



ORANGE COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
201 S. Rosalind Ave.
Administration Building
5th Floor, Executive Conference Room
Virtual Webex Meeting
Thursday, July 22, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides - Sustainability & Resilience
Lori Forsman – Sustainability & Resilience
David Jones – EPD
Jane Gregory – EPD
Renee Parker – EPD
Alissa Torres – Transportation Planning
Jackie Torbert – Utilities/Water
Julie Bortles – EPD
Jennifer Cummings – Public Works

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

Call to Order

At 12:06, Chair Almodovar called the meeting to order. Noting a quorum in the room, roll call was taken.

Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comment. There were no members of the public attending virtually. Staff confirmed there was no written public comment submitted.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Resham Shirsat, seconded by Ken Peach and carried by ALL present members and virtual members voting AYE by voice vote; the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) approved the June 24, 2021 meeting minutes.

New Business & Discussion

Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer gave an overview of the Commercial PACE ordinance being drafted for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). This is a privately funded program and does not require County funding. Extensive coordination is being done with many stakeholders in the Central Florida area during the month of August. The ordinance will include protections for businesses. It was clarified that this is commercial properties only and does not include residential PACE. Technical language is still being worked, but once a draft is complete, it will be provided to SAB members for their comments. Local municipalities that already have PACE programs in place will most likely update their ordinances with some of the protection clauses included in our ordinance.

Lori Forsman, Sustainability Programs Manager and Jeff Benavides reviewed the goals and strategies of the Our Home for Life, Sustainable Orange County Plan, within the Civic Engagement focus area. This effort is being done to support the Vision 2050 Comprehensive Plan update which is currently in work. Comments made during the discussion included:

- Overall clearly defined metrics are needed for each goal
- Small businesses should be included within community-wide job training
- Identifying and encouraging green jobs needs to be added
- Service workers, minority groups, women, and veterans, essentially all population types, need to be considered in training of target groups with a possible metric of number of job placements
- Economic development should be added as it is a key factor in workforce development and job training within the correct sectors based on future growth
- A county-wide policy for resident engagement is needed and a boots-on-the-ground approach should be considered for implementation
- Schools should be used in the strategy for engagement as well
- The county-wide reporting tool developed to track volunteer hours should be expanded and utilized, especially if it is an important part of providing services within the county
- Ensuring schools and universities as well as non-profits organizations are part of the volunteering process is also important
- SAB members were asked to provide input via email for goal 35 – support available at Neighborhood and Community Centers and goal 36 – engagement and interaction with registered neighborhood organizations like HOAs

Green Minute

SAB member, Laura Betts led a discussion about climate and heat. Facts and details of recent extreme heat events were presented. It was asked what the County is doing to plan for increased heat in the coming years and how can the SAB help influence this. Tree canopy coverage was discussed as part of the solutions to be applied equitably throughout the County. Jeff mentioned a program Orlando is doing to collect data on heat and air-quality. Cooling centers should be an option considered as we densify our areas during future growth. Grant programs like FEMA BRIC could help with funding to support efforts like cooling centers. Partnerships with Nature Conservancy and Cleo Institute should also be considered.

Orange County was recently awarded a grant through the EPA Building Blocks program in which a vulnerability analysis will be completed, data specific to future climate conditions, human health impacts (heat), future population growth and land use change, and impacts from sea-level rise will be provided, and our emergency management plans will be updated and expanded. The grant allows us the opportunity to address the County as a whole, including municipalities. It was decided the SAB will draft a heat strategy outline with potential goals and it will be used within the EPA grant work. A draft of this outline will be created by Laura, with initial ideas provided by Suzy, and will be available for the August SAB meeting for review.

Old Business

The agenda for the next six months of SAB meetings will be sent out to SAB members for review and comments.

Monthly SORAP Staff Report

Jennifer Cummings, Public Works, and Julie Bortles, EPD provided an update on the work being done on the creation of an updated Low Impact Development (LID) Manual. The scope of services for a new contract to complete this project was reviewed. Design guidelines, regulatory requirements, maintenance guidelines, and measuring and monitoring effectiveness are all part of the project. It was stated that these BMPs within the manual will be innovative and attempt to go above and beyond state and water management district requirements. The SAB was asked about the potential for incentive programs to encourage LID. Comments can be sent to Jeff or Lori and will be shared with Jennifer.

At 1:35 p.m., Chair Almodovar adjourned the meeting.

Materials for this meeting can be found at:

<https://ocfl.box.com/s/3rg1jvfo5j6z95k65odo4k08n2201ihp>

The next SAB meeting is August 26, 2021, 12:00 -1:30 p.m.

S.M. Torriente

Sustainability Advisory Board Chair

8/30/2021

Date

Lori A. Forsman

Prepared by Lori Forsman