



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susy Torriente – Vice Chair
Shana Carson
Michael Gilbrook
Kenneth Peach
Resham Shirsat
Laura Betts

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Madeline Almodovar - Chair
Ed Johnson
Christianah Oyenuga

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides - Sustainability & Resilience
Lori Forsman – Sustainability & Resilience
Alan Marshall – PEDS
David Jones – EPD
Jane Gregory – EPD
Beth Jackson – EPD
Maria Cahill – Planning
Karen McGuire – Planning
Alissa Torres – Transportation Planning
Lindsey Craig – Planning, Intern
Jacob Ballard - Intern

Call to Order

At 12:07, Vice Chair Torriente called the meeting to order. Noting a quorum in attendance, roll call was taken.

Public Comment

The Vice Chair asked for public comment. There was one member of the public in attendance. Staff confirmed there was no written public comment submitted.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Shana Carson, seconded by Resham Shirsat and carried by ALL present members and virtual members voting AYE by voice vote; Madeline Almodovar, Christianah Oyenuga, and Ed Johnson being absent, the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) approved the July 23, 2021 meeting minutes.

Green Minute

Alan Marshall, Assistant to the Director, PEDS, gave a short overview of the work being done to retain and enhance the tree canopy throughout Orange County in support of our sustainability and resilience goals. A review of current policies shows the intent to protect and preserve, however discussions with plan reviewers and arborists reveal the current code is weak and not allowing for preservation nor adequately compensating for the loss. Additionally, biodiversity is not encouraged. SAB members indicated the need for canopy coverage to consider rising heat indexes, the need to delineate between requirements for urban and rural areas, and the need for equitable distribution of tree canopy among neighborhoods. An expanded overview of this work will be presented by Mr. Marshall at the next SAB on September 23, 2021.

New Business & Discussion

Beth Jackson, Environmental Program Supervisor, EPD, gave an overview of the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program. This presentation included a review of the 23,400 acres of already preserved properties being managed

along with a review of the nature-based recreational opportunities available on those properties. It outlined the current goal to add another 23,000 acres to the program by 2030 and the CIP budget of \$100 Million for the FY 22 fiscal year. Updates to Administrative Regulations that guide the program processes as well as the creation of a new Green PLACE Advisory Board were presented. SAB members mentioned that requiring Green PLACE board members to visit properties should be added to the requirements and that SAB members appreciate continuing invites to ribbon-cutting events for new properties. It was suggested the SAB Natural Resources member should act as a liaison for Green PLACE Advisory Board meetings.

At 12:45 p.m., member Resham Shirsat left the meeting. A quorum no longer existed and the meeting became informational only.

Old Business

Lori Forsman, Sustainability Programs Manager, noted changes to the dates for the November and December SAB meetings, November 18 and December 9, 2021. Members agreed with those dates. Upcoming agenda items for the remainder of the year were reviewed with changes noted. The SAB 2021 Strategic Plan will be resent to members in preparation for creating the 2022 Plan. Suggested changes in format will be incorporated. Additionally, with assistance from staff, Chair Almodovar will create an annual report highlighting the work of the SAB during 2021. The intent is a short presentation of the 2021 Report and the 2022 Strategic Plan to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in January 2022.

At 1:12, Vice Chair Susy Torriente left the meeting. Chair passed to member Ken Peach.

Monthly SORAP Staff Report

Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer, shared a short Transition Team Report highlighting the progress of Sustainability items and asked that SAB members share suggestions about the content with him via email. Mr. Benavides then provided a review of the scoping efforts for the EPA Building Blocks grant, awarded to Orange County in April 2021. The grant is focused on Climate Migration and Disaster Resilience, including some specific data collection efforts; 1) future climate conditions, 2) future human health impacts, especially heat, 3) future population growth and land use changes, and 4) sea-level rise impacts to inland communities. The remainder of the effort will include updates to the Community Emergency Management Plan as well as current hazard mitigation plans. It will also consider specific needs at the neighborhood level as well as regional resilience planning efforts. A follow-up review of this effort will be planned for 2022.

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

Materials for this meeting can be found at:

<https://ocfl.box.com/s/ug21atb1n2m5267ckhic97sbk3o3wnra>

The next SAB meeting is September 23, 2021, 12:00 -1:30 p.m.

Sustainability Advisory Board Chair

Date

Prepared by Lori Forsman