

Fairhope Environmental Advisory Board
Friday, October 9, 2015
Delchamps Room, Fairhope, Alabama

Members: Terry Hargroder, Gary Gover, Shawn Graham, Tony Pritchett, Jeanine Normand, Ron Allen, Mike Shelton, Rick Frederick

City Representatives: Kim Burmeister (City of Fairhope Planning Department)

Honored Guests: None

Minutes of previous meeting: Mike made a motion to approve the September 2015 FEAB minutes with these changes: refer to him as Mike not Michael; removed Ron Allen and Tony Pritchett from the Sept. FEAB meeting attendee list (Ron and Tony were not there), and correct spelling of “Frederick” for Rick Frederick: minutes were approved as stated unanimously.

Old Business:

1) Mosquito Spraying

Mike has invited a “Mosquito Authority” representative to attend a FEAB meeting. Mosquito Authority is one of several businesses offering mosquito spraying/misting for residents and businesses in Fairhope. Mosquito Authority appears to be the one most commonly used (or at least has the most signage). Mosquito Authority could not attend this meeting but hopefully will be able to attend a future one. Questions to be answered are: spray techniques; product used/MSDS sheets; credentials for spraying (certifications, etc.); impacts to other (especially beneficial) insect species, such as bees. Ron said that these misting systems do work. Mike noted that most mosquito spraying operations / businesses are probably going into an off season since mosquitos are seasonal. Kim has placed mosquito / source control information on line:

<http://www.cofairhope.com/departments/public-works/streets-and-construction>

<http://www.cofairhope.com/departments/planning-and-zoning/publications-and-forms>

Mike suggested emphasizing or adding second link to the source control information within this document; this is the information that will be most helpful to residents. Also the source control part which Michael provided in a separate document (titled “Mosquito Proofing Your Home”) is a good article idea for *City Sketches*; mosquito season is almost year around in Fairhope.

2) Advertising City of Fairhope Environmental Issues / Topics of Concern

Mike asked for input on how to best advertise Fairhope environmental issues. The local radio station (WABF) is one good source to reach the community. City of Fairhope leaders are on here frequently. Mike is not sure if the City pays for this service or if they are invited by Lori at no cost. Mike has an appointment with Lori Dubose with WABF next week to discuss environmental outreach through the FEAB. Kim mentioned that Fairhope has a Facebook page which frequently posts infomercials. These go out to anyone who has “liked” the Fairhope Facebook page. The FEAB should contact Sherry Sullivan if the FEAB would like to occasionally offer a blurb on environmental topics, such as mosquito control, MS4 information, etc. Green (residential and business) yard practices were also mentioned as a much needed topic. Mike will draft something for Sherry’s review. First infomercial from the FEAB might be letting Fairhope citizens know

about the FEAB (time and place) and some of the topics discussed. Shawn said it might be a good idea for the FEAB to have their own Facebook page.

Rick said that the NEP offers MS4 and storm water education and outreach through brochures, advertisements and videos (available on the Create a Clean Water Future website, which is also linked on the City of Fairhope website).

3) FEAB Minutes for the Public

Gary asked if the FEAB minutes are published on line (City of Fairhope website). Kim verified that they are, beginning with May 2015 minutes. However they are not posted until approved (and some months have not had a quorum, therefore will have no minutes to post).

www.cofairhope.com/city-government/city-council-committee-minutes

4) Parks Brochure

Mike said that the parks brochure, *The Parks of Fairhope*, is one interest item developed a few years ago by the FEAB, with assistance from the Planning Department. This brochure needs to be reprinted, possibly updated. There are no hard copies available. Kim mentioned that she has the Publisher program, for updating any changes to the brochure. Microsoft Publisher was used to create the brochure, which is transferred to a pdf for printing purposes. Sherry Sullivan must approve funding for reprinting the parks brochure, and also Sherry must approve any changes that are made. The City parks brochure is available on line:

www.cofairhope.com/home/showdocument?id=6408

5) Duck Pond / Swimming Beach / Marinas

Mike said there have been no changes to the duck pond / swimming beach issue that he knows of. Shawn said that installing signage discouraging bird feeding is important. Mike does not think signage ("Please do not feed the birds") has been added to the beach area; Jeanine will check. Mike said the only advisory signs he knows of at the Fairhope beaches are the swim advisory signs managed by the Baldwin County Health Dept., per ADEMs testing. He emphasized that ADEM, in most cases, does not close the beach, only offers swim advisories as is posted on the signage (such as at the entrance to North Beach Park). Testing results are available on the City website:

