

**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
CITY HALL 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
APRIL 28, 2009 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative  
January 2009 - December  
2009

<b><u>Committee Member</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Bunney Brenneman, Chair	P	4	0
L. Thomas Chancey	A	3	1
Chris Chiari	P	4	0
Robert Cole	P	3	1
Dr. William Goetz (arr. 6:36)	P	4	0
Don Larson	P	4	0
Terri Murru	P	2	2
Raymond Parker (arr. 6:35)	P	3	1
Frances Smoot (arr. 6:36)	P	4	0
Fred Stresau, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Claire Vickery	A	1	3

As of this date, there were 11 appointed members to the Committee, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Peter Partington, City Engineer and Staff Liaison  
Robert Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney  
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Guests**

Lynn Shatas, FPL  
Richard Shaheen, FPL  
Irene White, FPL

**Communications to City Commission**

- **Motion** made by Mr. Chiari, seconded by Ms. Smoot, to inform the City Commission that the Utility Advisory Board will entertain reviewing and updating its mission statement to include some green initiatives, which relate to the scope of work that the Committee has already worked on over the last seven years, that the green initiatives be specific to utilities, and that the Committee requests

additional time in order to draft a proposed new mission statement. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Brenneman called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

#### **II. Roll Call**

Roll was taken and it was determined a quorum was present.

#### **III. Self-Introductions**

Self-introductions were made by all members, Staff, and guests.

#### **IV. Minutes of March 24, 2009 Meeting**

**Motion** made by Mr. Chiari, seconded by Vice Chair Stresau, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Mr. Parker, Ms. Smoot, and Dr. Goetz joined the meeting at this time (5:35, 5:36 p.m.).

#### **V. New Business**

Chair Brenneman advised that beginning in May 2009, an Item entitled "Communications to City Commission" will be added to the Committee's Agenda. This section will include any information of which the Committee wishes the City Commission to be aware, and will be included in the meeting minutes in a bullet point format.

Vice Chair Stresau added his understanding is that any items of particular interest or controversy that arose during the meeting are to be included in this section. Chair Brenneman clarified that the City Commission had asked for "items they want called to their attention," or items the Committee feels should be brought to their attention, as well as specific proposals.

- **Second Quarter Line Clearance Update**

Ms. Shatas distributed copies of this report, which had been requested at the March 2009 meeting. She agreed that this document could be emailed to Committee members in an "easy-to-open format" in the future.

She pointed out that a list of feeders, or main lines, is included, as well as a list of the homeowners' associations impacted by line clearance. All homeowners' associations' presidents have been emailed copies of this list, and Ms. Shatas added that

homeowners in the affected areas are informed by mail approximately two weeks in advance of scheduled line clearance. The City Arborist is also contacted, as he works closely with FPL's Vegetation Management Staff, and determines whether there are concerns that will affect the work to be done.

Chair Brenneman thanked Ms. Shatas for this information, noting that as a homeowners' association president, she has been consistently apprised of "updates and alerts" when this schedule is altered due to weather or other factors.

Ms. Murru asked if the City is capable of including this information on its website, where it may be publicly viewed and/or downloaded. Ms. Shatas advised that City Arborist Gene Dempsey is provided with electronic copies of the documents, and may be able to share these with the City or the Committee.

Mr. Partington requested that Ms. Shatas send the information to him as well, and he would look into the possibility of placing it on the website.

Mr. Chiari asked if the Committee should make a motion that this information be made available on the City's website. Mr. Partington advised that this can be done, but the matter does not call for a motion, as it will be done if possible.

Vice Chair Stresau asked if homeowners' associations' presidents are provided with the appropriate maps. Ms. Shatas confirmed this, as did Ms. Murru, who is the president of one such association. As her association meets only once a year, Ms. Murru explained that the information is placed on their website, and residents are notified of its placement by email.

Chair Brenneman added that she would verify whether association members are provided with maps as well as a notice of work. She noted that she does not receive a map as president of her association, but is given a notice of how FPL would disseminate information to affected residences. Ms. Shatas assured the Committee that she will address this with Vegetation Management to ensure homeowners are consistently given this information.

