



FAIRHOPE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES ~ ANNUAL MAYOR & CITY WORKSHOP
JUNE 13 2025 / 2-4 PM, FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY ~ COMMUNITY ROOM

ATTENDEES

COF Officials: Michelle Melton, Mayor Sullivan, Nicole Love, Christine LeJeune, George Ladd, Erik Cortinas, Hunter Simmons

FEAB Board Members: Amy Paulson, Ben Frater, Jim Horner, Gary Gover, Nigel Temple, Jennifer Foutch, Anna Miller, Steven Scyphers

FEAB Members Absent: Carl Couret

Official Quorum Count: 8/9

FEAB Active Participants: Sarah Bogdanovich, Jean Normand, Jaime Crawford, Nancy Harrison, Cassidy Redding

Honored Guests:

Minutes Author: Nigel Temple

Commencement: Amy called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

DETAILED MINUTES

1. Housekeeping

- a. Approved April Meeting Minutes
- b. Approved Carl Couret retroactive appointment to FEAB

2. Process updates

- a. Review our mission and intent - see back of notes
 - i. Align with and implement various environmental management plans (watershed plan, comp plan, etc).
 - ii. Available expertise is advisory, not necessarily free labor
- b. New approach: Comp Plan alignment
 - i. We do not attend City Council meetings, but depend on our relationships to be engaged as needed and vice versa..

3. Progress on Major Initiatives - Greenspace Assessment Project (Ben and Steven - Presentation)

- a. Why assess greenspace?
 - i. Direction of Mayor
 - ii. Citizens frequently desire more of it
 - iii. Need is referenced in various city planning documents (LUP, WMP, etc)
- b. What is greenspace?
 - i. No universal definition of greenspace; complicating factor
 - ii. Chat GPT Definition: *Greenspace enhances urban environments by improving air quality, providing habitat for wildlife, offering recreational opportunities, and contributing to the overall quality of life for residents. Greenspace can also help mitigate urban heat and manage stormwater runoff.*



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- iii. City has similar definition in ordinances/zoning, generally defines open space divided by type with helpful diagrams.
- iv. FOR THIS ASSESSMENT, City's definition was used to identify parcels for GIS tool, including the following details:
 - 1. Within COF limits
 - 2. Accessible to the public
 - 3. Not developed or developed with the intent to attract outdoor human use
 - 4. Primarily covered in vegetation or water
 - 5. Any acreage (no min size requirement)
- c. Method: Partnered with USA (public access specialists) to do GIS exercise of parcels in Baldwin County parcel viewer GIS database.
- d. Results:
 - i. Various parcels of differing sizes and locations are available. More active recreation identified than natural area.
 - ii. Mostly western Fairhope - public greenspace/open space is under-represented/largely unavailable east of 98.
 - iii. Does not include Fairhope Single Tax or other private-owned/public-accessible parcels (i.e., COF-owned property, only)
- e. Discussion:
 - i. Mayor would prefer a map documenting results.
 - ii. Mayor interested in an assessment of *potential* greenspace.
 - iii. Mayor interested in creating greenway to Flying Creek Nature Preserve
 - iv. Mayor listed several other potential greenspace and/or park projects in the works.
 - v. Comments on Tool
 - 1. Create "potential/target sites" map with details in appendix (Mayor)
 - 2. To avoid semantics and different perception/definition of "Greenspace" avoid use of word "Greenspace" and start identification one tier down at "type." Then expand property types (maybe color-coding) to identify balance of available opportunities. (Note, City cannot publicize anything besides City property).
 - 3. Hunter wants city lines on map.
 - 4. Hunter suggests adding links of examples/exemplar greenspaces.
- f. NEXT STEPS / ACTION ITEMS:
 - i. Mayor requests that FEAB present at City Council Meeting
 - ii. Hunter appreciates work done and would like to organize meeting between working group (FEAB and USA) and COF-Planning Office

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.
NEXT MEETING: 3-4, Upstairs 7/11/25

FEAB CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairperson:

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Board Members:

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