

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-2 and D-3
February 10, 2010
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael “Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Wayne “Chip” Withers**

City Staff

**City Manager, Patrick Salerno
City Attorney, Elizabeth Hernandez
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

**Sallye Jude, Coral Gables Garden Club
Sarah Artecona, Chair, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Mark Trowbridge, President, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce**

D-3 [Start: 9:40:18 a.m.]

Sallye Jude of the Coral Gables Garden Club on greening

Mayor Slesnick: And now we are going to get to our special greening program. Mr. Cabrera, let me give you the courtesy. You were the one who ask that we start this, I will only interject a parliamentary thing that we have asked that the presentations of both the Chamber and the Garden Club come in at about seven minutes, OK.

Commissioner Cabrera: We have a heavy agenda (laughter). I know, I know, I know; Don, I agree with you, I support that, in fact we said that, so I appreciate the fact that you are just reiterating what we all said last time. Well, it's a pleasure to have both a member of our Garden Club, a very prominent member of our community here, Mrs. Sallye Jude, as well as the leadership of our Coral Gables Chamber, which includes our President, Mr. Trowbridge, our current Chairperson Sarah Artecona, and the Chairperson of the Green Committee who has worked very, very diligently these last two years, Annabella Smith. So with that, if I may ask Mrs. Jude to come up and make her presentation first, and then the folks from the Chamber will join you.

Mrs. Jude: The Garden Club had its Board meeting this morning at the same time, so subsequently I am here by myself. I have, in this past year, attended a number of the Chamber

meetings and I think it's really admirable that they are really interested in businesses and community being greener. We have a bicycle plan, I don't know that if it's ever been implemented, but it could be updated and put in place and should really be part of any of our road planning. People living in our downtown community today have an opportunity to leave their cars at home, and be able to be in the community without taking parking spaces, which would be good for the people who are further away. I would like to suggest giving priority status to projects that are seeking LEED certification. Buildings that are green should really be encouraged by us all, and that is something that working with the Building Department I think could be carried out. I've talked to a lot of people in the Garden Club and other places before I came here today, and the recycling program that the County has is \$2.25 per household per month, and it has been very well received in Palmetto Bay and Pinecrest, and I sent all my recycling to Palmetto Bay that the City of Coral Gables doesn't recycle. We could reduce the amount of garbage that we have a great deal, so reduce the cost of garbage collection by just getting on board with a full recycling program. I would like to recommend that we look at all the options and see which one will be most cost effective and complete service for us all.

Mayor Slesnick: What specifically, Sallye, that we don't recycle that you are talking about? because your comment was a little broad, and I would like to say that we have one of the finest recycling programs in the State. However, if there are other materials we should be recycling could you bring those to our attention.

Mrs. Jude: Well, they are recycling glass and really seeing that it gets reused, and the cardboards and the papers that you spoke of earlier. I, like you, have so much junk mail, I guess I have to call it, come in and finding a place to recycle that, really...

Mayor Slesnick: But cardboard and junk mail are two that you hit upon; we recycle glass now, we recycle clear glass; we don't recycle colored glass, right?

Mrs. Jude: The County does it all.

Commissioner Withers: We do colored glass.

Mayor Slesnick: OK well, Dan; Mr. Manager, may I have Mr. Keys address us?- Mr. Manager, is it OK? I just want to make sure before we move on, and by the way I am taking up this time, so I apologize and don't worry, it's not going to be counted against you.

Mr. Keys: We do recycle clear, brown and green glass, newspaper, steel, aluminum, those are our basics...

Mayor Slesnick: Newspaper.

Mr. Keys: And newspaper.

Mayor Slesnick: What about Mrs. Jude's comment about like junk mail?- all that paper that is not newspaper, it's like envelopes and letters...

Mrs. Jude: Or magazines.

Mayor Slesnick: Or magazines, what about that.

Mr. Keys: Those materials we don't recycle.

Mayor Slesnick: OK – so that's something that Mrs. Jude is suggesting that we look into. So we do not recycle cardboard, and we do not recycle junk mail or magazines.

Mr. Keys: Correct – it's a combination of both.

Mayor Slesnick: What other things are there?

Mr. Keys: Cans – We do steel cans and aluminum.

