



## Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

### Committee Members

Clare McCord, Chair  
Curt Dyer, Vice Chair  
Galen Treuer  
Alon Alexander  
Ronald Starkman  
Karin Matos  
Julie Basner

City Liaison  
Amy Knowles

**TO: Members of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee**

**DATE: October 23, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Minutes of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee on September 18, 2024 Meeting**

**Present:** Clare McCord, Curt Dyer, Karin Matos, Ron Starkman, Alon Alexander

**Absent:** Julie Basner, Galen Treuer

**City Staff:** Commissioner Laura Dominguez, Amy Knowles, Sabrina Batlle, Juanita Ballesteros, Cristina Ortega

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### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

C. McCord calls meeting to order.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

C. McCord motions to accept the minutes from the September 23, 2024, meeting, and A. Alexander seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **DISCUSSION ON VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT ONE-PAGER**

C. McCord raises the topic of the new Vulnerability Assessment Study one pager and requests that A. Knowles provide further detail.

A. Knowles shared the Vulnerability Assessment one-pager, explaining that it was developed in response to previous feedback regarding the original assessment's length and complexity. She invited the committee's input to further enhance its readability for a general audience.

Commissioner Dominguez informed the group that, in response to the letter sent to the commission, a C7 item has been placed on the agenda for the commission to accept the Vulnerability Adaptation Plan and thanked the committee's efforts.

The committee endorsed the document as 'resident-friendly' and supported its public sharing.

A. Alexander asked for additional details as to the plans to address the issues identified.

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A. Knowles added that the Adaptation Plan will be adaptive, evolving over time to incorporate changing factors, and that the purpose of the Vulnerability Assessment was identify areas of vulnerability. She noted existing plans as well.

The committee recommended that the one-pager should state its purpose and mention the forthcoming Adaptation Plan.

C. McCord suggested adding a timeline feature.

The Committee discussed the referral from Commissioner Dominguez and expressed a desire to make a motion.

C. McCord circulated a printed motion draft and proposed that, in response to the NRPAC recommendations, the Commission work with city staff to allocate a percentage of resources for any project toward blue and green solutions. She highlighted that, while the concept plan lacks direct policy direction, this motion would demonstrate strong support for environmental initiatives.

R. Starkman suggested that the motion be amended to exclude any stipulation to a percentage of project costs, thus allowing flexibility based on the nature and scope of the projects.

He emphasized the importance of prioritizing projects through evaluations that present a range of options, rather than a set financial allotment, which could lead to a 'lowest cost' mentality. By adopting an option-based approach, people would be encouraged to weigh the pros and cons of each project more thoughtfully.

Commissioner Dominguez suggested that, since the motion doesn't specify an exact amount, it may be beneficial to leave it open-ended.

R. Starkman and C. McCord agreed on the need for a policy that would either enforce or strongly encourage the development of a new process, emphasizing the importance of presenting actionable solutions as part of this approach.

The committee collaboratively refined the language, adjusting until the motion was ready to be proposed.

C. McCord made the motion, "NRPAC recommends that the Commission work with City staff to formalize the design process in order to implement a policy for all stormwater infrastructure, Neighborhood Improvement, and parks projects in excess of a certain budgetary amount that would require that during preliminary design phase the engineer of record or additional consultant must provide a formal deliverable that presents design alternatives that include the implementation of blue

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green stormwater infrastructure strategies. Although currently the City's concept plan prioritizes such solutions, no clear policy direction exists to support their inclusion."

R. Starkman Second.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The committee decided to defer the item, 'Follow-up discussion: ongoing assessment/monitoring of stormwater projects, flooding areas,' to the next meeting, as J. Basner was not present and this was her agenda item.

**KING TIDES**

A. Knowles reminded the committee that King Tides had just passed and began the Annual Documentation of Sea Walls presentation by sharing a collection of photographs that captured flood damage and the state of sea walls during these events.

A. Alexander highlighted concerns about increased flood damage caused by boat wakes during these events, often exacerbate the issue by causing water to splash up onto nearby homes.

A. Knowles mentioned that messaging already exists to notify residents driving not to cause wakes during storm event flooding, suggesting that similar measures could be implemented to restrict boat traffic and prevent wake-induced flood damage near homes.

A. Knowles discussed the Private Property Adaptation Program, noting that reports will be provided to property owners in December. She added that, due to high interest, the program is scheduled to reopen in February. She then updated the committee on the Beachwalk Reforestation Project, encouraging members to learn more about it, engage with their communities for feedback, and share information to increase awareness.

**Summary of Actions :**

- Motion regarding the inclusion of green and blue infrastructure solutions passed as above, and will be sent to Mayor and Commission as LTC
- Staff to consider adding mention of the Adaptation Plan and a timeline to the Vulnerability Assessment One-pager
- Consider communication measures to prevent boat wakes from exacerbating flooding damage from seawall overtopping

**CURRENT/FUTURE PROJECT UPDATES**



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C McCord opens the floor to the Committee members on if there are additional topics that the Committee Members would like to discuss during future meetings.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

C McCord makes a motion to adjourn. R. Starkman seconds.