Vice Chair Stresau stated that his concern is whether two weeks' notice is sufficient for a homeowner to hire a qualified firm to trim their trees. Ms. Shatas pointed out that a contact person in Vegetation Management is listed in the notice of work; she also stated that this Department receives a number of phone calls once letters are sent to homeowners.

Chair Brenneman suggested a "save the date" notice might be appropriate, so homeowners are given sufficient time to hire an arborist. Vice Chair Stresau agreed, as adequate notice could preclude complaints by homeowners. He added that if this information is given to the associations' presidents, the notice should be sufficient.

Ms. Murru felt this would realistically address the issue of information, particularly if maps were included on the City website as well. She felt this would also be a step toward going green by cutting back on paper use.

Ms. Shatas noted that this dissemination of information shows how much the City and FPL have accomplished in their partnership, pointing out that while this method of sharing information is now considered routine, was not always the case. She thanked the Committee, and the Tree Subcommittee in particular, for working with FPL on this issue.

Chair Brenneman thanked Ms. Shatas in turn, stating that this method has “made a big difference” for the Committee, as they receive notably fewer calls than before the current method was implemented.

- **System Reliability, Infrastructure Strengthening and Maintenance Update**

Ms. Shatas introduced Richard Shaheen, Senior Director of Engineering and Technical Services with FPL, and Irene White, Director of Customer Communications.

Mr. Shaheen described his and Ms. White’s function with FPL as being “from the poles and wires side” of the business. He planned to cover the topic from a system-wide perspective, while Ms. White would discuss the Fort Lauderdale area specifically.

He explained that FPL serves 35 counties, covering approximately 27,000 square miles of territory, primarily in the coastal areas, and 4.5 million customer accounts. 14 power plants throughout this territory contain 35 generating units to carry this load, which is then transmitted throughout the grid by roughly 630 substations; these translate power from a transmission level to a distribution level, which reaches into the neighborhoods. This distribution network is served by more than 66,500 miles of wire. Over one-third of this wire is underground, while the overhead wires are supported by more than 1.1 million poles and 860,000 transformers.

Mr. Chiari asked how many of the poles are owned by FPL, as a key question regarding reliability is the maintenance schedule of AT&T or Comcast, who own many of these poles. Mr. Shaheen explained that FPL owns the 1.1 million poles to which he had referred; when poles owned by other utilities are included, the number of poles reaches 1.6 million. Within the Fort Lauderdale area, FPL owns roughly 24,000 poles.

Mr. Shaheen advised that while it is a challenge to run one of the largest grids in the nation, it provides FPL the opportunity to study the performance of a large base of equipment and apply that information to all parts of their system once best practices are determined.

System performance is based on a standard measure of reliability, the System Average Interruption Duration Index, or SAIDI. This determines the average cumulative number

of minutes of interruption a customer experiences annually. The industry average is between 120 and 150 minutes, although Mr. Shaheen noted that hurricane- or tornado-related interruptions are not included in this figure, as the entire nation cannot be judged against those regions that regularly experience such storms. Only those specific events in their specific affected regions are excluded; for example, fires in the Everglades, which cause dropped lines, are counted among the normal challenges faced by a utility.

FPL's performance consistently falls into the top 25% against its industry peers in this category, Mr. Shaheen pointed out, and Fort Lauderdale in particular experienced 64 minutes of SAIDI in its first quarter, year-to-date.

Assistant City Attorney Dunckel asked if lines taken down by traffic accidents or similar events are included in SAIDI. Mr. Shaheen confirmed this.

FPL's SAIDI performance is achieved through their work including maintenance, pole inspections, line clearing, and infrastructure strengthening. Maintenance is a critical part of this effort. FPL analyzes the condition of the grid through visual assessments, comparisons to a large population, non-intrusive internal views through thermography, sonic technologies, and similar considerations. They have developed a Condition Assessment Manual, which builds upon the information gathered in all parts of the grid so all areas may learn from one region's experience.

