

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

Wednesday May 24, 2023, 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D				APPOINTED BY:
	23	23	23	23	23											
Nicholas Eterovic	P	P	P	E	P											Mayor Lago
Carmen Olazabal	P	P	E	P	P											Commissioner Fors
Jasper Brock	P	P	E	P	P											Commissioner Menendez
Greg Hamra	E	A	P	R	R											Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	P	P	P	P											Commissioner Anderson
Martin Pinilla	P	P	P	E	P											City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel	P	P	P	P	E											Sustainability Board-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier	P	P	P	P	P											U.M. Representative
Monique Selman	P	P	E	P	P											C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Piero Gardinali	E	P	E	P	P											F.I.U. Representative
Gabriela McGrath	E	P	E	P	P											Youth Appointment

A – Absent
P – Present
E – Excused
R- Resigned
(*) no meeting

STAFF:

Matt Anderson, Assistant Director for Mobility and Sustainability
Anthonique Jay, Public Works Administrative Assistant
Solanch Lopez, Marketing Manager
Nicole Gautney, Sustainability Coordinator

Guest:

James Covey, Resident

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 5:03 P.M. by Chairperson Marlin Ebbert.

MOTIONS:

April 26, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Jasper moved to approve the meeting minutes; Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marlin moved to award all four nominees for the Commercial Beautification Awards; Gabi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marlin moved to excuse Joe from the May meeting; Monique seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Motioned moved by Marlin to cancel the June meeting and reconvene in July; seconded by Jasper. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (9): Carmen, Jasper, Marlin, Martin, Nicholas, Teddy, Monique, Piero, and Gabriela.

Quorum was met at 5:03pm

Member Comments

A. Monique:

- i. Will be transitioning to the Construction Regulation Board. The Chamber will need to appoint a new Chamber of Commerce member. Monique’s seat will be vacant until August when the new member is appointed.

B. Martin:

- i. When Martin first started, he was interested in an open green space that was empty and wanted to turn it into a park. There is no budget at the time and Martin will send Solanch an email to see what can be done about this.

C. Jasper:

- i. Suggested to the Board possible involvement in discussions and events about climate change, freshwater wells, sea level rise, etc. and how to address these problems due to how closely it affects Coral Gables. He also wants to continue the litter cleanup events.
 - 1. Matt responded by giving examples of community events educating the public about resiliency and sea level rise. He says we can plan additional water quality related events and he himself reviews policies related to these, and other, environmental initiatives. Matt said to the Board if they knew of any speakers they would like to

invite to present to the Board, to let him and Solanch know, and they can arrange it.

2. Carmen continued the discussion by saying that the Board is interested in updates as well and possibly a presentation of the critical assets using the City's vulnerability assessment.

D. Carmen:

- i. Asked about the vulnerability assessment involving sea level rise, septic to sewer, and any sustainability grants.
 1. Matt answered with an update of the sea level rise projections that they are being updated with the new vulnerability assessment. There is also a stormwater master plan and septic to sewer study that is being started in public works.
 - a. Multiple grants have been submitted, including Resilient Florida to get funding to continue the Vulnerability Assessment. This will provide updated sea-level rise predictions and critical assets Coral Gables.

E. Teddy:

- i. Green Move Out was held at the University of Miami recently, six Goodwill trailers were on location to avoid the waste that comes with college students moving out of the dorms each year. 40 tons of furniture and other items were donated instead of sent to the landfill.
 1. The students and Teddy worked on a new program. Whatever that was not donated to Goodwill was given to another organization that Teddy advises. They had two large storage containers filled with mini fridges, microwaves, etc. They keep it over the summer and in the fall, they are planning on distributing them to the freshmen coming in and new students attending the University. This will help significantly with waste management and helping the new students who cannot afford new appliances.

F. Composting:

- i. Marlin brought up backyard composting for the residents and would like to start a green wish list for the Board members. She also stated that the average American throws away about 400 pounds of food each year; equaling 1,100 apples.
 1. Nicholas brought up yard waste composting and the City should make mulch out of the yard debris.
 - a. Solanch and Matt explained that the City does not purchase mulch, but instead creates their own with city green waste. The City uses trees from any maintenance services done and the Christmas Tree recycling program.

