

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
 CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 HAVIGHORST LOUNGE
 3010 DESOTO BLVD.
 CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015 @ 5:00 P.M.

- SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	D <small>14</small>	J <small>16</small>	F <small>16</small>	M <small>15</small>	A <small>15</small>	M <small>15</small>	J <small>15</small>	J <small>15</small>	A <small>15</small>	S <small>15</small>	O <small>15</small>	N <small>15</small>	APPOINTED BY:
Ramesh Airan								P	P	P		P	Mayor Cason
Sharon Trbovich								-	A	P		P	Vice Mayor Quesada
Meg Daly								A	P	P		E	Commissioner Lago
Roy Wasson								P	P	P		P	Commissioner Slesnick
Marlin Ebbert								P	P	P		P	Commissioner Keon
Enrique Bernal								A	P	P		P	City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
Irela Bague								-		P		P	City Commission-As-A-Whole

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

STAFF:

Matthew Anderson, Sustainability Advisory Board Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER:

Sustainability Advisor Board Staff Liaison, Matthew Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

GUEST:

- Rhonda Anderson, Resident
- Commissioner Lago
- Bill Miner, C. G. Building Director

MOTIONS:

September 23, 2015 meeting minutes - Marlin made a correction to Sallye Jude’s name; it should have an e at the end of Sallye. Sharon made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of Sallye’s name, Enrique seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sharon made a motion to have Roy write a proposed ordinance supporting a resolution to the commission to adopt the following items: Solar Panels, Metal Roofs, Electric Vehicles, Ygrene Pace Financing, Disposable Plastic Bags and Leed Certification in New Construction, Marlin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sharon made a motion to move the November meeting to the 18th and the December meeting to the 16th, Marlin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Roy asked the board if they are okay with the topics assigned to them.

Sharon reported mentioned that she does not want to upset the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board but she would love to work with trees. Ray is not suggesting stepping on any ones toes but is requesting from each member what they would like to work on.

Irelas assignment was to collaborate with the chambers of commerce, she is yet to meet with their green committee but is working on setting up a meet and greet. Matt has attended three of their meetings and they are heading in the same direction as the Sustainability Advisory board and therefore he will continue to keeping them updated.

Irela mentioned that all the chambers had a conference call with the Editorial Board of The Miami Herald with regards to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise with regards to a federal legislation that is moving along to get by partisan legislation to get folks and congress excepting the fact there should be a national conversation about climate change.

Irelas other assignment was to be a liaison to FPL; Charles Knight is the person replacing Ramon and is now the Cities representative. Irela suggested inviting Mr. Knight to a board meeting and discuss green issues, especially solar.

Matt said the City met with FPL's interim and discussed issues like street lights and some solar and will be meeting with Charles once he is settled in as well as their street light division.

Commissioner Lago said one of his main focuses once he was elected was trying to meet with FPL. He met with them and told them he wants to change all of the street lights in Coral Gables, the city is in negotiations for the expansion hardening of the existing infrastructure they have on US1 which is a requirement as per FPL's supposed new addition power plant in 20 years. The City got control of the 4,000 lights throughout the city by bargaining their way through FPL's agreement. FPL told Commissioner Lago they were not in any position to provide the City with an upgrade of existing lights to LED. Commissioner Lago left the meeting not accepting that FPL would not upgrade the existing lights and was determined to find out how the other municipalities were able to do it. He met with national and international companies like Thunder Electric who has control of 12,000 lights in the country; he also met with a company based out of NY that has 400,000 lights throughout the world that they control. Currently the situation with FPL is not good, at the last commission meeting it was mentioned that street lights throughout the city that have been out for days, weeks and months. When Commissioner Lago met with FPL

and told them the city is going to move the P3 box, suddenly they produced an LED plan but said the city will have to go through them. Commissioner Lago asked if the City moves forward with their LED plan and upgrade all the existing systems to LED, 40 to 60% of the lights would be saved. Their response was that the City would be paying the same amount. Commissioner Lago's priority in 2016 is to have an RFQ, have 4 or 5 vendors to take over all 4,000 lights, upgrade them at no cost to the City and have a cost sharing mechanism.

Matt said Jessica is heading the RFQ process and staff is currently meeting with the consultant to put together the information to be provided to the commission.

Commissioner Lago hand delivered the City of Miami's RFQ to our City Manager and said this is a 2016 priority.

Items from resolution to ordinance - Commissioner Lago said there is a 5-0 support from the commission on the following items that have gone from a resolution to an ordinance. At the last commission it was said that in both public and private sector, no more use of **Polystyrene**. Commissioner Lago will be meeting with the City Attorney in reference to a similar resolution that will move to an ordinance for **Plastic Bags**. Also a resolution that will move to an ordinance at the next commission meeting is, all *projects under construction 20,000 square feet or larger have to be LEED* or equivalent. The first six months of this process will be education, the next six months will be warnings and then fines will be issued. Commissioner Lago asked that the Sustainability Advisory Board come up with some ideas to educate the public and accomplishing the goals for a green Coral Gables. Commissioner Lago is the representative for **Y grene** for the City of Coral Gables and Coral Gables was the only city that did not have residential included, so after the fact it will be commercial and residential. Commissioner Lago mentioned that Coral Gables is the first city in South Florida that has the Go Solar Florida software that will eliminate the permitting process as well as the process of getting an engineer or architect to do the design to get a survey, in order to get solar panels.

Enrique mentioned he has two conflicting issues; one is that he's been working with FPL on energy conservation in his building. He was told that if he wanted to put up solar panels in his building the regulations are that they have to be 3/4 of a foot below the level of the roof. He also went to the Go Solar Fest and a representative said that by law the City of Coral Gables does not have the right to deny any energy producing installation. His question is how can the City of Coral Gables insist that they have to approve solar installation as well as denying them in some areas. Commissioner Lago has said that he personally has never had one person call him to tell him they haven't had their solar panels approve.