Since 2006, FPL has inspected approximately 377,000, or one-third, of its poles statewide. In 2009 they plan to inspect 140,000 poles, which comes to some 500 poles every working day, and repair or replace them as necessary. They have committed to inspecting their entire population of poles on an eight-year cyclical basis, a standard established in 2006. The inspection process involves examination of poles beneath the surface as well, as corrosion can occur.

Mr. Larson asked how FPL determines when it is more cost-effective to strengthen a pole rather than replace it. Mr. Shaheen advised that while it is often more cost-effective to strengthen a pole, this decision depends upon the pole's condition. Inspectors find that just over 6% of poles fail the inspection process; of the 6% that fail inspection, roughly half are replaced and half are strengthened, with the goal being that pole's survival for an additional eight years.

Mr. Chiari asked in which regions poles are expected to snap, and the causes of any such breakage. Mr. Shaheen explained that this depends partly on what is on the pole in question, as the more equipment placed at the top creates a greater likelihood of breakage. He reiterated that most degradation occurs at or near ground level, and there is no typical scenario that causes a pole to snap.

Chair Brenneman reminded the Committee that presentations of this nature are usually given without taking questions, in the interest of time.

Mr. Shaheen addressed line clearing, noting that in 2006 over 32,000 miles of power line were cleared. The current maintenance cycle for line clearing is every three years on main lines, and every six years on smaller neighborhood lines that extend the grid. Circuits that serve major emergency facilities, such as hospitals and 911 facilities, are subject to a separate review prior to the beginning of each annual storm season.

Infrastructure strengthening includes adopting the NESC's extreme wind loading criteria, which extends the capability to withstand forceful winds up to 150 miles per hour in some regions. This effort is prioritized similarly to line clearing, targeting equipment that serves critical infrastructure facilities. Any section of line serving these critical facilities is subjected to pole-by-pole engineering analysis to determine whether the section can withstand these strong winds. Further engineering calculations determine what must be done to strengthen a pole, and once any change is made, all other poles in that area must be revisited and strengthened as well.

Mr. Chiari asked if concrete poles are stronger than wooden poles. Mr. Shaheen explained that this depends upon the size of each type of pole, the equipment mounted on that pole, and other considerations. He asserted that a wooden pole can be as strong as, or stronger than, a concrete pole, taking into account the diameter and depth of the pole, as well as its guy wires and the equipment atop it.

Mr. Chiari requested clarification of the 6% rate of "system-wide failure" of poles. Mr. Shaheen reiterated that this percentage applies specifically to failure of inspection, which can mean that the poles are simply below the threshold that FPL finds acceptable.

Assistant City Attorney Dunckel asked if "winds up to 150 mph" refers to sustained winds or gusts sustained for a specific amount of time. Mr. Shaheen clarified that this means winds sustained for one minute; the specification of miles per hour varies depending upon the area in which it occurs, as the State is divided into "bands" that may require withstanding winds up to 120 mph in some areas and up to 150 mph in others. The requirement for Fort Lauderdale is 135-140 mph.

Mr. Larson asked for the depths to which poles are sunk into the ground. Mr. Shaheen stated that this depends partly upon the clearances necessary at the top of a pole. Ms. White added that a standard 45 ft. pole is sunk 8-10 feet into the ground, although this is subject to change depending upon variables.

Ms. Smoot noted that most concrete poles seem to be much larger in diameter than wooden poles, and asked how this affects the strength of each. Mr. Shaheen indicated that the size of a pole depends upon the transmission structures, which required a large "pole butt," as well as the location of any particular installation. Transmission structures, he continued, require very tall poles to accommodate voltage, and an increase in height necessitates greater strength at the pole's base.

Mr. Partington noted that while infrastructure strengthening requires specific standards, such as withstanding winds, a similar standard was not cited for pole inspections. Ms. White explained that pole inspection must meet a Class B construction standard.

Mr. Partington asked what these standards might be – for example, ability to withstand a particular category of hurricane. Ms. White advised that this depends on what brings down poles; in addition, the standard cited for hardening applies specifically to those parts of the grid that serve critical infrastructure facilities. She asserted that with the majority of hurricanes, FPL's poles have survived these events.

