



Virtual Webex Meeting
Thursday, June 25, 2020
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Martinez Chair
Melvin Pittman Vice-Chair
Shana Carson
Samuel Graham
Byron Knibbs
Resham Shirsat
Madeline Almodovar

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tommy Boroughs
Kenneth Peach

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides - CSRO
Lori Forsman – PEDS
Alan Marshall – PEDS
Alicia Baxter – Parks & Recreation
David Gregory – Solid Waste
David Jones – EPD
Jane Gregory – EPD
Jim Ward – Planning
John Roberts – Convention Center
Marc Cannata – Utilities
Matt Blowers – Water Reclamation
Renee Parker - EPD
Steve Urena – Facilities

Call to Order

At 12:04 p.m., Chair John Martinez called the meeting to order and reviewed the virtual meeting procedures. Formal role call was taken by staff.

Public Comment

The Chair stated that no public comment forms were submitted and this was verified by staff. The Chair called for public comment at this meeting from participating public. No members of the public were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Samuel Graham, seconded by Madeline Almodovar and carried by all present members voting AYE by voice vote; Kenneth Peach and Tommy Boroughs being absent; the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) approved the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes.

Announcements

Orange County has launched the 7th solar co-op through Solar United Neighborhoods (SUN) in collaboration with the City of Orlando. The link will be sent to SAB members, <https://coops.solarunitedneighbors.org/coops/orlando-solar-co-op-2/>. A question was asked about how solar installations are tracked. They can be tracked through permitting, but the annual capacity of available solar is obtained from Duke and OUC and tracked on the Sustainability webpage at <http://www.ocfl.net/OpenGovernment/Sustainability.aspx>.

Orange County has launched the Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF) program in collaboration with the Cities of Orlando and Winter Park. The link will be sent to SAB members, <https://solarenergyloanfund.org/>. This program is for any homeowner that cannot secure traditional financing but is in need of home repairs. The program especially helps the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) population. SELF is one part of an Orange County resilient home package that is being launched later this year to support residents through several County programs.

Our Utilities department is promoting Smart Irrigation month in July through a variety of opportunities for education and information. More information is available at <https://newsroom.ocfl.net/media-advisories/press-releases/2014/06/orange-county-utilities-celebrates-smart-irrigation-month-with-free-irrigation-workshops/>.

A new program and outreach is being developed for healthy homes utilizing CARES Act funding. The idea came from a COVID-19 Environmental Justice grant opportunity. Partnerships with community organizations are being sought and SAB members were asked to share connections with the Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer. More information will be sent to SAB members in the next few weeks.

Review of Final Scope/Baseline Metrics for Internal Sustainability and Resilience Action Plan

Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer, presented an update on the efforts to refine the scope and create goals and actions for the Sustainable Operations & Resilience Action Plan. The Buildings & Infrastructure scope will include food waste and composting in the new construction section. Brownfields as development opportunities and new methods for tracking tree canopy and tree planting will be included in the Trees & Lands scope. Local purchasing will be part of the Supply Chain & Materials Management scope, as well as sustainable purchasing criteria in our procurement process. It was noted that the concept of reuse should be added into the materials management section. Scope refinements for the other focus areas are still underway and will be shared with the SAB when available. Innovation, technology, and workforce training will be considered by the internal green team as goals and actions are written for all focus areas.

Orange County intends to be recognized on a national scale as a leader in sustainability and resilience initiatives and will become a committed member to global programs for Climate Action. We want to benchmark ourselves against other communities and be able to highlight the good work we do here in Orange County.

Lori Forsman, Sustainability Programs Manager, reviewed the baseline metrics as currently captured to support the internal green team as goals and actions are identified. These metrics as well as any new metrics identified will be used to set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based) goals. It was noted that metrics regularly tracked by departments and divisions during operations should be considered in the selection of overall plan metrics. During a discussion of data quality, documented processes for accurate data collection were deemed important and third-party review of metrics will be considered.

Overview of External Working Group

Jeff Benavides, stated that Mayor Demings will be standing up an External Committee to seek feedback from community leaders on our Sustainable Operations & Resilience Action Plan. All SAB members will be invited to participate on the External Committee. SAB member Byron Knibbs, former VP of OUC, is co-chairing the External Committee with Leila Jamal, former VP of NV5, an engineering and consulting firm. The purpose of the group is to review the goals and actions for our internal action plan and provide feedback with the intent to be forward-thinking and innovative. The group will meet via Webex and within Sunshine Law requirements.

The outline and structure of the External Committee and Sub-committee meetings were discussed. Comments included; ensure that there is time for discussion not just presentations, and utilize the second week of sub-committee meetings to review future community goals for the eventual update of the Sustainable Orange County Plan currently in place.

Input on Graphics/Look

Links to other plans for comparisons of style and format have been shared. Initial impressions of the internal green team is to make sure that our plan is easy to read and is very graphical with minimal text. The plan needs to be staff-focused and useable to ensure that it is actionable and implementation can be easily tracked. Data tables and infographics will be key to sharing metrics. Annual tracking and progress will be part of the plan and updated regularly instead of a separate report. On-line tracking similar to the current Sustainable Orange County website is preferred. SAB members were encouraged to look at other plans and send any thoughts or suggestions to Jeff or Lori via email.

Closing Comments

A status about the Recycling Tagging Program was requested. The program was put on hold in March due to COVID-19 restrictions. David Gregory, Solid Waste Manager, noted that a new grant to continue to program was secured for the future and the most recent progress report will be made available to SAB members.

John Roberts, Sustainability Coordinator for Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), will be presenting an overview of the new OCCC Sustainability Action Plan to leadership during the week of June 29, 2020. The plan will move into its final phase of approval following input from OCCC leadership.

Update on the recently BCC-approved Moratorium on Micro-mobility: Alan Marshall, Assistant to the Director for Planning, Environmental, and Development Services (PEDS) mentioned that this moratorium was repealed and he will come to an upcoming SAB to present status and next steps.

Upcoming Schedule

The July 23, 2020 SAB meeting will be cancelled. Instead, SAB members will be invited to attend the External Committee Kick-off meeting on July 24, 2020, as well as the other meetings as listed below.

Committee meetings - August 7, and August 28, 2020

Sub-committee meetings July 27 – 31, and August 10-14, 2020

The next SAB meeting will take place September 24, 2020, as scheduled.

At 1:38 p.m., Chair Martinez adjourned the meeting.

Sustainability Advisory Board Chair

Date

Prepared by Lori Forsman