Commissioner Withers: Its cardboard and junk mail that I think we are out of the loop right now.

Mrs. Jude: And magazines.

Commissioner Cabrera: This is a great opportunity, if I may say, to put out some sort of public communication as to what we do recycle, because here we are, some of us, not knowing what we recycle and don't recycle.

Mayor Slesnick: I didn't know we recycled brown glass.

Commissioner Cabrera: I didn't know we didn't recycle cardboard.

Mrs. Jude: You'll see many trash piles along the road with box after box.

Mayor Slesnick: Well I know that this came up in e-mail a couple of years ago, and I know Mr. Keys responded that to take big boxes would have to modify the trucks and that was an expense issue, so that was one thing.

Mr. Keys: Correct.

Commissioner Withers: Plastic?

Mr. Keys: We do plastic.

Mayor Slesnick: We have plastic. OK everybody – for those of you who are watching we do plastic, we do glass all three kinds, clear, brown, and green, or whatever, we do newspapers, and we do tin cans, aluminum cans, that's what we do.

Commissioner Cabrera: This public message brought to you by Don Slesnick.

(Laughter)

Mayor Slesnick: One of the things I would like to point out though, and this came up in other conversations is that a lot of this material is produced in heavy quantities in our downtown area by the offices; in other words offices throw away plastic, and tin cans, and newspapers all the time, but we don't collect downtown, it's a private contract Waste Management, and the people who employ Waste Management have to pay the fees don't pay them the price they want for recycling. So that's an issue.

Mrs. Jude: I don't know whether we check on our apartment houses and businesses or not. I know in my business in Miami I have to use a private company to recycle, but they take all the things we are speaking of.

Mayor Slesnick: I know, but I'm telling you that right now, if you really want to address something, I would say that downtown Coral Gables throws away more recycling material than our homes produce on a weekly basis.

Mrs. Jude: Well that needs to change.

Mayor Slesnick: Well, it's a matter of cost, I've looked into that, and Waste Management charges "X" number of dollars, if you want to do it, and they don't want to do it.

Mrs. Jude: And my little hotel that doesn't make any money does it with Waste Management.

Commissioner Anderson: Waste Management does have a program.

Mrs. Jude: You need to get them to change.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you Dan. Sorry, go ahead.

Mrs. Jude: Education is a major role for citizens employees all of us, and if we can get electric energy reduction, lighting is one of the easiest ones to change effectively and quickly, and water use reduction; permeable paving is something that really could send much less water to our storm sewers and make a big difference. The Building Department needs an ongoing education program. I don't know that – well the City Manager was at our Green Festival this past weekend, and it was our third one, and the most successful one ever. I think we had close to two thousand (2,000) people, not just stroll by, but they were asking questions and really very interested in what all the vendors had to tell them about, and there are lots of wonderful new green products

daily coming on the market. So I think that's an important thing rather than say, we don't know it, we need to know it, and be a part of that; and the city itself should check that it's got the best water and electric use possible. Support clothes lines in residential areas – forty-five years I've had a clothes line at my house, and it works very well.

Mayor Slesnick: We haven't cited you yet?

Mrs. Jude: Pardon me?

Mayor Slesnick: We haven't cited you yet?

Commissioner Anderson: It was probably grandfathered in, probably, or grandmothered.

Mrs. Jude: And if we conduct an urban garden competition - at the Merrick House this year, they are going to put in an urban garden, which could be a demonstration for people to see what raising their own vegetables and crops are, and it's something that it would be a fun thing for the Garden Club and the City to have a competition and see who does it. I think we can increase a sense of neighborhood and community a great deal, and I think the more we are neighborhoods the better we are to each other and how we appreciate our city more. Thank you for giving me an opportunity, I think it was really great that you did that.

Mayor Slesnick: Do you want to talk about the green fair?

Mrs. Jude: The Green Festival? Well as I say it was a very successful event. We haven't had our followup meeting since it was just this past Saturday, but we probably would like to suggest that we do an all day event in the future, and maybe work more closely with the city in some of the planning of that, but I think that it is something that we are doing in this city – I went down to Pinecrest the week before, they had a one day workshop on being green and there was six of us there, but it's something that is going to grow in all communities, but I think we could be really leaders rather than followers in Coral Gables in this State and we might as well. I think we could save money with it too.

