

Note: The following is a very rough first draft for establishing a Sustainability & Resiliency Commission. In particular, we have struggled with defining/limiting the credentials of commission members, considering the size of the commission.

Sustainability & Resiliency Commission

Barrier islands constantly move, erode and grow. They are highly vulnerable to ongoing sea level rise and increasing intensity of oceanic storms. Their complex, interconnected ecosystems provide critical services to local flora, fauna and coastal populations. The long-term protection and stability of these fragile systems is necessary to achieve the City’s overarching goal of maintaining sustainability and resilience.

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL numbering

Section 1-1 - Establishment and Powers

- a. A Fernandina Beach Sustainability & Resiliency Commission shall be established. The FBSC represents the natural environment’s critical relevance in making community decisions that will sustain for all time a healthy, abundant, affordable, and inspiring place to live and work.
- b. Among its powers and duties, the Sustainability & Resiliency Commission will:
 - 1. Collaborate with the Chief Resiliency Officer, Planning and Conservation Dept. Chair and Stormwater Manager to optimize the sustainability and resiliency of Fernandina Beach.
 - 2. Establish, document and maintain a set of short-term and long-term goals, relating to environmental, social, and economic sustainability and resiliency of the Fernandina Beach community and barrier island. These goals will be documented in a Fernandina Beach Sustainability Plan and updated annually.
 - 3. Frame sustainability and resiliency priorities for the City that balance environmental protection, judicious use of resources, economic vitality, healthy communities, and social equity, and that are appropriate to the specific challenges and constraints of the barrier island, and develop and propose a comprehensive set of sustainability principles to inform City policies;
 - 4. With input from other City advisory boards, commissions, committees, councils or authorities, establish methods and indicators to measure progress in meeting established sustainability and resiliency goals;
 - 5. Review and report to the City Commission on progress toward achieving sustainability and resiliency with input from the City Boards and Committees and other sources of information necessary for such review;
 - 6. Serve as a resource for City advisory boards, commissions, committees, councils or authorities regarding sustainability and resiliency challenges and opportunities;

7. Support and sponsor community programs and projects to provide information and education to the community on ways to improve individual, business, or organizational sustainability and resiliency;
 8. Develop and encourage community efforts and resources for action on sustainability and resiliency; and
 9. Consult with the City Commission as requested relative to specific sustainability and resiliency issues and needs that may arise.
- (c) In fulfilling its duties and responsibilities under this Article, the Commission may consult and cooperate with federal, state, county, city, town, or other governmental or public agencies, commissions, and committees, citizens, community groups, academic institutions, and other entities on matters relating to sustainability and resiliency.
- (d) Members of the Commission will meet with the City Commission and appropriate staff on a quarterly basis, or more frequently as needed, to review Commission activities and City sustainability and resiliency priorities and initiatives.
- (e) Commission members will advise the City Commission and staff on issues related to dunes, maritime forestry, marshes, flora and fauna, water and air quality, photovoltaics, EV charging stations, transportation electrification, energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings, environmental education, waste management, reducing carbon emissions, and as the need arises, other areas within their subject matter expertise.
- (f) In addition to the activities identified above, members of the Commission will:
- (1) Within their individual areas of expertise, serve as subject matter policy experts and liaisons to the City Commission and City agencies and units in conjunction with the development of sustainability and resiliency policies and initiatives;
 - (2) Facilitate citizen and stakeholder convening processes to provide input on existing and proposed sustainability and resiliency policies and initiatives; and
 - (3) Serve as a liaison to the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners and other stakeholder groups closely tied to promoting sustainable and resilient practices across a range of sectors.
- (g) The Commission shall not engage in any advocacy activities as a representative of City Government.

Section 1-2 - Composition

- a. The City Commission will appoint up to 7 members to the Sustainability & Resiliency Commission, each of whom shall be registered voters and residents of Fernandina Beach.

b. The membership of the Sustainability & Resiliency Commission shall ensure fair representation from a balanced range of interests including non-profit, academic, and private sectors.

c. Members of the Sustainability & Resiliency Commission shall have a professional affiliation with, or expertise in, one or more of the following areas: [content approved, but list may be reduced in length]

1. Renewable Energy
2. Finance and governance
3. Education
4. Dune systems
5. Physical oceanography
6. Shoreline habitats and coastal management
7. Marsh systems
8. Maritime Forestry
9. Sustainable land use and transportation
10. Open space and land preservation
11. Green building practices
12. Air quality/climate
13. Water quality
14. Recycling/Waste Reduction
15. Environmental Justice
16. Small and/or local business
17. Green jobs/workforce training
18. Human/environmental health
19. Urban Agriculture/food security
20. Community, grass-roots environmental efforts
21. Grant-writing expertise

Section 1-3 - Terms, Appointments, Vacancies

- (a) The term of office of each of the members of the Commission shall be for a period of 3 years, based on the City's fiscal year, October 1 to Sept. 30. The terms of the members shall be staggered so that no more than 3 members are replaced each year.
- (b) Members may be reappointed, but may not serve more than 2 full consecutive 3-year terms.
- (c) Any member may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the City Commission.
- (d) Vacancies shall be filled on the same basis as the original appointments for the unexpired terms. Members shall continue in office until their successors are appointed and qualified.
- (e) A Commission member may be removed by the City Commission for cause.

Section 1-4 – Chair and Vice-Chair

- a. The Chair and Vice Chair will be selected by the members of the Commission.
- b. The terms of officers shall be one (1) year or until a successor shall be elected and qualified.
- c. The duties and eligibility of officers shall be established by the Bylaws of the Commission.

Section 1-5- Staff Coordination

The Staff Coordinator for the Sustainability & Resiliency Committee shall be the Chief Resiliency Officer. The Planning and Conservation Director will serve as Coordinator until a Chief Resiliency Officer is hired or appointed. The Planning and Conservation Director and the Stormwater Management Director will also hold nonvoting positions on the Sustainability Committee.

Section 1-6- Meetings and Quorum

- a. The Commission shall meet monthly, or more frequently, as determined by the Commission members at a location in Fernandina Beach that is open to the public and is ADA accessible.
- b. Meeting notices shall be publicized and be part of the public record.
- c. A majority of the Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of regular business.
- d. Any member of the Commission who shall fail to attend at least 50% of the meetings during any period of 12 consecutive months shall be considered to have resigned. The City Commission will appoint a replacement.

Section 1-7- Bylaws

The Commission shall adopt bylaws to govern its procedures and activities.

Section 1-8- Compensation

The Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their services.