Dr. Goetz asked if a pole can pass FPL's inspection, yet still fail NESC standards. Mr. Shaheen allowed that this was true, although he did not have a specific percentage for this, as the NESC standards apply only to particular critical infrastructure facilities rather than everything in a particular grid. Ms. White added that this standard is not widely used as the industry standard.

Mr. Chiari asked at what point FPL would find it cost-effective to build infrastructure that complies with an area's weather or environment. He asked if a long-term strategic plan is in place to bring Fort Lauderdale up to a standard at which its poles outside the critical infrastructure area can withstand hurricane-force winds.

Mr. Shaheen advised that the current strategic plan, which goes through 2016, prioritizes critical infrastructure needs ahead of the community at large. This means the plan to upgrade lines in critical areas extends until that year; FPL has not yet finalized conversations that extend beyond that date. He did not know what the prospective cost might be for this level of hardening.

Ms. White referred the Board to a handout describing activities that have taken place in Fort Lauderdale between 2006 and 2008. Several local critical facilities were listed, including Port Everglades Imperial Point Medical Center, Holy Cross Hospital, and "select areas" on Commercial and Davie Boulevards. While some of the buildings on these feeder lines are not necessarily as critical as hospitals or ports, they include "community projects," such as grocery stores, banks, gas stations, and other businesses that will help area customers "get back to normal" following an emergency.

Pole inspection in the City is at roughly 67%, Ms. White continued, and approximately 65 of the 135 feeder lines have been inspected using infrared technology. She displayed visual renderings of hardening, pole inspection, and line clearing throughout the City, noting that these projects are done on a continuing day-to-day basis to try to improve FPL's system. The utility also consults major cities such as Fort Lauderdale to ascertain which areas a given city considers vital to hardening.

She added that some of these visuals will be included on FPL's website beginning in May 2009.

Dr. Goetz asked if the poles shown as having been inspected from 2006 to 2008 were also hardened. Ms. White explained that while inspections are done annually, it takes additional time to engineer improvements for the poles.

Mr. Chiari requested clarification on figures regarding pole inspections. Ms. White stated that FPL has agreed upon an inspection process with AT&T that allows inspections to be performed on poles owned by that utility as well as those owned by FPL, reiterating that pole inspections occur on an eight-year cycle. They attempt to engage the same inspectors for non-FPL-owned poles that are engaged to inspect poles owned by FPL.

Vice Chair Stresau asked if pole inspectors are employees of FPL. Mr. Shaheen advised that a professional inspection company called Osmos performs this service for FPL, and usually for AT&T as well.

Mr. Chiari noted a reference in the handout to areas hardened since 2006 (p.14), including the Harbor Beach neighborhood. He asked for an explanation of “the general nature of the hardening” in this area, noting that some communities, such as Coconut Isle, have “100% support” for undergrounding or other hardening. Ms. White stated she would need to find more information on the neighborhood in question in order to identify the origin of its feeder lines.

Ms. Shatas added that FPL is “more than willing” to work with Coconut Isle on undergrounding; however, there has been difficulty obtaining the necessary easements for the project from the neighborhood’s residents.

Steve Smith, resident of Coconut Isle, stated he believed the easement process was complete. He felt there have been issues between the City and FPL in accepting blame for the delay in this project.

Mr. Partington confirmed that easements have been a problem in this process; if neighborhoods wish to work directly with FPL, he stated that this is possible, but the City’s assessment process must be used if the neighborhood plans to divide the necessary costs equally between its residents. He noted that there have been recent meetings to move toward this process, which he characterized as “not entirely straightforward.”

Vice Chair Stresau felt it would be helpful to show where substations are located in the critical infrastructure areas, as this would show how lines feed these areas, as well as the relationship between the lines being hardened and the nearby substations. He pointed out that while Broward General Hospital is only a few blocks from the nearest substation, it was not mentioned as a critical facility.

Mr. Shaheen advised that while FPL can provide “information specific to a project,” they would not wish to give “a wholesale map” of transmission from substation locations due to security measures.