Commissioner Anderson: Mrs. Jude – thank you first of all for coming and I think we are going to have a noticed meeting, Commissioner Cabrera and I, on the 24th of February in the morning, and one of the...you talk about community education, I think that's vitally important and there is a program called I think, "Dream in Green", and it needs some seed money, but I think it will start to provide some of the education in the community, actually provide some contests and some coupons; there are a variety of things that can be done. So I hope you'll come to that so we can discuss that, because it's right along the line of what you are talking about here, and I'd love for you to be there as well.

Mrs. Jude: Very good. Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you very much.

Mayor Slesnick: Mrs. Jude since you brought it up, I just would like the citizens to know that the garden at the Merrick House is being sponsored by Slow Food, and Slow Food has also sponsored a garden at Coral Gables Elementary School, so we do have one garden actually in production at the Elementary School.

Mrs. Jude: Well the children were there and they had a small demonstration of what they had done, and to watch them tell the people there about it was priceless, and then a two year old came and he went and smelled everything and the delight on his face when he smelled the herbs, which was just wonderful. So, I mean, it's something that our children are certainly going to benefit from the concerns that we have today, and it's something that we just have to do more of. Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Beautiful. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thank you Mrs. Jude, and please send our regards to the good doctor. Folks from the Chamber please join us, come on down. Good morning to all of you, thanks for joining us.

Ms. Artecona: We do have a presentation.

Commissioner Withers: Congratulations on your Alabama Crimson

Ms. Artecona: The national championship, thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: She is representing University of Miami up here.

Commissioner Withers: Well that's why I said it; let the cat out of the bag here.

Mr. Trowbridge: You all have copies of the presentation.

Ms. Artecona: So I am Sarah Artecona, Chair of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce as well as proud member of the University of Miami team, thank you very much, and born and raised in Coral Gables at Doctors Hospital, thank you. So we wanted to give you a very quick update today, we do know that we are limited on time as you are, and so let me just go through quickly couple of the things I think would be important for you to know about the initiatives that I'm doing this year, just about a minute on that and then we will get into our green initiatives. Some of the things that we have been challenged with this year obviously are the business environment in our community, so a couple of things that we have done with that is, first our Chamber First Program, that's promoting our Chamber to Chamber businesses and just encouraging our Chamber membership to do business with their fellow members. An initiative that I started this year with the University of Miami which is the Topple Community Internship Program, and that is promoting our Topple interns which are no cost to businesses and getting interns into our business community since we know so many of our students wants to stay locally after

graduation. Our Blue Ribbon Panel is a higher level group of business folks in the community that we get together about once a quarter to kind of discuss the temperature in the environment of the business community and see where the hot spots continue to be; and then what we do is take a lot of those topics and then use those in our small business seminars that we hold also every several months. We found that social networking is very popular and how people without a marketing staff or marketing budget are doing those things themselves now to better promote their businesses. Our Miami Herald advertising program, we are the first to initiate a program like this with the Chamber of Commerce, and that is a deeply discounted rate for our Chamber membership to be advertising in the Miami Herald. We continue to work with the B.I.D., and I know Mari is here, on the streetscape program and are hopeful that that is going to move forward not necessarily in my term, but in the future term of the Chamber. Our travel and tourism, as many of you know, we have the “Super Art in the Park” several weekends ago, that was part of the Super Bowl celebration that was very well attended, the city did a terrific job there, we partnered with the Kiwanis of Little Havana, and that was a great event, and lastly we continue to work with other organizations, the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce to kind of work together with those organizations, and will continue to promote our efforts with them as well. So that’s just a brief update of what’s going on during my Chamber year, we are going to turn things over to Mark now to talk about our green efforts and answer any questions that you may have.

Mr. Trowbridge: Thank you very much Sarah, good morning everybody.

Mayor Slesnick: Just before you start.

Mr. Trowbridge: Sure.

Mayor Slesnick: Sarah, I just want you to know that that was a very impressive list of a very aggressive program for the UM, and congratulations to all of you for...I mean, if someone listens to that they would certainly know why Coral Gables is the city it is because of the kinds of work you are doing as well as what the city is trying to do. So thank you.

