

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

Wednesday September 27, 2023, 5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D				APPOINTED BY:
	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23							
Nicolas Eterovic	P	P	P	E	P	*	*	*	E							Mayor Lago
Jasper Brock	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	E							Commissioner Menendez
Martin Pinilla	P	P	P	E	P	*	*	*	P							City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	*	P							Sustainability Board-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P							U.M. Representative
Gabriela McGrath	E	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	P							Youth Appointment
Dipak Joshi						*	*	*	P							Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
James Covey						*	*	*	P							Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Anabella Smith						*	*	*	P							C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Katrina Erwin						*	*	*	E							Commissioner Melissa Castro
Tiffany Troxler						*	*	*	E							F.I.U. Representative

A – Absent  
P – Present  
E – Excused  
R- Resigned  
(\* ) no meeting

**STAFF:**

Matt Anderson, Assistant Director for Mobility and Sustainability  
Solanch Lopez, Marketing Manager  
Nicole Gautney, Sustainability Coordinator

**Guest:**

Julio Tejeda, South Florida Water Management District, Resident

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 5:17 P.M. by Teddy Lhoutellier.

**MOTIONS:**

*May 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes* – Martin motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Teddy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin moved to excuse Jasper, Nicolas, Katrina, and Tiffany from the September meeting; Gabi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin moved to vote for Teddy as Chairperson, seconded by Joe. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dipak motioned to vote for Martin as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Gabi. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin moved to approve reappointing Joe as the Board as a Whole Appointment and Gabi as the Youth Appointment, seconded by Dipak. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of the Annual Board Report motioned by Martin, seconded by Anabella. The motion was unanimously approved.

**PHYSICAL QUORUM (7):** Teddy, Martin, Joe, Dipak, James, Anabella, and Gabi.

Quorum was met at 5:15 P.M.

---

**Guest Comments**

**A. Julio Tejada:**

- i. Interested in the Board and what the city is doing on sustainability and resiliency. Offered his services for anything related to Sustainability & Resiliency and he is available to all the different municipalities in Miami-Dade County. Will be added to the Board email list.

**New Board Logistics & Appointments:**

**A. Discussion About New Board Logistics and Electing a New Chairperson & Vice Chairperson.**

- i. Teddy was elected the new Chairperson based on his experience with the Board and consistent attendance. Martin was elected Vice Chairperson nominated by Dipak.

**B. Board Appointment Discussion:**

- i. Meeting schedule was discussed, the Board decided that 5 P.M. works well for everyone.
- ii. Meeting location was also discussed, and the Board agreed to continue meeting at the Commission Chambers in City Hall.

**C. Joe & Gabi's Appointment:**

- i. Joe and Gabi both are interested in serving the Board and continuing the work that they have been doing.

**Board Annual Review**

**A. Annual Board Review:**

- a. Matt read over the report discussing the different goals that have been achieved by the city, Sustainability Department, and Keep Coral Gables Beautiful.
- b. The City team will have the vast majority of the report done a few months in advance before the end of the next fiscal year.

**Member Comments**

**A. Teddy:**

- i. Started off the *Member's Comments* portion by asking everyone's interests and goals for the Board this year.

**B. Joe:**

- i. Interested in a presentation or educational resources given to the community about alternatives to pesticides in residential areas.
  - 1. Matt says that it is possible to have the South Florida Water Management District and Miami-Dade County provide educational materials and come to a meeting with information on this topic. Teddy mentioned Greenspace Management partnering with KCGB to have events and Matt says he will reach out to them to come and present at a meeting.
- ii. There will be a Farmers Market Sustainability Village by the end of March with many different vendors and groups who will be educating the public about a variety of sustainability topics.

**C. Anabella:**

- i. Anabella is very interested in transportation and Micromobility updates and wants to be more involved in that side. She is also quite excited to help with any other programs the Board works on.

**D. Martin:**

- i. Met with the City Manager, who appointed him, to discuss a project that he has shown interest in previously. This particular project entails enhancing the community's outdoor experience by improving mobility and incorporating green spaces.
- ii. Martin has recently come across an additional project that seems to be a great fit for the Sustainability Board: The Blue Zone initiative. These zones, present worldwide, comprise communities with extended lifespans. The organization collaborates with cities across the United States to establish new Blue Zones and spread the knowledge on how communities within the U.S. can enhance their longevity. As of now, there are Blue Zones within the country. When possible, Martin will be sharing this information with the Board.

**E. Dipak:**

- i. Dipak discussed streamlining the environmental programs that KCGB and the Sustainability Team are working on, for the residents of Coral Gables. Matt and his team do keep this in mind, but Dipak encourages more accessibility for the community wherever possible.
- ii. Encouraging the expansion of the Coral Gables Trolley system to reach more people.
  - 1. Matt informs the Board about the new Saturday Downtown Express Route, launching on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. It runs from 2 to 10 P.M., two new trolleys are being added to the route and run up and down US 1. This will be connecting the South Gables residents to the City's Downtown area; this helps bring residents who want a stress-free way to go out on a Saturday night.
  - 2. Matt continues to say that the Trolley ties into sustainability because it gives people the option to use more accessible public transportation to reach their destination and motivates them to not use their personal vehicles; this, in turn, reduces carbon emissions.
  - 3. Dipak responds by saying how this will be a boom to the Downtown district by providing more options for people to come and spend time and money at the Coral Gables businesses.

