



ORANGE COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
201 S. Rosalind Ave.
Administration Building
5th Floor, Executive Conference Room
Virtual Webex Meeting
Thursday, March 25, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides - Sustainability & Resilience
Lori Forsman – Sustainability & Resilience
Maria Cahill – Planning
Jacqueline Torbert – Utilities/Water
Cindy Harpel - Utilities/Solid Waste
Anh Volmer – District 1/Commissioner’s Office

David Jones - EPD
Renee Parker - EPD
Dhanraj Singh - Planning

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Call to Order

At 12:04 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 John Martinez, seconded by Shana Carson and carried by ALL present members and virtual members voting AYE by voice vote, none being absent; the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) approved the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes.

Chair Almodovar then stated that a new section titled “**Recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC)**” will be included in the minutes, as appropriate, to provide support for or recommendations concerning specific topics reviewed at SAB meetings. SAB approved minutes will be moved onto the BCC consent agenda to ensure review.

New Business & Discussion

Items for Review/Approval:

Jeff Benavides gave a presentation about staff work on an updated Climate Action Resolution. Discussion started with a review of the previous *Climate Action Resolution from 2007*. At that time, Orange County was a leader in greenhouse gas (GHG) assessments and in making a commitment to address climate change. Almost 15 years later, we are looking to restate this type of commitment through the Global Covenant of Mayors, Sierra Club’s Ready for 100% campaign, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In considering appropriate language for the resolution, a draft of the resolution for *The Declaration of a Climate Emergency* was reviewed and discussed in detail. Board members mentioned several alternatives to the term ‘emergency’

including urgency, emerging risk, or crisis and to consider our efforts as a movement, a call-to-action, an urgent response, or a proactive approach. It was also suggested to avoid metaphors to history or aggressive language that will make people shy away from support. The SAB stated it would like to see an updated Community GHG inventory and will review draft language for a climate resolution in May, following the outcome of the current Florida State Legislature and pending bills that could potentially affect this type of resolution.

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.

The SAB reiterated its request that the County revise the language and tone of the Comprehensive Plan to be more direct and actionable and less passive or ambiguous.

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

- 1) Incentive programs need to be more than expedited permitting and should be clearly defined
- 2) Green building standards and building efficiency should be combined into one actionable goal and should have a connection in the code
- 3) Indoor air quality and comfort need to be included in the standards
- 4) An equity lens needs to be applied everywhere
- 5) Benefits of public health and reduced environmental pollution need to be considered
- 6) Retrofits of strip malls as well as infill and redevelopment efforts are typically successful and should be highlighted along with a list of prioritized sites, including brownfields, but avoiding potential gentrification
- 7) Need to address preservation of historic buildings and potential attractiveness to redeveloped areas
- 8) Pedestrian-friendly development should be given priority and/or incentives
- 9) Food systems and resilience are extremely important and should be expanded to address any potential food deserts in the County
- 10) Sustainable materials and sustainable technology need to be included and highlighted
- 11) Workforce housing needs to be addressed more significantly to reinvigorate areas
- 12) Strategies to address homelessness need to be considered

Due to limited timing, the Mobility spreadsheet was not reviewed and will be addressed at the April meeting. SAB members can send comments to Jeff and Lori in advance if feasible.

At 12:40pm, Vice-Chair Susy Torriente left the meeting.

Green Minute

Chair Almodovar moved the group on to allow for insights about the community priorities and suggestions of topics to be considered by the SAB in the future. These include:

- 1) Address heat, heat island effect, and future high heat indexes including a vulnerability analysis of the community and potential solutions to include cool roofs, cool pavements, and tree planting
- 2) Population of those 85 years of age and up is growing and home support for this group is growing in need and capacity
- 3) Infill and redevelopment efforts should be seen as a high priority, especially to address affordable housing and access to transit
- 4) Backyard composting and community tree planting are easy opportunities the SAB should discuss and staff should address

- 5) FDOT's work on Florida Electric Vehicle (EV) master plan and it is important for Orange County staff to review. We will present our work in collaboration with Orlando and OUC on an EV roadmap.
- 6) The City Nature Challenge is beginning and Orange County should take part along with the City of Orlando and over 300 cities around the world. Lori to send City Nature Challenge information to the SAB members as soon as available.

Old Business

Lori Forsman, Sustainability Program Manager reminded SAB members to send any additional comments on the Natural Resources focus area or the Built Environment focus area via email.

Monthly SORAP Staff Report

Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer stated that the monthly SORAP update was provided to SAB members. They can contact Jeff directly with questions.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) is being reviewed in a series of Senior Staff briefings. A short update will be provided at an upcoming SAB.

Recommendations for the BCC

There were no specific recommendations at this March 25, 2021 meeting.

At 1:31 p.m., Chair Almodovar adjourned the meeting.

Materials for this meeting can be found at:

<https://ocfl.box.com/s/rvdtlfhcyz2h6fu5d4etakusqyg5q5n5>

Sustainability Advisory Board Chair

Date

Prepared by Lori Forsman