The City has purchased 7 of their first ever *Electric Vehicles* and currently working on *Metal Roofs* which has commission support, under certain circumstances.

Rhonda asked if the City is considering expanding the idea of putting a canopy over the drive ways. Commissioner Lago would like to look into it and see how it would work.

Irela reported that MDWS - is in the process of producing an RFQ to get vendors similar to the LED situation to come in and provide smart metering to move from quarterly to monthly billing.

Ray asked someone from the board to volunteer in writing the ordinance for the commission. Roy volunteered.

Commissioner Lago asked the board to vote on asking the commission to move forward with *metal roofs, plastic bags* and any other issues the board deems necessary for a greener Coral Gables that the commission needs to approve.

Sharon suggested having a program every Saturday morning as the Farmers Market does and providing information to the public on everything green in Coral Gables. Matt said he spoke with Norma Gavarrette from Parks and Rec. who provided a scheduled program for the city. Matt will find out if the Sustainability Advisory Board can get on board and be added to the calendar.

Roy reported on Electric Vehicles, he said there are signs in the garage across from Books & Books for energy efficient vehicles yet there are SUV's parked there. Roy suggested making the signs limited to electric or hybrid vehicles only. Enrique mentioned that a person in his building bought a Tesla and requested an electric charger, \$4,000.00 was spent on legal fees and the attorney said the only way for it to be done was to have a special amendment to the deed of the property that stated, any damage or cause was associated with the association and that it was a lien on the deed, so the person said forget it. Enrique said the concern is that the parking garage in his building is an in-closed parking garage, the two companies in California proposed to them signing a contract, they will tap into the association electricity they will sub meter, they will refund the association on a monthly basis and they offer to give a 1 million dollar liability policy with one of the beneficiary's to cover any risks. Enrique will meet with his board and suggest changing the rules and regulations advising the residents that they will need to fill out a form. Roy will assist Enrique on the procedures to get an electric charger installed in his building.

Ray said that what the Sustainability Advisory Board is trying to do is create awareness. He suggest that at the Farmers Market weekend events, pending Parks & Rec. approval, Roy can have an electric car dealer exhibit and give a test drive, have a charger available and provide information to the people. Matt will be in contact with Parks and Rec for approval.

The board agreed to have a special meeting next Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 5 pm to discuss the items on the proposed resolution that will be presented to the commissioners at the next commission meeting.

Enrique reported that he went to the Go Solar conference and has gone to LED conversions; he said he has not figured out what he can contribute to the board. Roy suggested he research what are the things that are available on solar panels currently and what can be added to make it more sustainable in the future, for guidance to people who are not aware of it.

Marlin asked what is the status on *electric recycling*. Matt said it is still in the procurement process. Matt said the *prescription drug recycling* will be available soon, the bins have been ordered the process is putting them in place. The drop off location will be at the Public Safety Building. Coral Gables is the only city in South Florida that is offering this service; therefore it may not be just the Coral Gables residents but outside people as well. Roy asked Matt to contact Norma and set up a space for the electric recycling vendor every Saturday morning during the Farmers Market events.

Ray mentioned that there are two commissioners he believes are still on the defense with reference to the metal roofs, he will meet with them with additional data other than today's, to alleviate the concerns and instead of a majority vote to have a 5-0 vote, that's his effort. Ray attended the Go Solar Florida and found out that a friend of his is installing solar panels on a metal roof. Roy is looking forward to going to the house his and view the process.

Bill reiterated on what **Commissioner Lago** said, he said there a lot of forces that are trying to go against what the board is trying to do, because there is no survival component. He suggest to think beyond saving money in the electric bills and look more towards a social angle on what is being done. Bill said the 5 items the board is presenting to the commissioners, the city is pretty far along on them but they are not a law until they are a law. The issue of requiring the sustainability design standard for all buildings in Coral Gables, very important directives the devils in the details. There is a delicate balance between sustainability and economic development for the city. Bill has a draft copy of the requirements on LEED buildings that he will leave with the board so they can make recommendations. Bill said a possible project for residents is to do home audits weather it's solar, wind or geothermal. The City Manager wants a brochure developed for homeowners on what are the steps on solar installation. Irela suggested Bill take a look at the counties sustainability office green print, they have everything you need for homes and businesses. Bill said the City is close to getting to a point of value to put in an application and trying to get certified and join the other 25 cities that are already there. Matt said the community aspect of the City Master Plan is focused on star community, which is a long and strenuous process but will tie into all the items discussed.

Matt said there is a community workshop scheduled for November 9th and urged all members to make a priority to be there, it's at the Coral Gables Museum from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. There is also an underline meeting at the same date and time at the Youth Center the Mayor will be at this meeting. Matt said the goal of the meeting is that the consulting company and Matt will be presenting the findings to the community and get feedback as too what are the priorities not just in sustainability but also health and safety. It is looked at as the whole community not just environmental; there are a lot of different aspects to it. Notice will go out on the Miami Herald on Sunday. Irela said the consultants should have sent out notice in ample time and not a week before the meeting.

Matt met with the Dean of Engineering at the University of Miami they said they are willing to help out on anything that the Sustainability Advisory Board wants, they want to be very active with sustainability. Matt will continue to share partnership with the University of Miami.

Coral Gables Sustainability Advisory Board

October 20, 2015

Continued

Rhonda suggested adding to recycling, businesses must recycle; garbage trucks as they are replaced use cleaner fuels and preserve more trees on building exits.

Adjourned