



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Madeline Almodovar - Chair
Susy Torriente – Vice Chair
Laura Betts
Shana Carson
Michael Gilbrook
Ed Johnson
Christianah Oyenuga
Kenneth Peach
Resham Shirsat

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides - Sustainability & Resilience
Lori Forsman – Sustainability & Resilience
Dhanraj Singh - Planning
Maria Cahill – Planning
Karen McGuire - Planning
Alissa Torres – Transportation Planning
Jacqueline Torbert – Utilities/Water
Cindy Harpel - Utilities/Solid Waste
Jane Gregory - EPD

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Call to Order

At 12:06 p.m., Chair Madeline Almodovar called the meeting to order, after noting a quorum in the room, a roll call commenced.

Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comment. No members of the public attending virtually wished to speak. Staff confirmed there was no written public comment submitted.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Shana Carson, seconded by Ed Johnson and carried by ALL present members and virtual members voting AYE by voice vote, Christianah Oyenuga being absent; the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) approved the March 25, 2021 meeting minutes.

Christianah Oyenuga joined the meeting at 12:14pm.

New Business & Discussion

Items for Review/Approval:

Jeff Benavides gave a general overview about Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). PACE is a financing mechanism for property owners to use financing for improvements to their properties and have an assessment placed on their property to be paid annually. It was enacted by the Florida Legislature and must be enabled at the local government level. Orlando and Winter Park enabled PACE in 2015. Orange County did not because of residential consumer protection issues. We are focusing now on the commercial aspects of PACE to allow businesses access to this financing mechanism. Contracts and resolution coordination are underway. There is no legal or financial responsibility of the County. We are collaborating with smaller municipalities in the county to assist them in enabling C-PACE. We did outreach to businesses to gather interest and had more than fifty positive responses. A work session is planned for the BCC on May 18, 2021.

At 12:30pm – the meeting was paused for a photo of the SAB.

Community Discussion Topic:

The SAB continued its work on the Vision 2050 Comprehensive Plan update and incorporation of the Our Home for Life Community-wide Sustainability Plan strategies from 2014.

This month, the review included the goals, targets, and progress of the Mobility focus area. A few details were noted:

- 1) Micro-mobility could be part of the last mile solution plus ridesharing and carsharing
- 2) Shelter and pedestrian safety need to be considered at all transit points
- 3) Bus bays on roadways should be considered to address safety in traffic flow
- 4) Wildlife crossings need to be added
- 5) MetroPlan corridor studies will be factored into Comp Plan Transportation
- 6) Economic development of people must include economic mobility for individuals
- 7) Clean technology and sustainable solutions to help the whole population are needed
- 8) Should prioritize reducing/eliminating cars and focus more on pedestrians' access and their safety
- 9) Need to embrace the concepts of zero emissions, promote EV readiness and look to incentivize these
- 10) Must consider electrification corridors not just for emergency evacuations but as part of a plan for building resilience and encouraging electric vehicles
- 11) Reviewing FDOT work on equity in transportation
- 12) Ensure that transit-oriented development and economic enhancements don't cause gentrification
- 13) Factor sustainability in the freight plan
- 14) Procurement of greener vehicles and fleets including freight are important

Due to limited timing, the Civic Engagement spreadsheet was discussed briefly. This is important to our LEED for Cities and Communities application and will need further work. Planning division stated the implementation chapter of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan will have capacity planning and community engagement.

Green Minute

Chair Almodovar moved the group into a discussion about Residential Composting, noting that the SAB will not be able to make recommendations to the BCC by submitting the minutes on the BCC consent agenda. Instead, the SAB will generate recommendations letters for sustainability and resilience topics they would like the BCC to consider and move forward.

The Chair outlined the draft plan for pursuing a pilot program for residential backyard composting for residents of unincorporated Orange County. Orlando and Winter Park already have successful programs. SAB members provided several positive points to consider for this program and supported the writing of a letter of recommendation to the BCC to pursue this program.

The Chair stated that we will pursue other topics for recommendation and encouraged SAB members to volunteer to lead these efforts in coordination with staff.

Ken Peach provided the County Health Rankings and shared some highlights. This link will be shared with the SAB members as follow up. Ken will be participating in the community event data drive schedule by the Central Florida Foundation for the THRIVE initiative.

Announced new video by Mayor for Earth Day. This link will be shared as follow-up.

<https://newsroom.ocfl.net/2021/04/earth-day-2021-orange-county-governments-sustainable-operations-and-resilience-action-plan/>

Old Business

Jeff Benavides elaborated on the topic of Climate & Resilience Training, as it was part of a previous SAB discussion about a Climate Resolution. Trainings have been held by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council Resilience Collaborative in preparation for the Resilience Summit on May 7, 2021. A link to register will be shared with SAB members. This discussion covered climate training for this board, for Orange County staff, and the general public in cooperation with a community partner. Susy Torriente described Ft. Lauderdale Climate 101 training for all staff and stated this model of training is available for our review. Resham Shirsat mentioned Orlando’s Greenworks training program as an additional model.

Monthly SORAP Staff Report

Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer stated that the monthly SORAP update was provided to SAB members. The format and content were briefly reviewed. SAB members said they liked the new format. The ClearPoint Strategy tool was suggested for online tracking to make updates easier. Members can email Jeff with any additional suggestions.

At 1:32 p.m., Chair Almodovar adjourned the meeting.

Materials for this meeting can be found at:

<https://ocfl.box.com/s/fgcqfferebeqqklimpziv0gx5vdq4pl2>

Sustainability Advisory Board Chair

Date

Prepared by Lori Forsman