It was suggested that Broward General might not be considered a critical facility because standby power is available on that site. Ms. White explained that part of FPL’s plan in targeting critical facilities is to “finish up” acute care facilities and smaller hospitals in 2009.

Chair Brenneman thanked Mr. Shaheen and Ms. White for their appearance before the Committee, and added that any further questions regarding their presentation should be directed to Mr. Partington.

- **Update on Power Outage**

Mr. Chiari requested a “show of hands” by Committee members who had experienced a power outage on the night of March 21, 2009, as discussed at the March 2009 meeting. He described the conditions as “a rain event, no wind,” and noted that there had been seven brief outages in his neighborhood. It was noted that two Coral Ridge neighborhoods, as well as Rio Vista, had experienced similar outages.

Ms. Shatas requested the addresses of homes that had suffered this outage, and noted that Vegetation Management representatives are looking into the event. One such occurrence, she noted, was related to an animal that had gotten into a transformer. She added that any addresses would remain confidential, and that FPL may be able to help identify feeder lines from substations that were affected.

Mr. Chiari felt the concern should be for the City’s ability to withstand “the next hurricane” if this event occurred during rain only.

Ms. Shatas explained that after a prolonged dry spell, lines are often coated with dust and/or salt spray, the buildup of which may trigger an outage during a rainstorm. If she could research the areas affected, a common denominator could be identified.

Assistant City Attorney Dunckel commented that he resides in one of the two Coral Ridge neighborhoods and experienced no such outages. Mr. Larson added that identifying the affected residences could show a possible difficulty in the monitoring system.

- **15<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Ramp – FPL Undergrounding**

Vice Chair Stresau stated that he had requested this Item be placed on the Agenda, as the City had brought a presentation before the Planning and Zoning Board that mentioned a desire to underground the feeder line that runs past the boat launching

facility. This feeder line was associated with a fatality some years ago, he advised, and he had been informed that the City lost a court case resulting from the accident.

He continued that he wished to know why the City would undertake the expense of undergrounding this line, as it is the property of FPL and is located in a City right-of-way rather than in the boat launching facility itself.

Assistant City Attorney Dunckel replied that he was not aware of how the decision to underground this line was made. In addition, he pointed out that "faulty information" had been provided to Vice Chair Stresau, as the City had neither lost, nor been named a party to, litigation involving the fatality. He asserted that he was not sure how the City had arrived at the decision to underground this line, given that they were not party to the suit; in addition, as the City was not involved in the suit, they were not aware of its outcome.

Regarding the cost of undergrounding, Assistant City Attorney Dunckel stated that he had contacted the Public Service Commission (PSC) and asked if the City could "force" FPL to assume the cost of the proposed undergrounding. The PSC had replied this was not likely, due to tariffs and other considerations.

Mr. Partington advised that he was not involved in discussions of the situation; his understanding was that the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Ramp is under the joint jurisdiction of the Department of Business Enterprises and Parking and Fleet Services. A scope of work was set forth, and for purposes of caution, the scope of work included undergrounding the line in question.

He continued that 100% funding had yet to be assembled for the entire 15<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Ramp project. The ADA concerns must be addressed, but the City is seeking grants to cover the rest of the project's costs, including undergrounding. Should grant funds fail to come through, the proposed project cannot be completed as planned, including undergrounding. Mr. Partington noted that the information he had read indicated that "Staff is taking another look" at the scope of the project.

Vice Chair Stresau advised that one "controversial" aspect of the project involved additional landscaping between the boat ramp, parking lot, and adjacent right-of-way; nearby residents wanted to see more landscaping added to the project, which would be difficult to achieve unless the line in question was undergrounded.

Mr. Chiari stated that he is a member of the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee, which is the source of a grant that will provide some funds to the project, although none toward undergrounding. He noted that in the presentation given to his Board, the line in need of relocation was identified as one that "goes over the lip of the ramp." He was not aware of a question involving the line that leads to the street. Mr. Partington advised that the line mentioned to him was identified as the line on the street.

