

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 5:04 by Chairperson Marlin Ebbert.

MOTIONS:

May 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes – Martin moved to approve the meeting minutes, Teddy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin moved to excuse Jasper, Carmen, Monique, and Greg; Teddy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin moved to excuse Monique for the May Meeting, Nicholas Seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin motioned to appoint Gabriela McGrath as the youth representative to the Sustainability Advisory Board, Nicholas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin made a motion to cancel the August meeting, Joe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marlin motioned to give all four business the high score of a five for the commercial beautification award, Joe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (7): Nicolas, Martin, Marlin, Piero, Jasper, Joe, Teddy

Quorum was met at 5:10pm

Quorum was lost at 5:48pm

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Merrick House- Many years ago, the Merrick House was certified as a Florida Friendly Landscape by the University of Florida’s Miami-Dade Extension office. The extension office is a research and extension scientific organization focused on agriculture and natural resources. It is in partnership with federal, State, and county governments. Through the Florida-Friendly Landscaping program it helps local governments to create vibrant communities and protect the environment with sustainable landscape and green infrastructure techniques. The program recognizes landscapes that use sustainable landscaping practices and looks at nine principles to follow. The City went through the recertification process at Merrick House and Fewell Park with Florida Friendly Landscaping. Both locations were able to achieve the highest level of gold certification. Additional City Properties are being looked at to be put through the certification process. Through the Landscape Beautification and Sustainability Advisory Boards Matt would like to promote the program so that residents would be interested in doing it for more native landscaping the Florida Friendly Landscaping way which would help with sustainability. Additional information can be found on their website.

<https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/about-ffl/landscape-recognition/#d.en.836419>

Single Use Plastic- Marlin would like to institute the use of single use plastic instead of Styrofoam throughout the City. State statute does not allow local municipalities to regulate the use of single use plastic, containers or Styrofoam on retail establishments. The City went through the litigation process a few years ago when it passed the expanded polystyrene ordinance, and the case went to the State Supreme Court. The City does prohibit single use plastic bags and expanded polystyrene in City facilities, by city contractors and by anyone that receives a special event permit. The City also encourages no single use plastic bags or expanded polystyrene by any business interested in getting certified under the Coral Gables Green Business Certification program.

WRAP- Miami Dade County has adopted the Water Recreation Access Plan (WRAP), it is a reassurance plan dedicated to fixing the problems in the waterways in a quicker way instead of being done individually. Additional information can be found on their website.

<https://www.miamidade.gov/global/recreation/water-recreation-access-plan.page#:~:text=The%20WRAP%20will%20provide%20a,will%20be%20completed%20in%202021.>

Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives –

- a. Youth Appointment (SAB Board Ordinance)-** The City's Sustainability Advisory Board has been recruiting for a youth representative to be appointed to the board. To attract the correct candidate, this was shared with the School Community Relations Committee, E-News and other social media platforms. Out of the two interested applicants, Gabriela McGrath Moreira and Abigail Lane, Ms. Moreira was selected to serve the Board. Gabriela is a Junior at Coral Gables Senior High School and has been attending Board meetings. She has shown interests in the Board's initiatives and has an excellent resume. This motion will be presented at the August Commission meeting allowing Gabriela to attend, as the youth representative, in September's meeting.
- b. LEED for Cities Certification** Matt updated the Board that the City achieved LEED Gold under the USGBC Cities and Communities Program. The City received 67 out 119 points. The City also became the 18th certified city in the State of Florida. The highest scores were in the categories of natural systems, and innovation.
- c. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates Commercial Beautification Awards-** This Serves to recognize those businesses that have gone above and beyond in the beautification and maintenance of their storefronts and surrounding areas. Nominations were submitted by Code Enforcement, Economic Development, the Chamber, and the Business Improvement District. Four business were nominated for this award The board made a unanimous decision and awarded the four business with the commercial beautification award.
 - **Bulla Gastrobar**
 - **Bachour**
 - **Trend Boutique**
 - **The Globe**

Three to five winners are selected per year and are recognized with a plaque and window sticker, they are invited to attend a City commission meeting, listed on the City's website as award winners and given a social media shout out.

- i. Litter Index-* This has been finalized for year 2022. Via zoom, Joe, Matt, and two interns participated in the scoring process of the litter index. This year's score was a 1.1.5 compared to last year's score of 1.1.6. The report has been submitted to Keep America Beautiful affiliation and the City is secured for another year. Solanch has been asked to speak at state conference to share our practices with other affiliates.

ii. Recent Events

- 1. Drive Green Fleet Expo:** Matt recently spoke at a conference and presented on the City's electric vehicle (EV) fleet, EV Charging stations, and policies. Matt along with the Fleet Director have hosted over 15 cities from around the region to tour our facility and share our best practices. The City Commission also recently updated its EV Charging Ordinance to require for any development with 10 or more off-street parking spaces to be 5% EV Installed, 15% EV Ready, 20% EV Capable and the remaining 40% sleeved with sufficient structural penetrations. It is one of the most forward-thinking EV ordinances in the entire country.
- 2. Stantec In the Community Beautification Event:** The first beautification project of this kind for City entrances took place June 21, 2022, in partnership with Keep Coral Gables Beautiful and Stantec Engineering. 850 native and annual flowers were planted at the entrance of Ponce de Leon Boulevard and 8th Street. Stantec employees participated along with the City's Greenspace Division employees.
- 3. Fairchild Summer Camp:** Matt and Solanch attended the Fairchild summer camp on July 20th. Matt and Solanch presented and played Sustainability Bingo with the campers which consisted of 22 participants from ages 7-12 years old.
- 4. Pollinators and Popsicles Event:** Matt and Solanch attended an educational event at the Toledo open space which the City will turn into a park. This was a successful event thanks to the collaboration with the extension office, experts, Community Recreation department, Fairchild, the Garden club, and Popsy Popsicles of Palm Beach for donating the popsicles. The event had 41 participants who were able to receive information and seeds for pollinator plants. The also participated in activities in I-Naturalist and identifying the different species that were there.
- 5. Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida's Camp Mahachee Cleanup:** Matt, Mayor Lago, and Commissioner Anderson along with 17 volunteers attended the Camp Mahachee Clean-Up to clean the entrance of the camp filled with invasive plants such as oyster plants and logs. There will be another event scheduled in the near future.

iii. Upcoming Sustainability Events

1. **Downtown Community Cleanup:** Matt and Solanch will be attending on August 25, 2022 @5pm.
2. **International Coastal Cleanup Day:** This is a county-wide event. The City has (4-5) sites in Coral Gables to help clean the waterways. Partnering with Miami-Dade County to donate kayaks for the event. Marketing is expected the first week of August along with the registration which will be shared with the public.
3. **PARKING Day:** For the past 6 years the City has been participating in PARKING Day. This international event encourages businesses to apply to take a few parking spaces in front of their business to convert the space into a mini park for the day.
4. **Air Potato Removal Event:** Commissioner Anderson has been encouraging students to participate in collecting air potatoes. Potatoes will be collected in her office, for every pound of potatoes they will receive an \$10 gift card for books and books.

Next Meeting – August Meeting Cancelled. September 28th.

ADJOURNED: 6:10 pm