



FAIRHOPE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES ~ ANNUAL CITY STRATEGY SESSION
DECEMBER 20, 2024 / 3 - 4 PM, LIBRARY ~ GIDDENS CONFERENCE CENTER

ATTENDEES

COF Officials: Nicole Love

FEAB Board Members: Amy Paulson, Ben Frater, Gary Gover, Nigel Temple, Anna Miller
FEAB Members Absent: Steven Scyphers, Jennifer Foutch, Jim Horner, Carl Couret
Official Quorum Count: 5/9

FEAB Active Participants: Jaime Crawford

Honored Guests N/A

Minutes Author: Nigel Temple

Commencement: Amy called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

SUMMARY OF SALIENT DECISIONS, DISCUSSION, AND ACTIONS

- **FEAB will largely maintain its designated 2024 priorities through 2025.** FEAB performed an extensive group workshop in 2024 to establish its selected priorities, including supporting CoF greenspace and native habitat management; expanding CoF sustainable waste management practices; communicating Energy Policies; and responding to the City's requests for Water Conservation support. In 2025, FEAB intends to expand its engagement with environmentally-related matters identified in the CoF Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- **In 2025, FEAB will disengage with the performance of a Community Resilience Index Workshop and will not officially or regularly attend COF Council Meetings** unless requested or if environmentally-relevant agenda items are to occur.
- **FEAB submitted a Letter of Support** for the City of Fairhope to receive funds from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program to help remove the damaged and dysfunctional culvert and construct a single span concrete bridge at the crossing of US Highway 98 over Fly Creek.
- **FEAB performed a drone survey to assess pine bark beetle infestation and damage at the Flying Creek Nature Preserve.** Nigel Tempel, PhD performed this preliminary test of available technology, which concluded that the process may have wider applications for cost-effective / labor-reducing land use and open space management across the City.

DETAILED MINUTES

1. **Housekeeping**
 - a. November minutes approved without changes - unanimous



FAIRHOPE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

- b. Sarah Chandler nominated to assist Nigel with development of salient communication items in 2025 meeting minute documentation.
- c. FEAB meeting for December, 2025 is preemptively cancelled.

2. Priority Issues and Subcommittee Reports

- a. Greenspace and Native Habitat
 - i. COF Comprehensive Land Use Plan
 - 1. ACTION: Amy reintroduce relevant environmental bullets to group in Jan meeting
 - ii. Greenspace Assessment Working Group
 - 1. RAISE - FEAB Letter of Support - Ben
 - a. ACTION: Amy to sign and submit to Nicole
 - 2. CoF working with SALT (Cassidy Redding) to organize a walking tour of greenspace opportunities (potential targets, priorities for City); would include all relevant stakeholders including FEAB for partnership and alignment - Ben
 - 3. Partnership with University of Southern Alabama (USA) to catalog open space. Developing interactive GoogleEarth-based tool. Potential application for tourism as well as greenspace prioritization and management.
 - 4. ACTION: group to present findings/2025 roadmap to FEAB in Feb meeting.
 - iii. Greenspace Management
 - 1. Colony Park - astroturf/golf tee box mats installed - source of environmental microplastics. Also, not "natural."
 - 2. Flying Creek Nature Preserve - Nigel performed drone survey to test potential for tracking pine beetle infestation. (Action was fully misrepresented in Fairhope Times.)

3. 2025 Priorities

- a. *Engage* - involvement with COF LUP as living document - engage various proposed actions and/or facilitate progress and connections.
- b. *Engage* - "Greener by the Yard" update - water conservation and best practices for turf maintenance; include identification of watershed friendly lawn chemical applicators (e.g., Xtreme Turf)
 - i. ACTION: Amy to engage Johanna at Weeks Bay NERR to come to meeting (March?)
- c. *Reorg* - Integrate Airport Authority partnerships within greenspace sub-committee
- d. *Disengage* - Community Resilience Index Workshop; attendance at COF Council Meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, September 13 @ 3 p.m. @ Fairhope Public Library

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairperson:

Amy Paulson

amy.paulson@yahoo.com

(251) 654-7401



FAIRHOPE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Board Members:

Carl Couret	ccouretjr@yahoo.com	TBD
Jennifer Foutch	Foutch.jennifer@gmail.com	(618) 318-0354
Ben Frater	ben.frater@gmail.com	(404) 314-8815
Gary Gover	govers@bellsouth.net	(251) 990-8662
Jim Horner	none	(251) 928-9722
Anna Miller	anna@keenliving.pro	(251) 279-0395
Steven Scyphers	sscyphers@southalabama.edu	(334) 701-8864
Nigel Temple	757nigel@gmail.com	(757) 803-3589

Active Participants

Lance Slater	lanceslater@gmail.com	
Sarah Bogdanovich	smbogdanovitch@gmail.com	(727) 421-7321
Sarah Chandler	sarahchandler504@gmail.com	(504) 239-6651
Jamie Crawford	7jamiecrawford7@gmail.com	TBD
Cynthia Rush	crush300@gmail.com	(251) 223-3880
Carole Tebay	cftabay@gmail.com	(850) 466-6592

CITY CONTACTS:

Corey Martin, COF City Council	corey.martin@fairhopeal.gov
Nicole Love, COF Grants Coordinator	nicole.love@fairhopeal.gov
Christina LeJeune, COF Planning and Zoning Department	christina.lejeune@fairhopeal.gov
Justin Hammers, COF Urban Forrester	justin.hammers@fairhopeal.gov