It was clarified that nearby residents had not requested additional landscaping; the City had instead asked for a variance to mitigate landscaping, as it would be difficult to put in "islands" in a small parking lot where large vehicles come and go on a regular basis.

Assistant City Attorney Dunckel added that "serious consideration" has been given to placing limitations on the allowed length of boats and trailers due to the small size of the parking lot in question.

- **Other New Business**

Chair Brenneman advised that Michael O'Brien, Director of the Green League of Broward, had contacted her earlier and wished to speak at tonight's meeting.

Mr. O'Brien thanked the Committee for putting on the Green Expo the previous weekend, and stated that he has asked the City Commission to create a "Green Advisory Board." At a recent meeting, one City Commissioner had suggested "changing the name and purpose" of the UAC. Other proposals included the establishment of a new and separate Green Advisory Board. Mr. O'Brien wished to know where the Committee stood on this particular issue, although he personally advocated the creation of a separate Board or Committee.

Ms. Murru felt green issues have always been part of the Committee's mission. She asked Mr. O'Brien if it is necessary to include "green" in the name of such a board, as the UAC serves environmental purposes as a natural extension of its work. She added that she personally does not wish to see City funds spent to create a separate advisory body.

Mr. O'Brien allowed that it would be difficult to convince the City Commission to create a new and distinct entity. He indicated that he would support "changing the mission" of the UAC to address more environmental issues.

Dr. Goetz asked for a more specific description of what such a change would entail. Mr. O'Brien asked to read a "draft statement of purpose," which he felt would constitute the work of the proposed advisory body.

He first read the mission statement of the Committee as it stands:

"The Utility Advisory Committee advises the City Commission on activities of the utilities in the City, recommends administrative procedures that ensure the purpose and intent of utility franchise agreements are met, and hears citizen, neighborhood, and community concerns or complaints about the services of the utilities, and recommends appropriate action to the City Commission and City Administration."

Mr. O'Brien felt this statement of purpose is "very specific and narrow," not addressing any matters beyond utilities and energy alone. He noted that there is no mention of wildlife conservation, protection of natural resources, and many other environmental issues not related to utility oversight.

He then read his proposed draft statement:

"A Green Advisory Committee's purpose would be to advise the City Commission on environmental issues of importance to the City and its citizens, including but not limited to sustainable practices and efficiencies, natural resource protection, transportation and utilities, and climate change, to provide ideas and recommendations for implementation of those ideas to the City Commission and City Administration; to plan, participate in, and/or conduct events and programs throughout the City to promote environmental responsibility and green business development."

Chair Brenneman advised that the Committee's statement of purpose dates back to the UAC's creation in 2002. It was modified significantly in January 2003 and has evolved further over several years. The Committee and the City Commission understand that the scope of their mission is more far-reaching than the original statement suggests. In addition, a report produced at the end of 2002, adopted and implemented by the Committee, identifies their "mission of education" regarding various environmental issues.

Ms. Murru suggested establishing a task force or subcommittee to discuss Mr. O'Brien's proposal, although she agreed that the Committee is already working toward many of the goals described in his draft statement.

Mr. Chiari agreed that the scope of the Committee has "expanded substantially" since its creation. He made a **motion** that the Committee review and update its mission statement, with guidance from the City Commission, so their mission statement more accurately reflects the work they take on.

Assistant City Attorney Dunckel agreed with this proposal, although he felt any such review should be conducted internally and then submitted to the City Commission for approval.

Ms. Smoot seconded the **motion**.

Ms. Murru asked if a task force could be established for this purpose. Assistant City Attorney Dunckel advised that this would not be allowed under the Sunshine Law, but suggested that an individual could write a draft and circulate it for comments.

Mr. Chiari felt Chair Brenneman and Vice Chair Stresau, who have "years of experience" with the Committee and fully understand how the scope of its mission has changed, would be the best people to propose any changes. He felt this would better

inform the City Commission of the work the Committee performs, particularly since many of the new City Commissioners have had no prior experience with the Committee.