Mr. Trowbridge: Thank you Mr. Mayor, and I certainly want to commend Sarah, she from the very day that she took her role as Chair was very committed to these initiatives, and for those of you that know her, and know her well, she is going to make sure that these are accomplished during her term. We are going to talk about green because I know that’s why we were invited today, and I want to thank Commissioner Cabrera for the invitation, I also want to acknowledge the fact that he has been a great member of our Board, he is the city’s appointee to our Board, and really thank him for that. As Sarah and I were driving over today, one thing we certainly want to say is, we continue to believe that we enjoy the strongest relationship that we have ever had with the city in terms of the Chamber and our partnership, and that’s a recognition of each of you on the dais, and I certainly want to commend the Manager in his tenure for that relationship as well. We are going to highlight real quick some of our partnerships, that as you know the city is wonderful to us in terms of opportunities to put together things annual like our City Beautiful Awards, which recognize outstanding commercial properties, we do that each year in August;

our Diamond Awards, the city for many years has supported our Diamond in the Rough business, which supports emerging businesses in the community, certainly our annual City Beautiful Magazine, our 5-K tour of the Gables that Baptist Health puts on each year, this year its May 22nd will be our fifteen year of running the race, or as like we like to say, fifteen years and running, thank you very much. Our realtor's showcase that we just did this past week and of course the flags on Ponce program, which of course the Chamber initiated in 1993 and sort of gave away to the city to run and now we jointly do that program, and if you drive down the boulevard you see the flags waving proudly as we speak. But in terms of green, a couple of things that I wanted to inform you of and certainly I wanted to recognize again, Annabella Smith, who several years ago came to us and said, we need to have a green committee within the Chamber, she put together the "Go Green" Taskforce, has been engaged with that as the Chair and Co-Chair of that since that time, and now serves both on our Board and the leadership of our Executive Committee. But specifically I just wanted to talk a little bit about our Eco-Expo; some of you know that we originally planned to have that a couple of weeks ago, unfortunately our guest speaker was diagnosed with a disease, cancer of the liver, so he is undergoing treatment, and has asked us to postpone that until May and so we are looking forward to his improving health certainly Ray Anderson is in our thoughts. We have a monthly "Go Green" breakfast, the group that gets together, Sallye mentioned she has been part of that, they bring speakers in, talk about various topics, we also have the taskforce which Annabella Co-Chairs are very involved in setting together a green agenda and advocacy and things like that, and one of the things which I know they've advocated for, deals directly obviously with things like recycling in the commercial district. At the end of the day they are very active, the Expo is really going to be their largest foray in terms of programs they will do this May, but they've been very involved in the last couple of years in leading those advocacy efforts, and again I want to thank the city for their work, it was established as I mentioned before, in September 2008, and they meet the first Wednesday of the month for anybody that would like to attend, at 8:00 a.m. at the Chamber and bring forth some of those opportunities. So that's where we are on green, and again I want to commend the city in having us not only here today, but in the synergies that exist out there, thank you for your tremendous support, you've been there all along and we look forward to continuing that, and I must say that we have other city folks who sit on other committees like International and things like that, and that's been great support too – Cultural Affairs – I saw Catherine Cathers this morning, we are going to have a travel and tourism meeting here in about two minutes and Jessica Wotherspoon and Cynthia Birdsill support that very heavily. Mr. Manager, thank you for that, Mr. Cabrera thank you for your support on our Board.

Commissioner Cabrera: Mr. Mayor, I am delighted that not only did we get an opportunity to talk about green issues, but we also got an update from the Chairperson. Ms. Anderson just mentioned a few minutes ago that we have a public meeting between the two of us on the 24th of this month; I believe it's at 9:30 a.m.?

Commissioner Anderson: I believe so.

Commissioner Cabrera: Mr. Clerk, 9:30?

City Clerk Foeman: Yes, 9:30.

Commissioner Cabrera: I don't think we defined a venue yet, and I know Ms. Anderson is putting together an agenda and I'm very grateful to her because I think she has lead the way on many of these issues, but what I wanted to take the opportunity of doing is inviting the Chamber and of course the Garden Club to attend as well, because the whole purpose of the discussion that took place last time was to find a way to incorporate you as in integral member of whatever efforts that we launch, and that of course includes the Garden Club, and for that matter anyone else who is watching and may be interested in our efforts to make our city even more green. So with that in mind I'm sure Ms. Anderson would agree that we would love to have both groups there to be part of the meeting and have a discussion. In the meantime what we are doing is Mr. Slesnick was very kind to give me a phenomenal outline that was put together by County Board, was it a County Board Don?