- b. There is no storage facility for the mulch that the City uses from tree trimming, it is done at the Public Works facility.
 - c. Collecting the yard waste from the residents would be a very large undertaking and would have a big possibility of having non-organic items in the swales. It is a topic that will be discussed in the near future and would need to be done at the County level. The City is having ongoing conversations with the County.
 - ii. Teddy mentioned Compost for Life being a good business partner for the University and this company is composting for Miami Beach as well as other cities. Compost for Life is working so well with the University that they are moving forward with using them in all of their dining halls.
 - 1. Teddy mentioned that the local restaurants should start using businesses such as this one as it may encourage others to start composting their waste.
 - 2. With residents there's a risk of having a lot of contamination in the compost. Training a few staff members in restaurants will minimize the risk of contamination.
 - a. Compost for Life does trainings and workshops to educate people on composting correctly.
 - b. There is a fee for the people who use this company:
 - a. If using a compactor, such as the University, the cost is by pound. If using an open-top composter, the cost is by volume.
 - c. The company sells the compost once it becomes fertilizer to the farmers in the Redlands and they give a few pounds back as a gift to the companies or residents who use their services.
 - iii. Piero asked Teddy why supermarkets are not the target corporations for composting:
 - 1. Teddy responded by saying that the issue is the policy regarding transportation of food waste. For a certain quantity of waste, it is fine but to the level of supermarkets, it exceeds the limit of food waste that would be able to be transported.
 - iv. Matt stated that Miami Beach started their small-scale composting pilot program in their botanical garden, and they opened another location along North Beach.
 - 1. Anything that has to do with a large-scale composting facility would have to be coordinated at the county level with their new Zero Waste Director. Many municipalities would be interested in something like this due to cities not having enough land for a large-scale compost facility.

- v. Solanch talked about KCGB creating compost educational events either later on in the year or in collaboration with the Farmers Market early next year.
 - 1. Matt included bringing back the Miami Dade-UF Extension Office to see if they can do a workshop for backyard residential composting including receiving a voucher to receive a backyard compost bin.

G. Piero:

- i. Piero is leaving the Board and will be putting more time in Biscayne Bay. This is Piero's last meeting.

H. Teddy:

- i. The University of Miami will be hosting two workshops over the summer and Teddy asked if the Garden Club would be willing to add them in their June newsletter as well as KCGB's.

I. Marlin:

- i. Marlin is termed out and this is her last Board meeting. Matt thanked Marlin for her incredible service/leadership to this board over the years.

J. Commercial Beautification Awards:

- i. Solanch presented the Commercial Beautification Awards and explained that the purpose of these awards is to recognize those businesses that have gone above and beyond in the beautification and maintenance of their storefronts and surrounding areas in the City. This is the second year that these awards have been presented. Nominations were open from the beginning of March to the end of April.
- ii. Nomination criteria:
 - 1. Property must be within City of Coral Gables limits.
 - 2. Has not previously awarded an award in the past three years.
 - 3. Does not have any active zoning/code enforcement violations.
 - 4. Utilizes plants, vines, and other landscaping around the property, where possible.
 - 5. No visible litter or trash daily from the pedestrian area, green spaces, and/or parking lanes in front of the business.
 - 6. Pressure cleaned sidewalks* and clean/maintained facades, including storefront windows. *(Pressure cleaning not allowed on Streetscape areas).
 - 7. No damaged sidewalks.
 - 8. Three pictures of property at time of nomination required.
- iii. Judging criteria:
 - 1. Exhibits maintained and beautiful landscaping features, where possible.
 - 2. Enhances the community through clean and maintained façade, including storefront windows.

