

7:30am to 9:00am at EHRA's offices

Attendees February 12, 2019

Auggie Campbell
Jim Russ
Mark Gehringer

Natalie Weiershausen
Imani Forrest
Maurice Mullaly

Jon Polley
Carmen Kumpula
Scott Saenger

Peter Huinker
Griselda Gonzales
Scott Saenger

1. **Welcome/Introductions**Jim Russ
2. **2019 Technical Forum**Jim Russ
 - a. **Format and Final Discussion**
 - i. *Saenger updated the committee on the conference call with Scott Slaney regarding our Sponge City to Space City Forum. The committee discussed the following questions for Slaney to discuss at the forum:*
 1. *How does funding in China parallel to Houston?*
 2. *How can the Sponge City techniques be applied in the Houston region? How much of the Sponge City techniques are applicable to lower density?*
 3. *What is the driver for the Sponge City concept? Who is pushing the narrative to focus on the environment? What is the public opinion in China on sustainability?*
 4. *Is there land being set aside for future expansion? What is the master plan?*
 5. *The Sponge City Concept seems to be centered around transportation. Will these techniques work if they are retrofit into existing infrastructure?*
 6. *What is the target size city for Sponge City to be implemented? What are the optimum conditions that need to be present? Has there been a market study done?*
 7. *What are the lessons learned?*
 8. *What is your definition of sustainability? What are the design features that make Sponge City sustainable?*
 9. *What is the goal for implementing the Sponge City Techniques? What is the gauge of measure and definition of success?*
 10. *Are these practices equivalent to LEED or Envision certifications?*

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- 11. *Why hasn't business followed the residential development?*
- 12. *How is the relationship between developers and the government? How are the public/private partnerships structured?*

b. Sponsors

- i. *The committee discussed the importance of inviting public officials to attend.*
- ii. *The committee discussed pushing sponsorship and Kumpula will send the graphic to the group.*
- iii. *The event will take place at the Houston Marriott Westchase on Thursday, February 28th from 7:30am – 9:00am. Immediately following the event WHA would like to take a committee photo with Slaney.*

3. **Committee Business**.....Jim Russ

a. Education and Advocacy: Advancing Sustainable Infrastructure

- i. Educate the Law Makers and local (County and City) elected officials on a culture of Sustainability
 - 1. *Campbell reported that HPFS is working to ask the state for money out of the Rainy-Day fund. Their efforts include funds to start a state-wide resiliency fund that would be a one time appropriation.*
- ii. The Envision Rating System for Sustainable Infrastructure
 - 1. *The Envision program focuses on horizontal development and companies use it as a tool to remember sustainable elements that could be added to their projects. The committee discussed the idea of including the Envision criteria in the procurement process for civil projects. Russ and Campbell will approach John Blunt to discuss further.*
- iii. Future Sustainable Infrastructure/Sustainability/Resiliency Technical Forums
- iv. Creation of an Elevator Speech for the WHA Sustainable Infrastructure Committee

b. Marketing (Imani Forrest)

- i. *Forrest showed the committee the pamphlets highlighting the sustainability stars award winners and outlining the program. The award video will also be completed and shown at the March meeting. Forrest also reported that WHA is working on 2060 videos to focus on each committee section. Weiershausen and Mullaly both volunteered to speak in the video. The group also discussed having easel's at the February 28th event to advertise the sustainability stars award.*

c. Legislative and Policy Update

4. **Open Discussion/Adjourn**

Mission Statement

Sustainable infrastructure enhances the long term economic, social, and environmental outcomes of development and infrastructure within the greater West Houston Association region. The committee's mission is to advocate for the use of

sustainable infrastructure concepts through the education of members and stakeholders and recognition of projects and practices.

2019 WHA SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE
All Meetings at EHRA Offices, 7:30 am

Tuesday, January 8
Tuesday, February 12
Tuesday, March 12
Tuesday, April 9
Tuesday, May 14
Tuesday, June 11

Tuesday, July 9
Tuesday, August 13
Tuesday, September 10
Tuesday, October 8
Tuesday, November 12
Tuesday, December 10

