

CORAL GABLES GREEN TASK FORCE  
PUBLIC WORKS – CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012, 9:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	
Anabella Smith	P	P	*	E	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	P	C. G. Chamber of Commerce
Brook Dannemiller	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	City Commission
Bruce Christensen	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	City Commission
Carlos Ruiz de Quevedo	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	City Commission
Ian McKeown	E	P	*	E	P	E	A	P	*	*	*	P	University of Miami
Oscar Hevia			*					P	*	*	*	P	City Manager
Jenny A. May	E	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	City Commission
Miroslav Mladenovic	P	E	*	E	E	P	E	P	*	*	*	P	City Commission
Nati Soto	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	City Commission
Sallye Jude	A	P	*	P	A	A	E	P	*	*	*	P	City Commission
Sharon Trbovich	P	P	*	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	P	Garden Club

A – Absent  
P – Present  
E – Excused  
(\*\*) New Board Member  
(\* ) no meeting

**STAFF:**

Ernesto R. Pino, Interim Public Works Director  
Kenneth Ingersoll, Public Works

**GUEST:**

Patrick Salerno, City Manager

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Chairman, Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**ROLL CALL:**

The Chairman, Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo proceeded with the roll call.

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:**

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Ms. May to update the committee on several issues:

Ms. May reported she was able to get information that Y-Greene is going to be in the process of certifying contractors for the commercial side of PACE. She further stated that in regards to Gables EarthFest, the committee needs to decide if it will continue with a yearly event. She said that Sustainatopia has reached out to once again partner, and stated that since the event made money it may be worthwhile.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked that Sustainatopia be invited to the next meeting so that the process of gathering the vendors can be discussed since committee members will most likely not be able to assist. He further stated that the purpose of the event was to get the green initiatives out in the public but that the job of the Green Task Force shouldn't be event coordinating.

Ms. May said the Coral Gables Museum offered to be the host venue for the 2013 EarthFest. She said the plaza and the inside space is being offered at no charge. She also said that the event should be held on a Saturday and not Sunday.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

- **Special Guests- Patrick Salerno, City Manager**

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo stated that the committee would like some input from the City on how they can best support the City with recommendations for Green initiatives. He said an example of this is the recommendation made to change lighting in the City to LED lighting to save money and retrofitting City buildings to see what costs can be saved to the City.

Ms. May provided the City Manager with a list of recommendations the Task Force has made to the City over the past year. She further mentioned that all task force members have backgrounds in Green industries.

Mr. Salerno stated the structure of having members with a background in the industry was part of the plan he supported. He understands that the members are more than just concerned citizens.

Ms. May pointed out that FPL was planning to do a feasibility study that had a December 2012 deadline for a corridor for electric vehicles and charging stations along with a public outreach. She said the money is already available and they just need participation from the fleet manager.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that there were several time sensitive projects that needed to be moved on such as the possibility of having a natural gas filling station at the 72<sup>nd</sup> avenue facility, since there is a high pressure gas line right on 72<sup>nd</sup> avenue. He stated that URS Corporation is doing a study for implementation and feasibility from potential stakeholders such as Miami-Dade County that would be interested in sharing in this project.

Ms. May said that URS Corporation had a piggy back grant available with Collier County for this project.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said another initiative the Green Task Force wanted to have considered was the replacement of current vehicles to electric or fuel efficient vehicles along with other grant opportunities that have a very low cost to the City.

Mr. Salerno stated that with regards to the bike sharing program; City staff has been engaged in discussions with Deco Bike about bringing the bike sharing program to the City. He said the goal has always been to be part of a system so that Coral Gables is not a stand alone City with a program that doesn't allow sharing with other municipalities such as the City of Miami. He further stated that discussions have been ongoing with regard to 10-12 sites that have been identified for the bike share program and that it's moving forward. Mr. Salerno also said that beyond this initiative, the City has limited staff and is stretched too thin. He said the City doesn't have the in-house capabilities or expertise to take on the implementation of all of the initiatives on the list. He also said that the City needs a 5-year sustainability plan and hire a firm to come up with a suitable plan.

Ms. May asked how the Green Task Force could help get a grant to hire a Sustainability Director.

Mr. Salerno stated that whether the City gets a grant or not, the need exists for a plan. He went on to say that the Green Task Force could help by identifying grant opportunities but that, in addition, the City needs to fund getting a plan done as well. He said the plan needs to be comprehensive enough to cover all areas of sustainability such as building efficiency and fleet. He said the Green Task Force could start by helping to identify firms with expertise in all of these areas that would be best suited to do a short, mid and long range plan.

Mr. Mladenovic said that perhaps the Green Task Force felt that the recommendations made have not been implemented because they are not part of the 5-year plan, and therefore this plan needs to be done before any ideas or recommendations are implemented. He suggested for the Task Force to refocus their efforts on gathering grant opportunities to fund the plan.

Mr. Salerno said the Task Force will be an integral part of developing the plan. He said that the stakes and the costs are high and, as such, it is important the City has a plan to move forward and shape the direction that it will move in with regards to sustainability.

Ms. Soto stated as a citizen of Coral Gables she would rather the City take a look at other sustainability plans that have been done by other municipalities and try to mold these to what the

needs of Coral Gables is rather than spending large amounts of money on consulting just to wait 2 years for a plan when the simple things can begin to be implemented now.

Mr. Salerno stated none of the recommendations on the list provided are simple to implement. He said the City is committed to getting a short, mid and long range sustainability plan.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo feels that part of the problem is that there is no staff member fully dedicated to sustainability issues. Ms. May asked if finding funding for a full time sustainability director would help.

Mr. Salerno said having someone with the expertise to handle all of these undertakings on staff will help. He went on to say that having that in place along with a blueprint for how the City moves forward would go a long way towards helping to implement all of these green initiatives.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.