



# FAIRHOPE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

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**MEETING MINUTES ~ ANNUAL CITY STRATEGY SESSION**  
**JANUARY 10, 2025 / 3 - 4 PM, FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY ~ 2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

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## ATTENDEES

**COF Officials:** Christina LeJeune, Nicole Love, Justin Hammers

**FEAB Board Members:** Amy Paulson, Ben Frater, Gary Gover, Jim Horner, Carl Couret, Nigel Temple, Steven Scyphers, Jennifer Foutch  
*FEAB Members Absent:* Anna Miller  
*Official Quorum Count:* 8/9

**FEAB Active Participants:** Sarah Bogdanovich, Sarah Chandler, Jeanine Normand

**Honored Guests** NA

**Minutes Author:** Nigel Temple

**Commencement:** Amy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

## DETAILED MINUTES

1. **Housekeeping**
  - a. Previous month's minutes approved - unanimously
2. **2024 In Review**
  - a. **Successes:** What Accomplishments are we most proud of in 2024?
    1. Facilitated broad partnerships/collaborations - FEAB has become a great network of environmental professionals that has helped create connections and successes for the City and beyond (i.e. USA students, Eagle Scouts).
    2. Greenspace Assessment – initiated a comprehensive accounting of greenspaces supporting CoF Land Use Plan (Ben!)
    3. Provided Letters of Support to CoF grant proposals (e.g., Fly Creek bridge)
    4. Supported City requests for feedback for LUP, Flying Creek Nature Park, Winn Dixie Pond, water conservation. Our advisory support strengthened these initiatives.
    5. Created, executed, implemented many SWaMP / compost subcommittee projects. Engaged ~5 community organizations, which will allow us to launch composting activities at their sites in 2025 (Sarah B!)
    6. Supported CoF stormwater infrastructure inventory (Jim!). The impact will be to water quality and better subdivision requirements.
    7. Butterfly Garden: assisted project success (Mayor engaged FEAB, grant money acquired; FEAB properly advised CoF) (Carol!)
    8. Secured Pier signage funding (Steven!)



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a. **Lessons Learned:**

1. Critical to understand and invest in relationships with various City personnel / functions.
2. It was ok to stop attending Council meetings and focus our time on our listed priorities.  
Because we have spent years building our trusted advisor position, we got the environmental items we needed funneled to us in other forums.

b. **Priorities:**

1. Depreciated

- a. Attendance at City Council Meetings (outcome not worth the effort - we have established a successful process for the City to engage our assistance as needed that does not require us attending all meetings. Member effort / precious available time can be focused on projects/ subcommittees instead.)
- b. Focus on water conservation will be embedded into other priorities, (i.e., water quality as part of stormwater infrastructure/adaptive strategies; wetland, subdivision (turf management), or gully regulations; greenspace management) or in response to City requests.
- c. Moved Community Resilience Index ball as far as we could; dropping unless re-engaged by CoF.

2. Enduring / Expanded

- a. Expand Greenspace - continue to develop priorities in concert with Land Use Plan
  - i. Action item - Connect Ben with Michelle Melton around repetitive flood loss areas
  - b. Expand composting outreach, including MRF marketing

3. Brainstormed New Ideas for projects in 2025 (discussion only - these were not necessarily approved for action at this time)

- a. What role should we have in the stormwater infrastructure project (recently awarded to Thompson)
- b. Eagle Reefs
- c. Safe Streets for All (green space?)
- d. Review pier signage

4. **Wrap Up**

- a. Involvement & Education Opportunities
  - i. Green Drinks: 1/22 Mobile Baykeeper - Monkey Bar, 5-7
- c. Future Agenda Items
  - i. Feb: Greenspace Working Group - Presentation & 2025 Roadmap
  - ii. Mar: Greener By the Yard, Guest: Johanna
  - iii. April/May: annual meeting with CoF
- d. Future: Rhydonna Mosely, FEEF - Pelican's Nest

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: *standard*



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## FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

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