



FAIRHOPERS

August 2021

Vol. 3, No.2

In This Issue:

- A Message from FSTC President Lee Turner
- Carol Saltz by Pam Turner
- Debby Hackbarth profiles ongoing projects.

News You Can Use: Council Actions and Deliberations

- Clock Corner was completed.
- Gayfer Avenue extension was completed.
- Nichol's sidewalk and bridge was started.
- Park at River Mill was started.
- **The next New Member Class will be held in Dahlgren Hall at Coastal Alabama Community College starting on 8-17-2021.**

For links to the online archives and past newsletters visit the FSTC website.

www.fairhopesingletax.com

Office News:

The office lobby is now open. Maintain social distancing. Stay home if you are feeling ill.

From the President: Lee Turner

The Name Fairhoper means something. A pet peeve of mine is the word Fairhopian. We are Fairhopers. The origins of the word date back 125 years with the founders of our town who advertised that our fledgling community had a "Fair Hope of success".

For 20 years I have served on the Fairhope Planning and Zoning Commission. Each time a new subdivision is proposed, neighbors pack the meeting and speak against it. "It will decrease my property value, increase traffic, cause run off etc.". It seems as if each new resident wants to shut the gate on the next one.

Our founders had a different perspective. In fact, they set aside the best land parcels for the community to enjoy: 2-mile strip along the bay, the Pier area and bluff overlooking the bay sunsets, and parklands all around the town. And very importantly kept the utilities public so the proceeds benefit the town. The founders focus went beyond self-profit and included what would benefit the community as a whole in the long run.

Fairhope has become a desirable place to live because of the people-our founders and those who have followed bringing new energy. As we move through 2021, let us celebrate what makes Fairhope unique: the beauty and warmth of the people. Yes, we are FAIRHOPERS.

Carol Saltz by Pam Turner



A Gift to the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation and to Fairhope

Carol Saltz takes her seat around the table with four other Board members, four Corporate Officers, and three Trustees at the FSTC office. She has anchored this seat almost twenty years, listening to viewpoints and speaking in her measured, southern voice. She is heard with respect in the Single Tax office and in the community where many know and love "Miss Carol," who, with her late husband Leon and son Tatum, has nurtured many of Fairhope's children at their early childhood daycare.

Carol's dedication to Fairhope is a part of her character. Fellow Board member Cliff Pitman remembers her familiar words to the Board during heated discussions: "You need to tell it right," and she did just that and more during an unsteady period some years ago. She felt called into action, mitigating among factions and even working in the office without pay, to ensure the FSTC could continue its commitment to its lessees and the city. A member of today's qualified and welcoming office staff, LeAnn Amond respects Carol's diligence in representing "our collective voice" to the Board.



Directors:

H.C. "Cliff" Pitman
Carol Saltz
Geoffrey F. Kennedy
Fred Watkins, Jr.
James "Jim" H. Reid, Jr.

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Charles Lake, VP
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Michael Upchurch, Treas.

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Fairhoppers and the History Lecture Series are brought to you by the FSTC Education Committee. Faye Earnest, Debby Hackbarth, Wayne Miller, Margaret Neely, Alan Samry, and Pam Turner.

Have a story idea for an upcoming newsletter or want to serve on the FSTC Education Committee?

Email Wayne Miller
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President Lee Turner knows that Carol will arrive at meetings having done her homework, prepared for discussion of the varied issues, and that her concerns reach beyond the office. "She has a heart for children as well as for the people she works alongside," he says, evident when she advocates for Single Tax support of youth activities: sidewalks, playgrounds, parks. Her grandson Hayden represents this next generation.

Carol is a lady. She likes people and working alongside a team. She has contributed generously to the legacy left by the founders of "utopian Fairhope on the bay." Director Cliff credits Carol for "establishing a new thought process, a new era of presenting ourselves [the FSTC Board] in the twenty-first century." That is a grand tribute to Mrs. Saltz, and she is a great gift to the FSTC and the city it serves.

Keeping Pace with FSTC Projects by Debby Hackbarth

In 2019, the Founder's Corner or the Clock Corner was mentioned as a location for a new boutique hotel. Concern was expressed that this corner was seen as the "historic center of Fairhope" and that the FSTC should be sensitive to the "historical character of the city". The FSTC and the City of Fairhope have always sought to keep the historical character of Fairhope at the front of their minds and moved cautiously; especially when they found out that there were underground tanks that would need to be addressed as a gas station was located there many years ago. The clock was temporarily removed so that the environmental cleanup could move forward. Finally in September of 2020, the environmental cleanup was completed by the COF. The FSTC then contributed \$262,500 toward the completion of the project. The plans for the boutique hotel have not been finalized; however, the clock is again sitting proudly on its former location.



A sidewalk extension was proposed for the Gayfer Plantation subdivision from Blueberry Lane to J. Michael Street. In June of 2019, a four-phase estimate was initiated and the project was approved a month later. The Gayfer sidewalks were slated to be started on March 16, 2020; however, additional funds were needed so that the project could meet county specification. Those funds were approved unanimously by the FSTC. The sidewalk project is now complete and residents can now walk safely in this area.