3. All exterior space is kept litter free (storefronts, alleyways, etc.).
4. Enhances the quality of life for citizens in Coral Gables.
- iv. Voting scale:
 1. One to five.
 2. Five being the most excellent and well kept, while one least meets the proper standards.
- v. The four businesses that were nominated were:
 1. Ella Bella RoZio Bridal Couture at 246 Miracle Mile
 2. Bugatti Bistro 2504 Ponce de Leon
 3. Fiola 1500 San Ignacio Ave
 4. Mint Wellness Center 3113 Ponce de Leon
- vi. The Board believed all the nominees should receive the award.
- vii. The four businesses were selected to receive the Commercial Beautification Awards.

Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives

A. Trolley and Mobility Updates:

- a. Trolley:
 - i. Ridership has been gradually increasing, beginning to mirror similar ridership numbers from before Covid.
 - ii. Ontrack to surpassing one million riders per year.
- b. Freebee:
 - i. The service area will expand to the Coral Gables Country Club on June 8th.
 1. Large-scale expansion is difficult due to wait times possibly increasing exponentially.
 2. Fourteen minutes is the average wait time and Matt is trying to bring down the wait time to ten minutes.
 - ii. Grant has been submitted to change four of the Freebee cars to Tesla's.
 1. The grant was submitted recently, there will be an update in a few months.

B. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates (KCGB):

i. Recent Events

1. My Squad Earth Month Event

- a. On April 26th, the yearly My Squad Earth Month Event was held.
- b. There were 16 participants.
- c. Talked about the different native/invasive plants and animals and did a walking tour to showcase each one at Ruth Bryan Owen Park.

2. Take Your Child to Work Day Presentation

- a. On April 27th, children of the City of Coral Gables employees were at the Youth Center to learn about the different departments in Coral

Gables. Matt, Solanch, and Nicole did a presentation speaking about KCGB and the sustainability department.

- b. There were 28 participants.
- c. Matt spoke about the sustainability initiatives done here in Coral Gables, Solanch spoke to the kids about the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful program, and then played Sustainability Bingo.
- d. The kids who won bingo received a Coral Gables bag and everyone got recyclable pens and pencils at the end of the presentation.

3. Solo Group Monthly Cleanup Events:

- a. CG Women's Club Monthly Group Cleanup – April 29th
 - i. Location: The corner of East Ponce and Santillane Ave.
 - ii. 8 volunteers
 - iii. Collected 55.6 pounds this month.
- b. Riviera Group Cleanup – May 5th
 - i. Location: Kerdyk Park
 - ii. 3 Volunteers
 - iii. Collected 10 pounds of litter for their final cleanup before summer break.

4. Shops at Merrick Park Cleanup Event – May 2nd

- a. The Shops at Merrick Park reached out to KCGB to arrange a cleanup event with their office and KCGB was able to host an event to remove litter from the area surrounding Merrick Park.
- b. 12 volunteers
- c. 61.4 pounds of litter was collected.

5. Reverse Vending Machine Update:

- a. This month's update on the RVM is 1,804 containers have been collected from April 15th to May 15th, equaling 106 pounds.
- b. Total containers collected since November 16th is 7,823 and 430 total participants.

6. Litter Kit Program Launch:

- a. The litter kit program launched a few weeks ago and there were many requests after the e-news article that came out on May 17th, promoting the program.
 - i. The litter kits are for groups who would like to host their own recurring cleanups.
 - ii. The kits consist of a collapsible picker, a safety vest, a pair of reusable gloves, biodegradable trash bags, a handheld weight scale, a large reusable bag for either recyclables or storing full trash bags, and a tin container to collect cigarette butts.
 - iii. These kits are made possible through the Keep America Beautiful grant program.

ii. Upcoming Sustainability Events

1. Great American Cleanup Season – Going until June 21st
2. Stantec Business Plogging and Beautification Event on June 20, 2023
3. Pinewoods Cemetery Invasive Plant Removal & Cleanup on August 4, 2023
4. Downtown Community Cleanup on August 31, 2023

iii. Litter Index:

1. Volunteers are needed to judge the 2023 Litter Index recordings.
 - a. Teddy, Gabi, and Martin volunteered.

Next Meeting – July 26th, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

ADJOURNED: 6:35 pm.

DRAFT