

# MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



## Natural Resources Advisory Board REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – 6:15 PM

300 Laporte and Via Zoom

### 1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:20 PM

### 2. ROLL CALL

- a. Board Members Present –
  - Kelly Stewart (Vice Chair)
  - Teagan Loew
  - Todd Simmons
  - Matt Zoccali
  - Sara LoTempio
  
- b. Board Members Absent –
  - Dawson Metcalf (Chair)
  - Lisa Andrews
  - Kelen Dowdy
  - Barry Noon
  
- c. Staff Members Present –
  - Honoré Depew, Staff Liaison
  - Cortney Geary
  - Dashiell Bubar-Hall
  - Kendra Boot
  - Christine Holtz
  - Renee Colton
  
- d. Guest(s) –
  - Xavier Pereira

### 3. AGENDA REVIEW

Vice Chair Stewart reviewed the agenda.

### 4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Pereira (guest) asked about the energy intensity unit measurement mentioned at the March meeting about Building Performance Standards. Depew replied he would provide contact information for the appropriate staff member.

increased access to EVs. He outlined the strategies and recommendations which fall into short-, medium-, and long-term categories, and include things such as clarifying the City policy regarding EV charging, revising the Building Code to require EV infrastructure, and upgrading the electricity distribution infrastructure, respectively. He further detailed the City's vehicle fleet noting there is a plan for Transfort to become a fully electric bus fleet over the next 15 to 20 years.

Bubar-Hall discussed the workplan for the EVRR update and stated the draft plan will be available in August or September and will include the focus areas of mobility, equity, environmental, utility/infrastructure, housing, and policy. Depew asked if the EVRR will be adopted by Council and if part of the workplan engages City leadership. Bubar-Hall replied it is not a Council adopted plan; therefore, formal recommendations are not required. However, staff is planning to visit with Boards and Commissions as more analysis and recommendations come forward. He noted there is a possibility Council will look at the plan given Council priorities.

Zoccali asked if the plan addresses the wave of vehicles that come into the city each morning in terms of offering charging infrastructure for people coming in from outside the community. Bubar-Hall replied providing charging along some of the regional commuting corridors will be examined and noted the County is also considering those types of investments. Additionally, Bubar-Hall commented on mobility hubs that will facilitate transit and potentially include charging infrastructure.

*(\*\*Secretary's Note: The Board opted to postpone the travel demand management discussion to a later date.)*

**b. Urban Forestry Strategic Plan (UFSP)**

*Kendra Boot, City Forester, will provide an overview of a draft UFSP – Rooted in Community – to seek Board feedback and support for Plan adoption.  
(Action)*

Kendra Boot, City Forester, defined the urban forest as all trees within the built environment and stated the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan (UFSP) looks at all trees within the Fort Collins Growth Management Area. Boot stated the UFSP will create a 20-year vision for trees in Fort Collins and she outlined the canopy percent by block data and noted about 85% of trees in the community are on private property. She noted the Forestry Department maintains about 60,000 trees on public property in the built environment throughout the community.

Boot outlined the community engagement process for the Plan which included an online survey, three public meetings, and focus groups. She noted there is mixed public opinion around regulation of trees on private property.

Boot discussed the vision for more equitable distribution of the tree canopy

and acknowledged the challenges related to insects and disease, climate change, the relatively young public urban forest, and development and redevelopment. Boot outlined the eight recommended strategies that fall into two categories: foundational initiatives and transformational initiatives.

Vice Chair Stewart asked if there is a goal of tree canopy coverage that is being sought. Boot replied staff has not set a specific goal; however, the belief is that the canopy will increase with the Plan recommendations and existing policies.

Loew asked if there is a focus on native species. Boot replied the context is important when considering what species of tree to plant and there is a goal for the urban canopy to be as diverse as possible. She noted the City no longer plants ash trees and discussed the ash borer treatment plan for the existing ash trees.

Vice Chair Stewart asked if the City is or has partnered with CSU to help provide resources. Boot replied in the affirmative stating the City works with many CSU extension employees.

Vice Chair Stewart offered general support for the Plan and stated it dovetails nicely with the Active Modes Plan as there is research that shows pedestrian safety and traffic calming. Boot provided slides depicting the tree canopy at bus stops and along bike lanes throughout the city.

Vice Chair Stewart echoed support for equity as a key consideration. Boot discussed the priority planting map which includes social variables and health and environmental considerations.

Depew noted the Board has the option to take a formal action for a recommendation on the Plan.

Boot further discussed the diversity of the urban canopy and the use of high drought-tolerant species.

Depew pointed out the climate vulnerability section of the Plan.

Vice Chair Stewart shared general support and that the Board would work to figure out how best to support staff working towards plan adoption either via approval of meeting minutes or via a memo.

Boot outlined the timeframe for consideration of the Plan.

Zoccali expressed support for the general direction of the Plan but wanted the time to do additional review of the plan and follow up in June meeting to get consensus from the board.

Depew outlined the proper protocol for the Board to consider drafting a memo

or conducting a vote regarding the Plan.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

- Board Member Reports
  - Simmons expressed disappointment that Larimer County approved the Thornton pipeline project.
- 2024 Super Issues Meetings of Fort Collins Boards and Commissions will be held at the Lincoln Center. The dates are as follows:
  - Monday, June 10 (Founder's Room) – Topics: Tax Program, Strategic Trails Plan, and Natural Areas Strategic Framework
  - Monday, September 9 (Founder's Room)
- Six Month Calendar Review <https://www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/planning-calendar.php>
  - Legislative review
  - Traffic safety
  - Housing and urban development
  - Land Use Code, phase 2
  - Building Performance Standards
  - Hughes Property
  - Budgeting for Outcomes
  - Halligan
  - Platte River Power Authority community report
  - Transit initiatives
- Revisit action items from previous meetings & preview of next meeting
  - Thornton pipeline/1041 regulations
  - Poudre River Health Assessment
  - Board elections
  - Water Efficiency Plan
  - Council priorities
  - Move June meeting back a week
  - July – joint meeting with Air Quality Advisory Board
  - Budgeting for Outcomes
  - 2050 tax revenue
  - Natural Areas Strategic Plan

City Websites with Updates:

- Natural Resources Advisory Board webpage: <https://www.fcgov.com/cityclerk/natural-resources.php>
- Our Climate Future: <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/ourclimatefuture>

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

### a. 8:15 pm

Minutes approved by a vote of the Board on 06/26/2024.