

Monica Haskell
2819 Harris Avenue, Key West FL 33040

January 7, 2020

Dear Fellow Sustainability Advisory Board members,

My service to the City's Sustainability Advisory Board is ending. I'm retiring from the board, having served since 2012. As I wrote Commissioner Davila and Alison Higgins last month, I'll still support the board and its work 100% as a member of the public.

Following Commissioner Tony Yaniz' first appointment in 2012, two succeeding city commissioners saw fit to re-appoint me: Commissioner Richard Payne, and now, Commissioner Greg Davila following his election in 2018. It was an honor to be your chair during the past two terms. I owe much to the excellent examples set by previous chairs Michael Larsen and Ross Williams.

Sustainability issues never go away. So many public and private actions contribute to the overall good, or the lack of it. Key West's quality of life, ecology and economy are inextricably linked. Easy, short term solutions do not work anymore, if they ever did.

When I first came on the SAB board, the RFP and new contract for trash and recycling services had been a focal point. That contract with Waste Management will come around again, and what will be done with the city's glass when it is no longer accepted for recycling? In December 2018, SAB was tasked with reviewing the status and safety of Mount Trashmore and submitted a preliminary report finding that the city is 100% in compliance with Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection requirements. I look forward to the final report that you will complete in a few months.

SAB worked on Complete Streets and a Bicycle Master Plan. We continually advocated for a professional Bike/Ped Coordinator. Here we were successful, and now the city boasts an excellent Multi-modal Transportation Coordinator. As you know, Key West ranks extremely high in the percentage of residents who ride a bike to work, per census figures, as well as the numbers of tourists who enjoy safe walking and biking as part of their vacation experience.

SAB advocated for the City to pay attention to its own Climate Action Plan and measure whether or not it had met its 2008 goal of reducing Greenhouse gas by 15% by December 2015. Here we were not successful. We may have met the goal, or we may have not, but there was no political will to assign resources to the data collection and measurement.

SAB promoted Green building via public workshops and Land Development Regulations. SAB advocated for an Energy Manager. Here we were successful. The City saved money immediately by the simple act of identifying and discontinuing unused meters that were incurring monthly base charges even without use.

SAB advocated against single use plastic bags and straws and harmful chemicals in sunscreens that degrade water quality. These issues helped draw attention to the bigger water quality issues that exist for the waters surrounding the Keys, at the receiving end of agricultural run-off and other pollutants that contribute to excess nutrification and the degradation of the reef. Currently SAB is reviewing the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's Restoration Blueprint and offering specific, point-by-point recommendations.

Sea level rise and adaptation will probably emerge to priority issues in 2020 and beyond. Key West is so vulnerable to high water and we see the past projections being exceeded at a rapid pace.

I've greatly enjoyed serving with you all and with the incomparable Sustainability Coordinator Alison Higgins. Keep up the good work and I'll see you on the other side of the dais!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Monica Haskell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monica Haskell
Sustainability Advisory Board 2012-2020