

Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board
Friday, September 11, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, Alabama

Attendees: Terry Hargroder (member), Gary Gover (member), Shawn Graham (member), Jeanine Normand (member), Mike Shelton (Chairman), Rick Frederick (member), Rich Mueller (City Council), Kim Burmeister (City of Fairhope Planning Department),

Honored Guests: James Watkins

Minutes of previous meeting: Mike made a motion to approve the August 2015 FEAB minutes; Mike said that Ron Yeager's name was spelled incorrectly; other than this change, minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business:

- 1) New Member:** Rick Frederick was appointed by City Council as a new member to the FEAB board, on August 10, 2015. Welcome to Rick! Mike noted that the by-laws allow for 6 to 10 members, so there are still some vacancies. Rick brings the membership count up to eight. Rick said he knows one or two people who might be interested in applying for FEAB membership. He will ask them to apply.
- 2) FEAB By Laws:**
Gary said that the rules governing the operations of small committees, such as the FEAB, are relaxed. No second motion is needed and the chairman can pass a motion.
- 3) Planning Commission Meetings:**
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(251) 928-8003 or email Emily @: Emily.boyett@cofairhope.com
Mike attended the recent Planning Commission meeting and it was very informing. One discussion item was final plat approval for a LID subdivision.
- 4) Mosquito Spraying Businesses in Fairhope:**
Gary said that he has some concerns over the increased interest locally in businesses which advertise "mosquito control". This usually involves yard sprays or misting systems (using pesticides). Gary has a copy of the MSDS sheets. The materials used are permethrin and other pesticides. It is not known if there are regulations governing the use of these sprays by businesses. Kim said that these businesses must have a business license with the City of Fairhope in order to operate in Fairhope, but she is not sure about State licensing. Mike is going to check and see if these businesses need any licensure from State agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture. Kim noted that the City has (4) licensed commercial applicators, licensed through the Department of Agriculture. She suggested that the City offer more Source Control education (such as articles in City Sketches), to advise citizens on how to eliminate mosquito breeding sources, reducing the need for pesticides. Water stagnant (uncirculated) for more than 96 hours, for example, is a potential harbor for mosquitos, which generally feed close to their area of breeding. She will check and see if there have been any recent articles in City Sketches (Mike thought he had seen one in the Spring). In the Spring, the FEAB may want to

assist in creating a Source Control article, if the City doesn't already have this lined up. Rich mentioned that the City is considering ordinances allowing for beekeeping and chickens within the City limits. Currently bee hiving and chickens are considered as "agricultural" activities in the Zoning Ordinance, and are prohibited within the city limits (unless property is zoned for agriculture). Jeanine mentioned the importance of bees, especially with gardening. She wondered how these mosquito spray practices affect small beneficial insects, like bees. Rich mentioned that the City has a mosquito spray program but it is a cedar oil based spray. Mike mentioned the bee hive collapse problem that is nationwide. He said at least one local bee hive operation (on U. S. Highway 98 in Barnwell) had recently lost the whole hive, for unknown reasons. Gary suggested inviting one of the local mosquito breeding businesses to an upcoming FEAB meeting to discuss their business practices. Rich said the FEAB has to be careful not to pick on any certain type of business; this could be seen as threatening and could potentially lead to lawsuits. Jeanine suggested that the FEAB create a punch list of advice items for the City Council (education and direction on governing the mosquito spray practices in Fairhope).

5) WABF

Jeanine suggested that a FEAB member (or council person) go on WABF periodically to discuss environmental issues at hand. This local radio station welcomes local leaders, government, etc.

6) Coastal Clean Up

Mike mentioned that Coastal Clean Up is Saturday, Sept. 19th from 8 to Noon. If you are interested, show up at the big pier (South Beach Park /North Beach Park).

Old Business:

1) LID Updates:

Mike gave everyone a copy of the LID regulation changes to the Subdivision Regulations (attached). Another LID regulation change (to the Zoning Ordinance) is pending City Council approval. Mike noted that the Planning Commission approves Subdivision Regulation changes; the City Council approves Zoning Ordinance changes.

2) Duck Pond:

Mike suggests that the FEAB write down specific action items for the Duck Pond to address the bacterial pollution problem:

1. Check the elevations of the area to assess functionality. Is the duck pond receiving storm water flow from above the bluff? Is it equipped to handle this? Is the duck pond directed to the wetland pond at all?
2. Educational materials/hand outs stating why you should not feed the duck / geese. Explain why this is harmful in our swimming beaches.
3. Survey the entire area

Mike thought Trey Jinright is looking at the duck pond area from an engineer's stand point, and might be making recommendations on improvements in the future.

Jeanine suggested halting mowing in the duck pond park area, since the duck / geese tend to prefer the tender shoots of new grass. Mike said this is one valid suggestion.

Rich said his suggestion to add "DO NOT FEED THE DUCK OR GEESE" signs in the park have not yet been implemented.

3) Comprehensive Plan Update:

Mike obtained this information from Jonathan Smith, Planning Director:

Comprehensive Plan Update draft is due by October 28, 2015. (Final Draft)

This will be posted on line shortly after October 28th, 2015.

Final adoption of the Comprehensive Plan is tentatively set for December 2015. No specific date is set.

Jonathan said that a Task Force has not yet been set up or assigned for Comprehensive Plan Updates. Mike suggested that the FEAB might assist in forming one. He will follow up with Jonathan on the Task Force.

4) BP Monies for Watershed Planning

Rick (who works for NEP) gave an overview of the grant opportunities which are being used for watershed modeling. There are seven watershed planning models being done in Alabama. One is Fish River. NEP has released a RFP for services. Steering Committee will be formed in the near future. Mike mentioned that Cowpen Creek is one watershed which goes into Fish River and it is rapidly being urbanized with shopping centers and subdivisions. For instance, four of the major shopping centers in Fairhope off U. S. Highway 98 empty into Cowpen Creek (Ecor Rouge, Baldwin Square, Eastern Shore Center and Plantation Pointe). There is a lot of potential within the Cowpen Creek watershed for regional detention areas. The Fairhope Single Tax Park on Hwy. 44 was mentioned as one spot with a lot of potential for regional detention or bio retention. Rick said that the watershed planning will not only be a work plan but will also include educational components. Kim mentioned that the Weeks Bay Watershed signs in Fairhope (one is in front of Compass Bank on Fairhope Avenue) need to be redone, they are unreadable.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.