Mayor Slesnick: Yes.

Commissioner Cabrera: A County Board that has really been very progressive in moving the efforts along, and I'll make sure that not only my colleague to my right gets a copy of that, but the rest of the members of the Commission, the Chamber, and the Garden Club, because I think we can really come away with a lot of good information that has already been laid out for us by a very good group of well meaning folks.

Mr. Trowbridge: Terrific.

Commissioner Cabrera: With that in mind does anyone have any other comments?

Commissioner Withers: I just have one. It seems there was a breakdown in communications at the last juncture, I don't know what happened, we saw the e-mails going back and forth, I guess my point is, who do you feel as a Chamber that you have to send this information to?- do you feel you have to send it through the Commission?- can you send it direct to the City Manager's office? What do you feel is your communication effort?

Mr. Trowbridge: I'm not sure that has been fully defined, obviously we have open communication with both. So I think we tend to over-inform, if that is a fair term. Ultimately, if we can identify somebody that would like to be a part of that committee ongoing like we have in International, we have in Travel and Tourism, that would be great; they would get regular meeting notices like all of the other members and participants; our goal here is not to throw any wrenches in a system that's working, but to make sure that everybody's at the table that could be an asset to the process.

Commissioner Withers: Would it be our Economic Development Board? I'm just thinking of a way to try to tie the two groups together so we don't have the drill we had the last time.

Mr. Trowbridge: Sure – we have an ex-officio, John O'Rourke, who is our Chair Elect, who actually sits on the Economic Development Board, so there are open lines of communications there as well, so.

Commissioner Withers: Because I know the last time you all were kind of accused of not coming forward and telling us about this event, we on the other hand said well, you know, we formally don't have a way to receive that communication.

Mr. Trowbridge: Well our goal would be to always be in a position of being overly communicative, and making sure you know what's happening. So if there is any error on our part certainly we regret that.

Commissioner Withers: Well I mean, moving forward you should we have them...I don't that I want to overburden the City Manager's office, but is there a...

Mr. Trowbridge: Sure – we'll be glad to follow up, we could do it directly with somebody on the Economic Development Board, I could certainly speak with the Manager, I could talk through our Board liaison, or Cynthia Birdsill, the Director of the Department.

Commissioner Withers: I don't know, that's why I'm asking.

Mr. Trowbridge: Well we'll resolve that in the next day or two. I'll make a commitment to do that. On our end we are certainly relying upon the city in a lot of cases, and we'll follow that model that has worked so well in the other partnerships; and again I just want to say thank you to each of you who are sitting up here today, that we couldn't be the Chamber we are without the great support that we get from each and every one of you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you very much.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Kerdyk.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Just one quick question, not really a question, a comment. I know the Chamber is very, very involved in trying to get the permitting process in the City of Coral Gables expedited, and one of the things that we talked about and heard it gently mentioned here was the fact that we would try to expedite the permitting for greening projects, and I am a firm believer that's a good thing to do; Dade County is doing it, City of Miami is doing it, and the City of Coral Gables also needs to be one of those that takes part in that initiative. So from my standpoint that's one of my hot buttons that I want to try to see...

Commissioner Anderson: That's actually on the list.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I know, I heard it mentioned on the list.

Commissioner Anderson: You get your wish.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Thank you. That's it.

Mr. Trowbridge: Great. Thank you very much.

Mayor Slesnick: One suggestion I might throw out is that the Chamber is in a position, I would think, more than the City to approach Waste Management about trying to negotiate some kind of project, could be a pilot project for downtown where Waste Management agrees on some kind of fee structure for starting to determine whether to work or not a recycling program for downtown, which would be a fee structure which would encourage people to take part, and maybe through the Chamber that might be a good, I don't think it's our position to lean on Waste Management to do that.

Mr. Trowbridge: Well they participate in the Green Committee and they've been certainly very active in the Chamber, they are great partners and strong Trustee members. We'll certainly talk with Jason Neal and his folks, and be glad to provide that lean, Mr. Mayor.

