

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
 CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 3010 DESOTO BLVD.
 CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017 @ 5:00 P.M.

- MINUTES-

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY:
	16	16	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	17	17	
Ramesh Airan	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Mayor Cason
Sharon Trbovich	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	A	E	P	E	Vice Mayor Quesada
Rhonda Anderson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Lago
Greg Hamra	P											P	Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				E	Commissioner Keon
Enrique Bernal	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
Irela Bague	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	City Commission-As-A-Whole

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

STAFF:

Matthew Anderson, Sustainability Advisory Board Staff Liaison
 Tiffany Hood, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chairperson, Ray Airan called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

GUEST:

Monique Selman

MOTIONS:

May 24, 2017 SAB meeting minutes – Marlin made a motion to approve the minutes. Sharon seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Rhonda motioned that the City Commission remove the permitting fees for rainwater harvesting installations as an incentive for residential. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Enrique made a motion that the Board drafts a letter of thanks to Roy Wasson. The Board unanimously agreed.

MEMBER'S REPORT:

Marlin: Reminds the group that Earth Day electronic recycling event was a big success and that it was her last big project, and that she has been reappointed by Commissioner Keon.

Enrique: shared with the Board that he has been reappointed and he is looking forward to continuing his role on the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Rhonda: mentioned ideas with regard to the re-use of water, specifically pool water, the possibility of collecting water from parking garages using rain harvesting systems. Rhonda provided information about legislation in other countries that encourages people to do rain water harvesting. She then suggested having Coral Gables support rain water harvesting. Sharon said she looked into getting rain water harvesting but was discouraged from doing so by the landscaper because it is complicated to do. Rhonda suggested a motion for the city to promote rainwater harvesting by removing permit fees and following incentives that legislation from other places have provided. But Irela suggested that before they do that, to have Matt talk to other staff to see what is possible currently first. Irela mentioned that the Miami-Dade County has a program for training on rainwater harvesting. Sharon asked the difference between the underground systems and a rain barrel. Rhonda explained that the underground system can be used as an irrigation system for the whole yard. Rhonda is suggesting putting rainwater harvesting on parking garages. Irela asked if this falls under the jurisdiction of Miami Dade Water and Sewer. Rhonda responded that it is dual jurisdiction between the City of Coral Gables and Miami-Dade County. The Board discussed the motion of removing the permitting fees on the re-use of rainwater.

Ray mentioned that he already has provision for two tanks for the re-use of rainwater.

Rhonda found some organic weed killers referring back to last meeting. Matt shared the information with Bob Boberman, Brook Dannemiller and John Osgood but has not yet heard back from them. His initial conversations with Bob were good because he said he would be willing to try other products.

Irela: commented that she is unclear about her reappointment because she was on the agenda for the last commission meeting and then it was removed from the agenda.

Irela has been working with Matt and the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce about the Green Business Certification. There is consensus on the application that will just be online. Some of the categories are water conservation, energy efficiency, there's complying with the polystyrene and the plastic bag ordinances and waste reduction. They have now sent the application over to the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce SEE Green Committee to see if they are okay with the applications from a business perspective. She and Matt shared a sample of the logo, it is a realistic leaf with the city logo and the Coral Gables chamber logo. She commented that this will

help out the chamber because green certified businesses can be fast tracked to the chambers green award.

Irela says they are working out some dates in November for the next Recycling 101 Workshop. Matt says that maybe the Chamber of Commerce SEE Green Committee can check the businesses to verify what is on their application before they are certified.

Sharon: suggested looking at the Coral Gables High Green team to maybe bring them in to the Green Business Certification. Matt mentioned that he wants to test pilot the business in the SEE Green Committee first before opening it up to the public. But the student group may not fall under the green business certification but could be recognized by the Coral Gables chamber awards under the educational category. Sharon mentioned an article she saw about south Miami requiring all new construction to have solar panels.

