

Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board
Friday, August 14, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, Alabama

Attendees: Terry Hargroder (member), Gary Gover (member), Shawn Graham (member), Kim Burmeister (City of Fairhope Planning Department), Ron Allen (member), Tony Pritchett (member), Jeanine Normand (member), Mike Shelton (Chairman)

Honored Guests: James Watkins; Rick Fredrick (proposed member)

Minutes of previous meeting: Michael made a motion to approve the June 2015 FEAB minutes; Minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business:

- 1) General discussion on FEAB By-Laws:** Michael will check with Lisa Hanks, City Clerk, to verify quorum number. He thinks it is four. He also mentioned the Sunshine Law where members are not allowed to discuss FEAB topics except in a planned public meeting (such as this one). He will check with Lisa on the Sunshine Law in regards to sending out agendas prior to meetings. He would like to send out an agenda next month, prior to the meeting, but wants to make sure it does not violate any part of the Sunshine Law.

- 2) New Member Pending Status:**
Mike Shelton mentioned that the current members include: Himself (Chair); Gary Gover; Jeanine Normand; Ron Allen; Tony Pritchett; Terry Hargroder and Shawn Graham. Rick Fredrick is still pending membership approval by Council. Gary suggested that when there is a new member being considered, the application packet for this proposed member should go to Lisa Hanks and then Lisa can give this to the Council Liaison who will in turn present to Council for final consideration. Michael will check with Lisa to see if Rich Mueller has Rick Fredrick's packet and will find out the status of Rick's membership being brought before Council for consideration.

- 3) LID Updates:**
Michael said that the City of Fairhope has recently passed an LID ordinance which will be part of the Subdivision Regulations and the Zoning Ordinance. These amendments address permeable parking as well as other LID techniques. Michael will make sure the Board gets a copy of these amendments once these are available and codified. Kim said that these should eventually be available on the City of Fairhope website (as updates to the "Subdivision Regulations" and the "Zoning Ordinance"). Michael gave kudos to the Planning Department for their hard work on this effort. Michael thinks Fairhope is the first City in our area to adopt LID ordinances.

- 4) Comprehensive Plan Updates:**
Michael gave a brief overview of the Town Hall meeting recently, which addressed the Comprehensive Plan updates. The maps on display gave a good idea of the impacts of the LID amendments. Michael said this is a huge improvement for development standards in our area. Terry mentioned that there was some confusion in the Town Hall meeting on what's being proposed. Michael stated that the "plan" was not available for review, at this point it is just a discussion (changes to the existing Comprehensive Plan which is on-line). There is no law base to the Comp Plan. The Comprehensive Plan goals do not seem to be reachable with our current regulations (Subdivision and Zoning), which is why the LID amendments are so important. Gary

suggested that the FEAB provide a “task force” to assist with this effort, provide a member of FEAB to sit in on discussions and to advise on action items for Comp Plan changes. Michael agreed that the FEAB should be giving advice on Comp Plan changes, but reminded everyone that the FEAB is an advisory board. Michael will get with Jonathan Smith (Planning Director) to find out a time line on when a Comprehensive Plan draft will actually be given to Council for consideration. Terry thought the final Comp Plan draft was up for review by Council in October. Gary said the City has a Strategic Planning Committee which might be similar to this effort, and the Strategic Plan framework could be used as a model for guidance.. He said the Comp Plan is revised (or approved as is) by the City every 5 years. Jeanine noted that the City should be setting a better example by using more permeable materials in City projects, such as sidewalks. Most sidewalks the City installs are not permeable. Michael stated that, moving forward, FEAB should:

1. Provide an Action Plan for the Comp Plan changes
2. Get FEAB member involved with discussions, before Council consideration of Comp Plan
3. Ask Jonathan about a timeline for Comp Plan approval (and/or Council consideration)

5) Planning Commission Meetings:

Michael mentioned that a FEAB member needs to attend the Planning Commission meeting monthly. He would like to receive the agenda for the meeting ahead of time. Kim asked him to contact Emily Boyett (Planning Dept. Administrative Assistant) and request to be placed on the email agenda mailing list for the Planning Commission. Michael has a concern that the agenda goes out after Staff Recommendation (Planning Dept. makes a recommendation on Planning Commission agenda items). Michael would like for the FEAB to be able to give input prior to Staff Recommendations. He will follow up with Jonathan Smith on the proper procedure.

6) BP Oil Spill Funds for Watershed Planning

Rick Fredrick said that the NEP is working on watershed planning models, funded by BP Oil spill funds (through Fish and Wildlife Service). NEP is preparing Requests for Proposals at this time. Fish River is a watershed in the Fairhope jurisdiction which will receive funding and upgrades. Seven watersheds total are being assessed. Rick said that a steering committee will be formed at some point, to help guide local efforts, identify stake holders and help determine the area needs. Rick said these projects should improve storm water locally, and that more funding for more watersheds should be available in the future. This will encompass the Gulf area from Mississippi to Pensacola, including Alabama. Michael mentioned Weeks Bay’s designation as an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW)—he said more protection is needed to keep it pristine.

7) Dredging of Harbor at the Fairhope Pier

Michael said City Superintendent James Gillespie (also Harbor Board liaison) said there are no proposed dredging projects for the pier. Some boat slips will or are to be dredged at Fly Creek (end of Sea Cliff Drive) but none are proposed at this time at the pier. He said Ron Yeager is a good contact, should FEAB have further questions. Ron is over the Harbor Board.

8) Duck Pond Issues:

Michael said there are no changes to the duck pond overflow issue. There are no signs saying “Do Not Feed the Birds”. Wildlife expert has told Michael that not feeding the birds will not

completely eliminate the fecal coliform problem in the swimming areas. The Fairhope swimming beach is a perfect habitat for ducks and geese. The grassy areas are attractive to water fowl. A few years ago, the City removed several geese, and the geese have repopulated to massive amounts in this area again. Michael suggests an awareness program about the nuisances caused by feeding birds.

9) New FEAB meeting time:

Jeanine likes the new time. Friday @ 3:00 p.m. This is the first meeting on new time and date, and there is a full member attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.