<http://www.cofairhope.com/living/water-quality-report>

Rick asked about the engineering assessment of the duck pond / wetland pond area. Mike does not think Trey Jinright (engineer) has conducted the assessment of the beach area as of yet. Tony said that stopping the nesting of the birds seems to be one obvious solution. Mike said putting oil on the eggs (suffocates the embryo) would be one way to control nesting, if City approved this action. Ron said there might be an objection to destroying the eggs. Jeanine thinks the City needs to address the feeding of the birds. Tony said it seems a written action plan is needed. The FEAB should make suggestions / provide action plans and then move on if City is not able to take action. It appears no action is being taken on the duck pond issue, even after several years of discussion, yet it continues to be a topic item. He does not know of any action that has been taken (except for the geese extraction a few years ago). Gary said the City needs a park manager to coordinate the storm water / duck pond issues. The park manager could use the EPA Beach Sanitary Survey Tool (computer based tool) for guidance. Kim said Public Works (Jennifer Fidler and her assistants) manage North Beach and South Beach Park, so her department (or an employee within Public Works) would likely be the appropriate park manager. Mike said that the City may not have the funds to do park improvements at this time.

Ron said that Jennifer should be invited to the next FEAB meeting for a status update on the park / swimming beach issue.

Gary said there is a helpful "Swim App" that residents can use for swim advisories. Jeanine suggested that the Fly Creek marina area should offer swim or water advisories as well, as this water is often contaminated due to boat sewage or gray water dumping. Kayakers need to be aware of the dangers of marina water. Sea Cliff Drive side is a City owned marina. Mike noted that all boat marinas are subject to the "Clean Marina" regulations from ADEM, which mandate boat pumping stations. Kim said that the City-owned marina at the end of Sea Cliff Drive had a permanent pump out station installed over 10 years ago (token operated) and the marina on the big pier (when under the management of the Yard Arm) had a portable unit. She is not sure if the new restaurant (Shux) is managing the marina/pump out unit or not. Mike suggested that the City Harbor Board require proof of operating pump out stations and usage for all the marinas in Fairhope, though only these two are City owned.

New Business:

1) Sources of Storm Water Pollution in Fairhope

Greener by the Yard is one educational tool used to educate citizens on correct fertilizer / pesticide application. He asked if City employees have received training for fertilizer and pesticide applications. Kim said the City of Fairhope has certified applicators in Public Works, Recreation / Parks and at Quail Creek Golf Course. These employees receive certification through the State Dept. of Agriculture. Mike noted that cattle grazing, though not very frequent anymore in Fairhope, is a potential source of water pollution. Also farm field run off of sedimentation, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides is still a significant factor in Fairhope. We need more farm field education. Kim noted that sediment is one of the top pollutants in Alabama, and many of the subdivisions (which were once farm fields) are contributing to sedimentation pollution as well.

2) Rain Barrel Workshop

Mike handed out a pamphlet on an upcoming Rain Barrel Workshop hosted by City of Daphne and Auburn Extension (who provides funding) October 17th, in Robertsedale. There is a minimal cost for attendance. The City of Fairhope is one of the sponsors of this event. Kim said the City actively participates in at least one rain barrel workshop yearly (usually in Fairhope or Daphne). Michael suggested the City of Fairhope advertise on line for the rain barrel workshops.

3) Coastal Clean Up

Mike noted the success of the recent Coastal Clean Up (Sept.) which had over 700 participants. Jeanine said she organized a group of about 60. Kim said the high school had about 50 in attendance, according to Paige Turberville (Sherry Sullivan's assistant). Mike said his group ran out of t-shirts. Gary asked how much trash was collected city-wide? Kim will find out from Paige if they have a total tonnage recovered, and if this is available, will find out how this is calculated (estimated or weighed?) Jeanine commented on all the cigarette butts she picked up as part of Coastal Clean Up, which is done not only on the beach, but on neighborhood and City street right of ways as well. Cigarette butts are a litter problem in Fairhope. Rick noted that some people would never think about tossing bags or cups of trash out the window, but wouldn't think twice about tossing a cigarette butt because of its small size. Jeanine said cigarette butts are very harmful to wildlife and do not readily decompose. Public education needed on cigarette butts

4) Greener by the Yard

Mike has hard copies of the *Greener by the Yard* pamphlet, which the City uses to educate its citizens on correct fertilizer, pesticide use, etc. Mike will bring updated copies to the next meeting. Kim mentioned that the *Greener by the Yard* version on line (City website) is the old version. Mike said he does not yet have a link to the updated version but does have hard copies.



5) Create a Clean Water Future

Mike said the City has recently adopted the Create a Clean Water Future program (which was spearheaded by the NEP); there are CWF stickers on many City vehicles, and there is a link on line to the CWF effort, with a lot of good resources available. Kim noted that recently the City of Fairhope placed a watershed ad in the high school football program (for the second year in a row), as part of the Clean Water Future program. Additionally, the "Red Fish Tales" video on the CWF website is used in staff meetings to educate employees on storm water and litter control practices. Rick said there is a need to get more businesses to adopt the CWF program; many municipalities have already adopted it:

www.cleanwaterfuture.com

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.