**F. Gabi:**

- i. Gabi is interested in involving students and the public in these meetings and in more sustainable initiatives. She suggests addressing the KCGB updates and events at the beginning of the Board meetings moving forward, therefore students and the public are informed about the upcoming events. This would be helpful if they had to leave the meeting early and they would have all that information when they do. She says from personal experience that it would be helpful for her if she came to a meeting as part of the general public.
  - 1. The Board agreed and Matt informed everyone that he and Teddy will be reorganizing the agenda moving forward.

- ii. Gabi would like to have more student attendance at KCGB events, and this will help link them to outside sources who have sustainability initiatives as well.
  - 1. Teddy agreed and brought up University of Miami's partnership with the UF IFAS Extension office and UM will be hosting an Edible Garden Workshop on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. He will be sharing the event with the Board and kindly asked if they would be able to share the event as much as possible.

**G. James:**

- i. Interested in making sure there are more greenspaces throughout the city. He is also interested in expanding shade in high-traffic areas and providing shade during the hottest part of the year. Also interested in partnering with the County to have a composting program even though there are no suitable facilities currently. James would like to see a composting program within the city at some point in the near future. He is very excited to hear about the Saturday Downtown Express Route being a South Gables resident. He would like to assist in any way possible to solidify the Trolley route once the pilot period is over. Make sure that the sustainability goals of the city are set up for the next 10 years and assist the Sustainability Team to make these goals a reality.

**H. Katrina:**

- i. She asked if it is possible to contact the Transit Alliance to post on social media one of the Trolley routes.
  - 1. Matt is interested in meeting with Transit Alliance.

**I. Nicolas:**

- i. Interested in reestablishing the meeting agendas, making them more streamlined and productive.
  - 1. Matt agrees and wants to be as efficient as possible. He also mentions how meeting outside of the Board meetings one on one with the City Sustainability team is possible.
- ii. Interested in solar accessibility, understands that it is expensive, but try to bring in more solar wherever possible.
- iii. Interested in green matter compost.

**J. Jasper:**

- i. Interested in water quality, septic systems, and the health of the Biscayne Bay.

**Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives**

**A. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates (KCGB):**

- i. Nicole presented an update on KCGB; 119 events have been held in the last three years.
- ii. The presentation can be found [here](#).
- iii. **Recent Events**

1. Pinewood Cemetery Invasive Plant Removal & Cleanup Event - Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>
  - a. 40 volunteers removed approximately 7,500 pounds of invasive oyster plants at Pinewood Cemetery. Ranger Ready sponsored the event and donated 500 bottles of insect repellent to give out to the volunteers.
2. Sustainability & KCGB Presentation – Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - a. 20 members of the Adult Activity Center were present for the presentation on Coral Gables Sustainability initiatives and the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program
3. Summer Downtown Community Cleanup - Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - a. 57 volunteers collected 369 pounds of litter from the downtown area, setting a new record for litter collected and our biggest turn-out to date.
4. Park(ing) Day - Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - a. 50 participants came by to see the concepts that the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and the FIU ASLA put on in public parking spots. FIU transformed their parking spots into a garden with native plants, the Chamber had an outdoor lounge area and held yoga classes throughout the day.
5. International Coastal Cleanup - Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>
  - a. 46 volunteers came to clean up the Gables' waterways to participate in International Coastal Cleanup Day. There were three Coral Gables locations and in total the volunteers removed 653.5 pounds of debris that was found in or around the waterways.
6. Parks Pollinator Palooza - Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - a. In collaboration with Community Recreations, 66 volunteers came to the Coral Gables Youth Center to listen to a presentation from UF IFAS and planted 195 pollinator plants.
7. Fewell Park Invasive Plant Removal - Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>
  - a. 12 volunteers came to Fewell Park to help remove invasive plants to make room for future native plants. During this event, 1,120 pounds of invasive plants were removed.

***i.* Upcoming Sustainability Events**

1. Recycling Drive-Thru - Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Bi-annual event located at City Hall. Residents can bring old electronics with a plug or batteries; large cardboard boxes for recycling; household hazardous waste such as paint cans, pool chemicals, oils, batteries, and household pesticides; documents for

shredding; and lightly/gently used clothing to be donated to Camillus House.

- b. Since Matt started this bi-annual event 8 years ago, over 12,800 participants and over 436,800 pounds of materials have been recycled or donated.

*Next Meeting* – October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

**ADJOURNED: 6:49 pm.**

DRAFT