

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

COMMISSION CHAMBERS MEETING (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG MINUTES

MEMBERS	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	
Nicholas Eterovic	P	E	E	P	E	*	P	P	E	*	P		Mayor Lago
Carmen Olazabal	P	P	E	P	P	*	P	E	P	*	P		Commissioner Fors
Jasper Brock	P	E	E	E	E	*	E	E	E	*	P		Commissioner Menendez
Greg Hamra	P	P	P	E	E	*	E	E	P	*	E		Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	P		Commissioner Anderson
Martin Pinilla	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	E	*	P		City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel	*		*	*	P	*	P	P	P	*	P		City Commission-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	P		U.M. Representative
Monique Selman	P	P	P	P	E	*	P	E	E	*	E		C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Piero Gardinali	P	P	P	E	P	*	P	P	P	*	P		F.I.U. Representative

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

STAFF:

Matt Anderson, City Resiliency and Sustainability Manager
 Solanch Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairperson, Marlin Ebbert called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

GUESTS:

Sally Jude, Resident
 Gabby, Coral Gables Senior High School Student

MOTIONS:

***January 26, 2022, Meeting Minutes* – Jasper made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Jasper made a motion to excuse Greg, Joe, Monique. Piero seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Carmen made a motion that the Youth Appointment to the Sustainability Board eligibility be a freshman, sophomore or junior in high school in Coral Gables and either studies or is a resident in Coral Gables. That the qualifications require a letter of recommendation from a teacher or mentor, preferable one that has sustainability experience and is a member of the school or community organization dealing with some aspect of sustainability, Teddy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (8): Teddy, Nick, Marlin, Martin, Carmen, Jasper, Joe

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sally stated that she is the real reason this Board started. Many years ago, she went to the City Commission and asked that they start a Green Committee (Board's previous name: Green Task Force) and she is happy to hear that it is going so well. Sally mentioned concerns with methane and that the State of Florida has not done much about it. There are national organizations that have taken on this concern and so far they've worked with (11) states which have created methane relieve programs. She added, currently they are working with Pennsylvania who is the deadliest methane state due to the coal, gas, and oil problems they have. This is certainly a step in the right direction, but it is a statewide issue and therefore she is reaching out to environmentally inclined organizations to go through the effort and get them to work with Florida next. Sally also mentioned an article where it states how they have succeeded and how effective this has been. Sally will gather more information and share it with the Board.

Gabby has seen all the wonderful projects the Sustainability Advisory Board has done for the City of Coral Gables and that the Environmental Club, Gables Earth with a population of (80) students would love to collaborate with the Board on any upcoming projects. Teddy mentioned to Gabby that on March 4th and 5th UM will be hosting the hackathon for the Florida Food Waste Prevention Program and it is open to any high school students. The program consists of people thinking outside the box ideas on how to solve food waste problem, which is a problem in this country and around the world. For those who are interested go to mdc.edu/sustainability to register.

Amber asked if there are any programs or initiatives related to electric vehicle chargers. Matt said as far as incentives go, the City has placed over (36) charging points in City public spaces. However, from a private perspective at your house, you would need to check with the utility company.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Jasper – wanted to go on record to mention that he would like his task for the board to be about septic tanks and sewers. He has met with the Nature Conservancy, which he supports separately and works closely with. Matt said there have been discussions at the City Commission which countywide, they are looking at the impact of septic tanks on water quality and the impacts on sea level rise that could have on septic tanks. The discussions have been on exploring funding opportunities that exist, potentially for conversions to sewers. The City estimates there are around 7,000 properties on septic tanks throughout the City.

Carmen – would like to see plans that shows the areas that have septic and sewers, as well as plans for infrastructure where you can see areas that flood or where the pump stations are. She requested for Public Works to give a presentation on how they currently see the septic tank and sewer problem and how they think this may be resolved.

Martin – commented that on his way to the meeting today, there was a representative doing a survey, sponsored by FPL about offering people solar panels in their homes. The representative said if you qualify, FPL will help you install them. Carmen asked Matt for an update on the net metering bill being discussed at the State level. Matt will follow-up with the Board on where the bill currently stands.