It was noted that the issue is scheduled to appear on the City Commission's Conference Agenda on May 5, as they wish to act quickly. The utility aspect of the Committee's purpose is not expected to be changed, but "sustainability" may be added to this purpose and possibly to the Committee's title as well.

Chair Brenneman noted that two UAC subcommittees are already in existence, and a third could easily be formed.

Mr. Partington requested clarification on the possibilities the City Commission was considering with respect to the UAC. Mr. O'Brien stated that these are as follows:

- Changing the UAC's purpose to make them a "Green Committee;"
- Creating an entirely new Green Advisory Committee;
- Designating one member of various advisory boards to be a "green team" member.

Chair Brenneman advised that she understood this differently: that a "green team" member would be added to each of the City's other advisory bodies. Mr. O'Brien clarified that this was one of two ways the City Commission had discussed designating a "green team."

Mr. Partington felt if the Committee waited to "get to work" on the present motion until after the City Commission has discussed the matter, "it may be too late." He suggested that the Committee use the "Communications to City Commission" section of its Agenda to advise the City Commission of its decision on the matter.

Ms. Murru asked if the Sunshine Law would allow communication via email regarding the proposed draft of an updated mission statement. Assistant City Attorney Dunckel stated, however, that any two-way communication on this matter would violate the Sunshine Law. He noted that while a draft could be submitted to Mr. Partington, any "collegial decision" involving the draft statement's content would invoke the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Chiari stated that the intent of his motion is to preempt any City Commission action to "re-purpose" the Committee, which could adversely affect the work they have consistently done since their inception. He suggested looking into, or stating their intention to, creating a subcommittee that deals with green initiatives as they relate to utilities.

Chair Brenneman explained that the Committee would be requesting permission of the City Commission to form a third subcommittee; upon making this request, they could indicate the purpose of the proposed subcommittee.

Mr. Larson felt there is a possibility that the Committee could “lose [its] focus” if they assumed additional responsibilities. While he affirmed that he is in favor of green initiatives, he pointed out that the UAC must remain “a strong Committee” in its ongoing dealings with FPL and other utilities.

Ms. Murru disagreed, noting that there is a good deal of information not immediately available to new members, although the Committee may have been working on it for years. She added that they have made “significant progress” in their dealings with FPL on several issues, as well as how they communicate and work together. She also noted that it is not the Committee’s responsibility to make decisions, but to act in an advisory capacity regarding decisions the City Commission must make.

She added that while she opposes the creation of a new advisory body, she did not oppose designation of one member on each of several boards to deal with green issues. However, she noted the majority of environmental work does focus primarily on utilities, and a separate subcommittee seemed to be the best solution to the matter.

Mr. Cole stated he was confused as to what a “Green Committee” would do, as environmental issues could reach well beyond basic utility issues. Mr. Partington agreed that changing the Committee’s purpose could “greatly expand the scope of work” they took on. Mr. Parker was also not in favor of expanding the Committee’s purpose to include “everything that’s green,” as this would quickly become all-encompassing. He did, however, favor “analysis and thought” on environmental issues relative to the Committee’s focus on utilities.

Mr. Chiari commented that this had been the purpose of his original motion. He felt the Committee’s current mission statement is “outdated” from a green perspective, relative to their scope of work, and an updated and expanded mission statement could inform the new City Commission that some green issues are already being acted upon.

Mr. Partington noted that the mission statement could be updated after the City Commission makes its decision on how to go forward with addressing environmental concerns. He reiterated that, should the motion carry, it could be passed on to the City Commission under the “Communications to...” heading.

Dr. Goetz recommended that they forward a statement of their intention to review and update the Committee’s mission statement, and to re-purpose the Committee to include utility-related issues, including renewable energy, environmental sustainability, and climate change. He added that any such statement must specify that these issues relate to utilities, as it would otherwise be “too broad” an undertaking.

Vice Chair Stresau felt the Committee should inform the City Commission that they would entertain taking on an additional environmental aspect, but felt it merited further discussion to determine the scope of the assignment before any steps were taken. He emphasized that assigning representatives from other advisory bodies to the UAC and discussing a wide range of environmental issues could take too much attention away from its focus on utilities.

