FEAB MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2017
3:00 p.m.
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL

Member Attendees: Mike Shelton, Gary Gover, Tony Pritchett, Nicole Love, Jeanine Normand, Rick Frederick

City of Fairhope: Kim Burmeister, Planning and Zoning Department; Sherry-Lea Bloodworth-Botop, Community Development Director; Jimmy Conyers, City Council; Richard Peterson, Utility Superintendent; Wayne Dyess, Planning Director

Honored Guests: Jim Watkins; Elizabeth Tonsmeire

Minutes taken by: Kim Burmeister

FEAB MEMBERS/MEETINGS/ MINUTES:

November's minutes were approved with minor amendments: First paragraph mentioning the Fairhope Docks: "Now that the City's Sea Cliff Drive marina..is under City control" has been changed to read: "The City's Sea Cliff Drive marina..is under City Management now.."; also Terry Hargroder was removed from the FEAB contact list (resigned per Mike Shelton). Mike said a potential member has completed and submitted the application for FEAB membership consideration. Mike asked Kim or Jimmy to check on status of application (with Lisa Hanks?), Ben Frater. He was a visitor at FEAB 3 or 4 months ago and has an interest in serving on the FEAB. Jeanine asked that "next meeting" time and date be added to the minutes each month as a reminder.

Discussion of Items:

Mike welcomed everyone.

1. **Bay Keeper Bacteria sampling of Fly Creek:** Mike introduced Richard Peterson, Utility Superintendent, who discussed the Bay Keeper sampling efforts: Copy of the sampling plan was given to Mike Shelton. Samples will be taken for 3 months and other areas may be considered for sampling after this time. City is looking at ways to upgrade the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. This is software used for the Waste Water Treatment Plant, a.k.a. sewer plant, monitoring). This will hopefully reduce sewer overflows. Increased smoke tests (testing for storm water infiltration into sewer lines) is also planned. Tony asked what lessons we have learned from the recent Fly Creek sewer overflow this past summer. Richard said the City has identified the control system failures at the lift station and City is working towards creating a

maintenance alarm on each lift station. Also looking at adding dry prime pumps as emergency backups. Tony asked if FEAB should make a formal proposal to assist the utility department with this effort. Jimmy said a Sewer Capacity Study has already been performed / report received. Tony said there appears to be an engineer design flaw with the breakers/switches at lift stations. Richard said more personnel is needed. Currently there is one guy (Jeremy Morgan, Electric Department) who monitors and maintains the SCADA system. City needs more personnel trained for FT monitoring and maintenance of the system, someone dedicated just to SCADA system. Jimmy said there are several new positions being proposed in next year's budget and if this does not fill the need then additional personnel can be proposed in the following year's budget. Elizabeth asked Richard if his requests for upgrades (personnel or otherwise) are being addressed. Richard said it is an ongoing process but he is developing priorities now, as the budget will allow. Elizabeth said she has heard rumors of the sewer plant being moved (in future) to airport area. Richard said there may be upgrades to the system placed out there but there are no plans to move the entire sewer plant there at this time. Richard estimated that about 90% of the (city limits?) is hooked up to City sewer. Elizabeth said the Fly Creek area is nowhere near that percentage, many residents still on septic tank, and these septic systems also contribute to bacterial pollution to the creek. Jimmy said the top priority right now is to pass the budget and then individual projects/upgrades can be addressed. Gary said it appears that our infrastructure upgrade needs surpass our financial and personnel resources at this time. Richard outlined his top three priorities:

1. Rehabilitate existing sewer system
 2. Video / map existing sewer lines so this can be used for planning / pre-development
 3. Evaluate long term capacity of existing sewer plant / sewer infrastructure
- Richard mentioned another disposal plan which might be implemented in the future: release of treated waste water/sewer into golf course for irrigation (instead of 100% Mobile Bay release)—all or partial. This is a long term goal and will take a lot of research/permitting/planning. Tony asked if our impact fees are adequate to address sewer infrastructure needs. Jimmy said most of the impact fee goes towards Parks and Recreation not the general fund. Richard said he is proposing an increase to connection fees. Current connection fees are \$600 for resident; \$2800 for non-resident). Sherry-Lea said developers are getting adjusted to full enforcement of the City fee schedules/structure which is now being imposed across the board. Jimmy mentioned some of the homeowner practices causing sewer overflows such as dog and cat waste/kitty litter; also disposable wipes. These are issues which can be addressed through education / communication with the general public. Sherry Lea said social media is one way we can get the word out. Kim said that the utility bills have a spot for monthly messages. Tony said the local news can assist with public interest stories on this. Elizabeth said she would like to assist with any community outreach on this

issue. Elizabeth said that during times of sewer overflows, it is imperative the City get word out immediately to the public—especially to the affected area (over and above the ADEM requirements). Mike said FEAB can assist with outreach programs as well. There is already an educational brochure on this topic “Greener by the Yard” which is available to the public (including but not limited to hard copy at City offices in lobby and on line)

www.cofairhope.com/home/showdocument?id=15343

2. **Storm Drain Medallion Program:** Sherry-Lea said local artist Nancy Raia is working with youth on a design for the medallion. Weeks Bay has an Education Coordinator, Angie, who would be a perfect fit for school outreach with the associated educational component of this program. Sherry-Lea said adoption of a catchy phrase for the medallion is still needed. Nicole gave a presentation based on her meeting with Sherry-Lea last week regarding the storm drain medallion program. The three catchy phrases being considered are:

1. Protect our Bay: Only Rain in the (storm) drain
2. Keep it Clean: Drains to Bay
3. No Dumping: Drains to Bay

Mike, Gary, Nicole, Rick and Tony liked #1. Jeanine didn’t prefer any of them. She said more explanation is needed for what we are trying to achieve. Nicole and Sherry-Lea asked FEAB to think about the three, and bring back comments to January meeting. Bring other ideas if necessary. Nicole asked members if anyone is interested in physically locating (dropping wayward points with smart phone, for example) and identifying storm drains downtown. Kim said the Storm Sewer Inventory from 2012 is available on line and has all of the outfalls listed but this does not include the storm drains on the streets. Gary thought the storm drain locations downtown may be (partially) available through City’s GIS department; Wayne would need to ask GIS to provide this. Wayne said GIS is currently downtown mapping parking places and mapping of storm drains, if needed, may be considered.

Location of drains will be used when storm drain medallion installation program is implemented, tentatively sometime during week of Earth Day (April 2018). Nicole said hosts for each group will also be needed. Mike said it would not be a good idea to have this activity on same day as Earth Day activities at the bay (there is already too much going on this day. Saturday April 21st, Mobile Area Earth Day at South Beach Park, Fairhope). Nicole asked members to email her if they are interested in serving as a host for storm drain medallion installation or as part of team identifying storm drains downtown. She will coordinate with Sherry-Lea.

Rick handed out Winter 2017-2018 copy of “Alabama Current Connection”.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for January 12th @ 3:00 p.m. (Delchamps Room)

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