Nick - asked if Coral Gables has an incentive for having electric vehicles. Matt said the incentive since 2016 and when the first public EV charging stations were installed, the City's parking garages and surface parking lots, the City has not started charging for usage. However, the stations at the City Hall Parking Lot do charge for usage and are managed by EVGo. The City will eventually have to start charging for usage, as the demand continues to increase.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

Youth Appointment to the Sustainability Board – Matt said the comments made at the last meeting where all captured in the January meeting minutes.

Eligibility

- A freshman, sophomore or junior in a high school in Coral Gables;
- Studies or resides in Coral Gables.

Qualifications

- Requires a letter of recommendation from teacher or mentor, preferable with one with sustainability experience;
- Is a member of a school or community organization dealing with some aspects of sustainability.

Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives & Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates

New 22-gallon Recycling Bins

Delivery of new bins started on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, for the Monday routes, February 23, 2022 for the Tuesday route, March 2, 2022 for the Thursday route and March 9, 2022 for the Friday route. The new bins have a QR Code and a link to the City's recycling webpage to help educate residents on proper recycling.

Update on LEED for Cities Certification

Matt provided a quick update that the City has submitted for initial review for LEED for Cities Certification. The City is going for Gold Certification. Matt is expecting to hear back from the review committee in early April. Matt will keep the Board updated on progress.

City Commission Meeting Agenda Items

LEED Silver Certification for Police and Fire Headquarters and Trolley Maintenance Facility

At the February 15th Commission meeting, Matt presented the City with two plaques congratulating the City on achieving LEED Silver certification for both, the new Police and Fire Headquarters (Public Safety Building) and the Trolley Maintenance Facility. Both were certified by the US Green Building Council for achieving LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification under LEED V4 Building Design and Construction: New Construction and Major Renovations.

The Police and Fire Headquarters is five stories and approximately 189,000 square feet. It serves not only as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the City of Coral Gables but also as a divisional EOC which houses the cities of South Miami, West Miami, Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay and Sweetwater as well as the University of Miami during regional emergencies such as hurricanes. In case of an emergency, it can operate for two weeks on generator power. The Police and Fire Headquarters achieved 50 points through LEED. Some sustainability highlights include LED lighting, low flow faucets/fixtures, building level energy/water metering, heat island reduction, off-site renewable energy production/green power and carbon offsets, enhanced commissioning, construction and demolition waste management, indoor air quality management plan, etc.

The Trolley Maintenance Facility, which is over 12,500 square feet, achieved 54 points. Some sustainability highlights include all LED lighting, low flow faucets/fixtures, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, bicycle parking, building level water and energy metering, etc.

FIU Floating Wetlands Project

The City was approached by FIU and a graduate student about doing a pilot project involving the placement of two floating wetlands in the Coral Gables Waterway (near 57th Avenue and Taragona Drive near City-owned space and adjacent to the Blue Road Open Space). The two floating wetlands shall include signage and lighting, as required by the City. The floating treatment wetlands will be placed in water at least two feet in depth. The project will last 12-14 weeks. Matt

Sustainability Advisory Board
February 23, 2022

will keep the Board updated on its progress. It is a great potential nature-based solution to studying and improving water quality.

Application to Florida Beverage Association

Through the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program, the City has applied for a \$25,000 grant to the Florida Beverage Association for a reverse vending machine to be located at the Youth Center. The program would allow for participants to place/recycle plastic bottles into the vending machine and track their progress and receive rewards to local businesses. Solanch and Matt will keep the Board updated on the status of the grant.

Upcoming Events

- ***Downtown Community Cleanup- Monday, February, 28th at 5 p.m.***
- ***Earth Month Film, The Biggest Little Farm, at the Coral Gables Cinema- April 5th at 7pm.***

Next Meeting – March 23, 2022.

ADJOURNED: 6:10 pm.