Chair Brenneman asked if Mr. Chiari would consider withdrawing his **motion**.

Mr. Chiari stated the intent of his **motion** had been to let the City Commission know the Committee was considering changes on its own, so they would not make a “rash decision” regarding a change to the Committee’s purpose. He felt there should be another mechanism to inform the City Commission that the UAC plans to “take on the challenge.”

Mr. Chiari withdrew his **motion**, and Ms. Smoot withdrew her **second**.

**Motion** made by Mr. Chiari to inform the City Commission that the Utility Advisory Board will entertain reviewing and updating its mission statement to include some green issues, and that this Committee requests additional time in order to draft a proposed new mission statement.

Vice Chair Stresau felt the Committee should continue discussing what they wish to undertake, and individuals who would like to address a variety of green initiatives outside the UAC’s scope should consider joining the proposed “Green Committee,” although he recalled that there is some question as to whether the City Commission will fund another advisory body at this time. He did not feel the UAC’s purpose is to involve itself deeply in the variety of issues such a specific committee would face.

Mr. Partington clarified that he understood there is some interest in redefining the Committee’s mission, or in including additional environmental elements in its purpose. He felt the motion should include a mention of “some green elements,” and suggested that, if it passes the Committee, the motion can be written out and transmitted to the City Commission, where Chair Brenneman or another representative would be present to discuss it at their next meeting.

Mr. Larson felt any motion that is sent to the City Commission should request that they table the issue until the Committee has had a chance to discuss the matter further.

Ms. Murru affirmed that the Committee should clearly communicate that they only wish to deal with environmental issues that relate to utilities. Mr. Chiari agreed to amend his **motion** to include this, as well as a reference to “some” green issues.

Chair Brenneman requested that Mr. Chiari restate his **motion**. He stated that his **motion** is to inform the City Commission that the Utility Advisory Board will entertain

reviewing and updating its mission statement to include some green initiatives, which relate to the scope of work that the Committee has already worked on over the last seven years, that the green initiatives be specific to utilities, and that the Committee requests additional time in order to draft a proposed new mission statement.

Ms. Smoot **seconded** the **motion**. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Chair Brenneman stated that the motion will be included in "Communications to City Commission," and will be forwarded by Mr. Partington directly to the City Commission the following day.

It was noted that this communication should encourage the City Commission to take no further action on this issue until the Committee has discussed it further.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

- **Recap and Discussion with Lynn Shatas, FPL, of Proposed Designation System for Professionally Cared-for Trees and Ongoing Implementation Plan**

Chair Brenneman identified this as a very important Item, as it could generate the recommendation of another program on which the Committee would partner with FPL to implement. She added that due to the need for more time on this issue, the Item should be added to the Committee's Agenda in June 2009.

Ms. Shatas requested that FPL meet with the City, perhaps with members of the Tree Subcommittee present, to clarify matters. She added that City Arborist Gene Dempsey should be in attendance as well, along with Vice Chair Stresau and/or other members of the UAC.

Vice Chair Stresau agreed that the Tree Subcommittee should meet with Ms. Shatas to discuss this issue, which will subsequently be returned to the Committee at large. The Item will come before the Committee in June.

## **VII. Good of the Committee**

Dr. Goetz stated that he would like some items to be included on the next meeting's Agenda, and presented information packets related to these items. Chair Brenneman recalled that these issues were mentioned at the March 19, 2009 meeting, and the information packet will provide background on these items for the Committee members to read before their May 2009 meeting. Dr. Goetz noted that he wished "at least the first two" items to be placed on the May 2009 Agenda.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m., Chair Brenneman announced. It will include a recap of the Green Expo. Chair Brenneman thanked all the members who had attended this event.

Mr. Partington noted that there will be a Staff meeting before May 26, which Chair Brenneman will attend, and it cannot be stated with certainty that a recap will be possible by the May 26 Committee meeting. Chair Brenneman corrected this information to state the recap will be presented in June.

Ms. Smoot stated that she will be out of town on May 26. Vice Chair Stresau stated that he will be away as well.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]