

FEAB MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2014
9:00 a.m.
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL

Attendees: Gary Gover, Michael Shelton, Terry Hargroder, Kim Burmeister (City of Fairhope Planning Department)

Honored Guests: Jim Watkins

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion of Goals: Gary discussed the goals of the September 10th meeting:**
 - a. Green Energy / Solar - use of solar panels in public buildings
 - b. Charging stations for electrical vehicles
 - c. Storm Water – erosion issues
 - d. Storm Water – bacterial pollution of the bay
 - e. Promotion of energy saving concepts at Earth Day (Booth)
 - f. Gray water – better uses
- 2. Green Energy / Solar:**
 - a. Terry mentioned a solar energy project he had seen in an article about "Community Solar Gardens" (No need for a rooftop panel). In several parts of the country, cities or communities have established these "solar gardens" where a developer (in our case it could be the city electric utility) builds a "solar farm" of a few dozen or hundreds of panels. Customers or city residents can buy a solar panel(s) and receive credit on their electricity bill for their panel's production.
 - b. Terry said he will gather more information for the next meeting.
 - c. Terry wondered if the City will be receptive to solar or green energy promotions, since it will likely cut into City profits.
 - d. Terry said that there are tremendous incentives for green energy use. Key is to find an incentive that works for the City and its residents.
 - e. Mike Shelton mentioned that rooftops (residential or otherwise) could be used as solar fields to produce solar energy.
 - f. Jim said the Mayor had looked into solar energy as an option when building the library, but the cost was prohibitive.
 - g. Jim said that green energy options/standards are "in the City ordinances", per the Mayor.
 - h. Kim mentioned that some utility providers (City or Baldwin EMC?) may offer an option for resident to donate to green energy use (on their utility bill).
 - i. Gary said the FEAB will invite Scott Sligh, City Electrical Supt., to the meeting once they have all the information in.

3. Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles:

- a. Terry discussed electric charging stations of two types: 1) charging stations for electric cars; and 2) charging stations for NEV's (street legal electric golf carts and bicycles). He mentioned Atlanta's program where a federally subsidized program pays businesses, homeowners, and probably city govt. the cost of installation of these charging stations. It is unlikely Fairhope would want to get involved in this. The charging stations for NEV's seems more likely a fit for Fairhope in the future; something the city could provide.
- b. Questions raised: would City pay for the use, or would it be vendor-based in which the consumer pays ("pay as you go"), with credit card for example (Michael gave Red Box as an example).
- c. Mike suggested having at least three locations available in Fairhope (and do not take up parking space). Charging kiosks could be located at : Library, City Hall and Pier (or any City park area).
- d. Gary said at one time, there were electrical hook ups (provided by the City) on all light poles in town; but they appear to be absent or non-operable at this time. May have been used to accommodate RVs and campers at one time.
- e. Gary suggests that the FEAB come up with a plan to host (2) test spots/kiosks to see how it works: have council approve test spots.
- f. Terry will gather more information, and examples, for the next meeting.

4. Storm Water – Erosion Issues:

- a. Jim mentioned ongoing erosion at Magnolia Beach (North of Pier Street boat ramp). City recently brought in loads of sand to stabilize this area and it is eroding.

5. Storm Water – Bacterial pollution

- a. Gary recounted City's bacterial pollution studies by the Auburn scientists, which did not identify exact animal sources. DNA tests were not done, cost was prohibitive. Perhaps DNA testing can be added to the budget in the future.
- b. Jim noted possible sources of bacterial pollution: Corte property and Auburn properties (cattle farming). Michael Shelton did not think there were enough cattle to significantly contribute to high bacterial counts.

6. Promotion of Energy Savings Concepts at Earth Day

- a. Gary said the FEAB should have a booth educating residents on energy saving concepts at next Earth Day (April 2015)
- b. Kim mentioned that the Planning Department will have a booth promoting storm water / watershed education, and Public Works will most likely have a recycling event.

7. Gray Water – Better Uses

- a. Gary asked Kim if there are any significant changes with gray water uses this year.
- b. Kim said Erik Cortinas, Building Official, would be the one to ask since this goes back to Building Code.
- c. Gary said gray water could be used to water infrastructure and public grounds, but he noted some incidents of problems with this in other municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Create a Clean Water Future Campaign:** Kim introduced this public service campaign, and gave the Board a copy of the City resolution adopting this campaign (July 2014), as well as a Create a Clean Water Future sticker. She has more of these stickers, available upon request. This program serves as an educational component for the City of Fairhope's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. There are "Create a Clean Water Future" stickers now on many City vehicles (directing residents to the Clean Water Future website). Also Fairhope watershed ads have been placed promoting storm water awareness (FHS football program for 2014). For more information, visit: www.cleanwaterfuture.com
 - a. Terry suggested tying this campaign into an incentive program for LID projects (award to business or resident once or twice a year—through Council). He liked the idea of CLEAN WATER FUTURE signage being placed at LID project sites.
 - b. Kim mentioned the cost of metal signs as being high, but foam core signage (temporary) might be feasible. She said the City would likely have to budget for anything like this, in the next budget cycle.
 - c. Michael said Weeks Bay already has a similar program in play "Partners for Clean Water". He will send Kim information.
 - d. Michael said tying in the LID effort and Clean Water Future program would work well in an incentive program. People / businesses like to be recognized. This could encourage more LID projects through recognition, instead of forcing regulations. Ideas mentioned: giving recipient a certificate ("CLEAN WATER FUTURE PARTNER OF THE YEAR" or using foam core type signage temporarily to recognize the LID project/property owner).
 - e. Michael mentioned the Big Lots shopping Center (owned by Randy Delchamps) as a good spot for a LID demonstration project / retrofit, if ever grant monies are available for private property.
 - f. Gary asked Kim if the City would be willing to look into such an incentive program. Kim suggested Gary and Michael meet with Jonathan Smith (Planning Director) and/or Richard Mueller for further direction.

- g. Kim noted that the Planning Dept. is currently working to adopt an LID manual and LID standards, through the Planning Commission and City Council. MS4 program requires that the City support LID practices.

2. Weeks Bay Watershed Signs:

- a. Michael is working toward replacing 12 or so Weeks Bay Watershed signs, around Baldwin County. There is at least one in the City limits (at Compass Bank on Fairhope Avenue). He is looking for financial support. These signs were placed up in the late 90's so they are weathered and unreadable.
- b. Kim said the Mayor has indicated that the City might be able to pay for the sign that is on City right of way (Compass Bank on Fairhope Avenue). This watershed sign is an important educational aspect for the City MS4 program. Much of Fairhope's MS4 area drains to Weeks Bay.
- c. Kim suggested three logos for the Fairhope sign: Weeks Bay (which was on the original signage; Create a Clean Water Future (would be a new logo) and City of Fairhope (on the original signage). Michael did not think this would be a problem.
- d. Michael will check and see if better pricing can be found for the signs. Otherwise, Baldwin Signs has the original template.

3. FEAB Minutes – New Procedure:

- a. Gary asked Kim to send Lisa Hanks a copy of the “draft” minutes, as soon as possible. He said Lisa has requested that this be standard procedure for the FEAB (to submit draft minutes to the City Clerk—Lisa Hanks), when submitting to the FEAB for review.
- b. Kim will send Lisa a copy of the draft minutes for this meeting. Also she will pass this along to Nancy Milford, who is usually the minute taker (she is on vacation this week).

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.