Commissioner Cabrera: You know what? I think we should invite them also to our meeting, are you OK with that?

Commissioner Anderson: Absolutely, he's very cooperative and tries to be helpful all the time.

Commissioner Cabrera: Mr. Clerk maybe you can help us with the list of invites just to remind the folks on the Chamber, we'll send an invitation to...

Mayor Slesnick: How about if I give you the people who attended my Green Roundtable?

Commissioner Cabrera: That would be great; the more cooks the better the broth.

Ms. Artecona: Can I just make one point though Mr. Mayor, that I would want to make sure though that I think that's a great point to Commissioner Withers issue is that, we are happy to take a pilot project like that, but we don't want to be running away with it. So it is important that we have a contact at the city that knows what we are doing, and that knows what the success is and failures were with that project.

Mayor Slesnick: OK, that type of thing you really would coordinate through the City Manager's office and Mr. Keys, because it was the City Manager's office and Mr. Keys that oversee, I presume, the execution of the franchise, I don't know what we call it, is it a franchise?- what is it?- it's like a franchise

Ms. Artecona: It's an agreement.

Mayor Slesnick: They work under the auspices of the city, but they charge under the auspices...

Commissioner Withers: But see Don, this is kind of my point is, we have a rewrite of our Zoning Code to maybe give allowances to developers to promote LEED certification, that would be a Planning and Zoning Department issue, then we have the actual working with our third party providers Waste Management, that's a different group, then we have communication to the residents, which is another group. I really don't see these two groups moving forward unless there is kind of a bottleneck or someone that's going to hand this stuff off or they are going to be...just like what happened last meeting when you met with Liz and Ralph and they thought someone else was involved obviously, and we didn't move forward on it. So I mean....

Mayor Slesnick: Can we ask that...

Commissioner Withers: Do you hear what I'm saying?

Mayor Slesnick: I agree with you, but can we ask that that be one of the subject matters that Ralph and Maria take up in their meeting and come back with a recommendation.

Commissioner Withers: Yeah, because we need a central focus or they are going to be shooting blanks against the wall – No, I'm just saying – they have a great idea, but if they don't have a champion of that great idea it's not going anywhere.

Commissioner Anderson: I'm kind of lost on what...I thought this was something a little separate, but we'll figure it out if somebody would inform me, because I thought it was separate from the green.

Mayor Slesnick: I guess in the back of my mind is the City Manager's office is the place to...

Mr. Trowbridge: We'll help....we're pretty good at...

Commissioner Anderson: If I could understand it that would be good.

Commissioner Withers: I know you are Mark.

Commissioner Anderson: Chip, could you help me understand it, because we are going to be forming hopefully some type of green initiative with the city. Now what are you speaking about?- because if we are going to be talking about it on the 24th, I want to be clear.

Commissioner Withers: Yes, what I'm saying is if obviously, we want to promote green building...

Commissioner Anderson: Right – absolutely.

Commissioner Withers: OK – in order to promote green building developers, you know, some developers are going to do it out of the goodness of their heart...

Commissioner Anderson: Have incentives.

Commissioner Withers:...but they are going to do it out of the goodness of their pocket most of the time. So the city needs to get involved and saying just like we do with the Mediterranean ordinance, you know what, we'll give you a little more "X" on your development if you do this, this, and this, that's a whole different initiative that takes technical specifications, that takes writing into our Zoning Code, that takes Eric, that takes the whole...They are not going to have Eric's ear to walk into his office one day and say let's write a new initiative on green.

Commissioner Anderson: Right.

Commissioner Withers: Now on the other side of the coin working with Waste Management, that's Public Works, that's a whole different part of the city. So, are we going to say to the Chamber, you have free reign to go to Eric on this side, and Public Works on this side, and Cultural Affairs...you know.

Commissioner Anderson: I hear you. I think it has to be a united effort.

Commissioner Withers: It does. So who at the city is going to be the catch-all funnel and then redirect that? - or these initiatives on the city side I just don't think are going to gain a lot of traction, I just don't think they will, unless we mandate it or the City Manager mandates it, or someone says rewrite this ordinance, it ain't going to happen.

Commissioner Anderson: Right – it won't happen.

Commissioner Withers: So we need someone to be the gatekeeper.