Solar Trees

Matt shared background on the solar trees. FPL has a program called Solar Now that is funded by residents who donate about \$9 per month to the program in order to see solar installed in their community, but your community doesn't necessarily mean Coral Gables or whatever city you live in. He has had conversations with some other cities who have met with FPL and there has been some concern about the agreement that FPL is presenting. It is usually a ten year agreement, you can't move the tree without FPL consent, and they want to put FPL advertising on the tree. Matt felt like the Solar Trees were not as good of an option as potentially partnering with FPL on installing larger scale Solar Parking Canopies or solar PV on the youth center because the trees only produce 1.5 kilowatts of energy. Matt then passed around the presentation that FPL gave him about the solar trees. Sharon suggested incorporating the solar trees within the parks in the City of Coral Gables.

Paris Climate Accord Resolution

Sharon mentioned that she happy that the City supported the Paris Climate Accord (4-1 vote) and was very surprised that Commissioner Lago was the only Commissioner who didn't support the resolution. Irela then asked Matt if the next newsletter there could be included a simple explanation of the facts of the Paris Climate Accords. Ray formalized the point by saying that the committee wants to do something to educate the public about the Paris Climate Accord potentially in the e-news or maybe in the neighbors. Matt mentioned that City Hall was lit up green to show support for the Paris Climate Accord. Greg wanted to stress that he thinks the Paris accord is great and it is an inspiration, but it is not a mechanism to actually achieve the green goals that the Paris accord sets up. Sharon suggested having a regular column in E-News from the Sustainability Advisory Board. Matt said that the Public Affairs office has been incredibly supportive of placing sustainability news in E-News, City Magazine, creating flyers, and producing videos on CGTV.

Update on Single Use Plastic Bags

Matt provided a quick update on the plastic bags. We are educating businesses by including flyers about information on the plastic bag and polystyrene ordinances with every business tax renewal license that goes out on July 1. Also, these businesses are required to renew annually the certificate of occupancy that we will include flyers. Matt commented that it also went out in a Sunday Miami Herald advertisement. He has also been working with public affairs on educating residents on better alternatives to plastic bags for their own personal use. Matt shared that not using single use plastic bags is a part of the special event permit requirement. There is a one year phase out period so May 10th of 2018 is when citations will begin being issued. There is a clause that the paper bag has to be 40% recyclable as well as a clause that allowed people to suggest other forms of bags, an example was an edible bag made from tapioca. This bag should dissolve within 90 days. The City of Coral Gables is looking to buy reusable bags branded with the city logo and giving it out to residents. The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce is considering buying some compostable bags to sell to small businesses at a lower rate for the beginning of the transition. The City of Coral Gables is also working with the Chamber of Commerce to potentially create a green product expo where businesses can see what alternatives there are.

Upcoming Events:

Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit: June 28th (8am -5pm) at FIU North Campus. Matt and Irela will attend and Matt will be speaking during the 1-2 pm slot about success stories. Irela stated that the goal is to push the programs to have breakout sessions on policy, monitoring pollution on the bay after budget cuts. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands got 1.5 million dollars to start planning for phase two. Officials that will be there at this event are District 8 County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, Clerk of Court Harvey Ruvlin, Senate and Congress staff members, a few state legislators and some local officials from City of Miami Beach, City of Coral Gables and the City of Miami.

Commissioner Lago's Town Hall Meeting: June 28th (6-8 pm) Adult Activity Center. Topics that will be discussed include sustainability, public safety, traffic, etc.

PARKing Day: Friday September 15, 2017: Encourage businesses to convert their parking spaces to green spaces. City had 8 businesses participate last year and want to build on that success.

November Electronic Recycling Event: (November 18th 9am-12pm): We will continue to do all three components including the household hazardous waste.

Green Cinema Event: Marlin will try to coordinate with the Coral Gables Cinema (Possibly taking place on a Tuesday)

Recycling 101 Part II: (Saturday, November 11th is a good possible date) maybe include recycling art and projects for kids.

Term Appointments: Enrique, Greg, and Marlin were appointed on May 13th and the new appointments run June 1st to May 31st of 2019.

ADJOURNED:

6:18 pm