



Brownfields Advisory Committee

Introduction

The Brownfield Advisory Committee (referred to as BAC hereon) is a committee of engaged local citizens will meet biannually (every six months), or as needed, throughout the grant period (36 months). The Committee will include up to five members from each Coalition City along with other community partners such as residents within or adjacent to the brownfield area, businesses operating within the brownfield area, and others deemed appropriate. Along with advising site prioritization, the BAC will also ensure sites of concern within the community are identified.

The BAC is designed to improve public participation and to receive public comments on redevelopment of the brownfield area, future land use, local employment opportunities, community safety, and environmental justice. All meeting notifications will be advertised on the ECFRPC's website and the Florida Administrative Register.

Duties of the BAC

1. Each Coalition City partner will nominate up to five individuals for the BAC. The ECFRPC will also nominate up to five individuals, including those from the community at-large.
2. Members of the BAC must be local citizens or stakeholders that are not elected officials or employees of local municipalities.
3. The BAC will meet biannually (every six months), or as needed.
4. All meetings will be recorded with the recording files available for public review and download on the ECFRPC website.
5. All meeting notifications will be advertised on the ECFRPC's website and via the Florida Administrative Register.
6. Duties of the BAC include;
 - a. Receiving public comment (via nomination form) on the rehabilitation and redevelopment of brownfields areas, future land use, local employment opportunities, community safety, and economic justice.
 - b. Reviewing and recommending to the ECFRPC ways to encourage public interest and participation in brownfields initiatives.

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- c. Reviewing and recommending to the ECFRPC on proposed brownfield site or area designations and rehabilitation agreements.
 - d. Reviewing and approving the site nomination form.
 - e. reviewing and commenting on draft Brownfields Site Rehabilitation Agreements
 - f. Reviewing and commenting on site assessment report findings or the technical documents containing the proposed course of action following site assessment.
 - g. Reviewing, and approving periodic reports to the ECFRPC, including an annual report as described below.
7. An annual report on brownfields initiatives and progress will be generated by the ECFRPC in collaboration with the BAC. The BAC will use the report to guide future decision making.
 8. The annual report will include;
 - a. The number of requests for participation received by the BAC;
 - b. The number of remedial investigations commenced, and the number of remedial investigations completed;
 - c. The number of requests for participation withdrawn or terminated prior to issuance of certificate of completion;
 - d. For each request for participation that resulted in a certificate of completion, the length of time from the date the department received the request, to the date the commissioner issues the certificate of completion;
 - e. The total number of certificates of completion issued; and
 - f. Such other information as the BAC and/or ECFRPC may determine is relevant to the status of the administration of the program.

Founding of the BAC

As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Cleanup and Assessment grant awarded in the summer of 2021, the BAC will meet initially biannually throughout the grant period (36 months). This initial BAC will include members from the founding charter cities, as determined in the grant application. These charter city partners include the Cities of Apopka, Eustis, Kissimmee, and Longwood. Each of these charter city partners will nominate up to five residents or stakeholders for inclusion of the committee.

The BAC is part of a larger community involvement plan that also includes community workshops, awareness campaigns, and opportunities for public feedback. It also helps identify potential brownfields across the region.

Funding

Funding for activities identified or recommended by the BAC will initially be linked to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Cleanup and Assessment grant awarded in the summer of 2021.

Site Designation and Public Hearing Information

If the proposed brownfields site is located outside of community redevelopment areas, enterprise zones, empowerment zones, closed military bases, or a designated brownfields area, the local government must conduct at least one public hearing to provide an opportunity for public input on the size of the area, the objectives for rehabilitation, job opportunities and economic developments anticipated, neighborhood residents considerations, and other relevant local concerns. Notice of the public hearing is the duty of the partner city, however the ECFRPC will post a notice of the public hearing on its website. ECFRPC staff will collaborate with the partner city to arrange, publicize, and facilitate the meeting. At least two members of the BAC must be in attendance at the public hearing and a report on the public hearing must be shared with the next scheduled meeting of the BAC.