Commissioner Anderson: Right – I think it's a combined effort.

Commissioner Withers: I'm hoping that Ralph and Maria will get with Pat and decide the best way to handle it, if we are serious about moving it forward.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, I am, for sure. Thank you for clarifying because a lot of the stuff that you are talking about is on the list that I had originally compiled back in July, a lot of the incentives, but you are right, now bringing it out into the specific departments, their responsibilities in order...if we decide that's important to make it happen.

Commissioner Withers: Maria, it's almost like the historic preservation effort; the model for historic preservation. You know, we have incentives for tax relief, we have incentives, you know all across....each one of them touches a different discipline within the city; the review of the design, so I just think we need to...

Commissioner Anderson: Absolutely – totally on board.

Ms. Artecona: If I may, can I ask? You know I'm with you on all this, and usually I just want to give ideas on how other people do it, and it comes even within organizational initiatives. You have to have definitely a member of each department representing that department, and I think that's going to help you go back to the staff or the members of that department to come up with ideas. Second of all, you have USGBC which is the leader in design when it comes to construction, so I think that instead of thinking of different incentives for different initiatives, just if you follow what every city does, if you follow the guidelines of USGBC and architects come to you with a certification or telling you that the building is registered under USGBC, you don't have to come up with different incentives. So just following that you just focus on that particular project.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, not reinventing the wheel.

Ms. Artecona: So I think it's easier than what you think, but I totally agree with you, I think that to solve that problem at those meetings you have to have a representative of each single department.

Commissioner Withers: Well, I agree, but I mean, let's say we want to reduce carbon emissions by reducing the number of automobile trips into our downtown, so we take the initiative of reducing the number of parking spaces to discourage people from driving their car. I mean, that's forward thinking, but that takes a lot of time to run through the city and study and decide as opposed to just...

Ms. Artecona: Yes, you have to start little by little and that's what it is, and you know you can go a huge master plan, but set goals and that's how everybody is doing it, even ourselves in the Chamber.

Commissioner Anderson: And set reasonable goals because all of these have, not only takes staff time, but also cost and effort because green is more expensive.

Ms. Artecona: Yes exactly, and when people get excited within the city, you know, they start coming and even the residents are going to be the ones following the leader.

Commissioner Anderson: Sure – absolutely – that's great. Would you bring that to the meeting if you come?

Ms. Artecona: Sure, I will.

Commissioner Cabrera: One very last comment. I just realize that day we are having the meeting is also a Board meeting with the Chamber, and our meeting starts at what time?

Commissioner Anderson: 9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Cabrera: 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Trowbridge: And ours in 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, so I'll be running out over to yours as soon as it's over.

Mr. Trowbridge: We'll be at the Westin.

Commissioner Cabrera: Good, I can walk over.

Mr. Trowbridge: And just one point of personal privilege Mr. Mayor, is that we are very excited about the group visiting from Pisa. As you know the Chamber visited with Mr. Pacini who is also the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Pisa when we were there on an economic mission with the Beacon Council back in 2008. So we'll be out supporting some of the events over the next few days. So congratulations to the city for hosting our Sister province.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you very much; and one last word from me about green, and I'm sorry that Sallye left, and I'm shocked that she didn't list it in her paper here, but one of the most green things that can be done in this city as a leader and that's historic preservation, because for every older building that we save and reutilize the carbon imprint that we are not forcing upon our environment by tearing down and rebuilding is incredible; for every LEED building that replaces a torn down historic building, it will take 25 years to make up for what we caused in damage to the environment, by the tear down and by the rebuilding.

Mr. Trowbridge: Sure.

Mayor Slesnick: So our preservation program I think should be listed as part of that, Ralph and Maria, as part of our green effort. Some people don't think of it that way, and I know Sallye preaches that all the time for the National Trust, but she didn't today.

Mr. Trowbridge: But she was very excited about the clothesline. I will just say that our building is 52 years of age, relatively young in terms of the city, but we are going through the LEED EBC, Existing Building Certification. So absolutely, we want to be a role model for our businesses that would do that as well. Thank you.

Mayor Slesnick: Great. Thank you all.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you all very much, looking forward to seeing you.

Mayor Slesnick: Ralph, Maria, thank you – appreciate it.

[End: 10:16:50 a.m.]