

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

Monday, December 11, 2023, 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG 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	23	23	23	
Nicolas Eterovic	P	P	P	E	P	*	*	*	E	P	*	P	Mayor Lago
Jasper Brock	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	E	E	*	P	Commissioner Menendez
Martin Pinilla	P	P	P	E	P	*	*	*	P	E	*	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	*	P	P	*	P	Sustainability Board-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	*	P	U.M. Representative
Gabriela McGrath	E	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	*	P	Youth Appointment
Dipak Joshi						*	*	*	P	P	*	P	Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
James Covey						*	*	*	P	P	*	E	Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Anabella Smith						*	*	*	P	P	*	P	C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Katrina Erwin						*	*	*	E	P	*	E	Commissioner Melissa Castro
Tiffany Troxler						*	*	*	E	P	*	P	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
Diego Cancel, Sustainability & Resiliency Supervisor

Guest:

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CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 5:05 P.M. by Teddy Lhoutellier.

MOTIONS:

October 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Dipak motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jasper motioned to excuse James and Katrina from the December meeting; Anabella seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (9): Teddy, Joe, Dipak, Martin, Gabi, Jasper, Anabella, Nicolas, and Tiffany
Quorum was met at 5:05 P.M.

Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates (KCGB):

i. Recent Sustainability Events

1. Recycling Drive-Thru - Saturday, November 4th
 - a. Bi-annual event located at City Hall held on Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 400 cars, about 800 residents, brought 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. The collection equaled an estimated 10,000 lbs. of household hazardous waste, 10,200 lbs. of paper shredded, 9,091 lbs. of electronic waste, and 1,300 lbs. of clothing donated to Camillus House. The total amount of recycled materials was 30,591 lbs.
2. Battery Recycling Bin Unveiling & Sustainability Presentation– Wednesday, November 15th
 - a. To celebrate America Recycles Day, KCGB held a Recycling Education and Battery Recycling launch at the Adult Activity Center. 10 attendees were present for the presentation on Coral Gables Sustainability initiatives and KCGB events and programs as well as the unveiling of the sixth battery recycling bin in the city.
3. Pollinator Patch at the Youth Center – Saturday, November 18th
 - a. In collaboration with Community Recreations and Greenspace Management, 58 volunteers came to the Coral Gables Youth Center and planted 362 pollinator plants on Riviera and University.
4. Business Recycling Drive-Thru – Saturday, December 2nd
 - a. 26 businesses came out to City Hall to recycle their electronics, paper, and donate clothing to Suited for Success. The collection equaled

1,042 lbs. of electronic waste, and 15 lbs. of clothing donated. The total amount of recycled materials was 1,057 lbs.

5. Holiday Downtown Community Cleanup – Monday, December 4th
 - a. KCGB hosted the last Downtown Community Cleanup event of the year at the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. 47 volunteers collected 209 pounds of litter from the Gables downtown area, one of our largest turn outs in the last three years. Coyo Taco provided snacks and refreshments courtesy of Baptist Health South Florida and KCGB announced the winners of the most litter collected.
6. GIS Day – Wednesday, November 15th
 - a. Diego went to GIS Day at UM to speak on a panel about the sustainability initiatives that the city is currently working on and the Smart City's program that uses GIS mapping for environmental purposes.
7. [Reverse Vending Machine Program](#)
 - a. The pilot program for the RVM ended on November 15. 18,258 beverage containers were collected during the one-year pilot program. Six businesses have collaborated with KCGB on this program to give out rewards to the top ten recyclers bi-monthly. 75% of the goal for this program was reached. 715 people participated in the program, keeping up an 80% retention rate. The program is very expensive without a grant, so KCGB decided against renewing the contract with Cycle.

ii. Upcoming Events:

1. Christmas Tree & Cardboard Recycling – December 27th to January 12th
 - a. The City of Coral Gables is offering free Christmas tree recycling to Coral Gables residents. Recycling Christmas trees helps to preserve landfill space and provides the opportunity to repurpose this valuable resource as mulch and ground cover in natural park and planting areas throughout the community.
 - b. The cardboard recycling and multi-family Christmas tree drop off is located at the Coral Gables Youth Center.
2. Pinewood Cemetery Invasive Plant Removal – Friday, January 19th
 - a. At Pinewood Cemetery located at 7301 Erwin Road, Coral Gables, FL 33143. Volunteers will remove invasive plants found throughout this historic cemetery during this event.
3. World Water Day Art Installation – Friday, March 22nd

- a. To celebrate World Water Day, the city is exploring partnering with Blue Missions on an art installation for Giralda Plaza and would like to extend it through Earth Month. With the Sustainability department, the city is going to be working on messaging for the general public.

Sustainability City Commission

- i.*** [Bugatti Bistro received the KCGB 2023 Commercial Beautification Award](#)
 1. The last awardee of the Commercial Beautification Awards was acknowledged at the last City Commission meeting for keeping a visually appealing store front.
- i.*** [America Recycles Day in Coral Gables](#)
 1. America Recycles Day proclamation was approved at the last Commission meeting, because the sustainability department is launching many innovative programs in the City.
- ii.*** [Hydrogen Powered Trolleys Discussion](#)
 1. A company reached out to discuss the topic of hydrogen and hydrogen trolleys. They are based in Spain but they would like to work with the City because Matt has been trying to reduce the carbon emissions in the City's public transportation sector. This is still in the early stages; trolleys need to be converted and they still have not reached battery powered trolleys.
- iii.*** [Humane Iguana Removal Discussion](#)
 1. Iguanas are an invasive species that have overpopulated the City. The City has contracted a humane iguana removal company to assist in removing them from public spaces.
- iv.*** [Plastic Film Recycling Discussion](#)
 1. Plastic bags and film can be recycled through these specialized programs. Matt wants the public to know that plastic bags are not recyclable in a single-stream recycling. NexTrex is the program that KCGB is starting the application process; Teddy mentioned that he has more information on this program because his students have been participating in the NexTrex Recycling Challenge for the last two years and have been awarded a few benches made from the plastic bags.

Member Comments

A. Nicolas:

- i. Nicolas is very excited to find out about Virgin Airlines being the first airline to use sustainable fuel for a transatlantic flight. They combine biofuel with jet fuel to reduce the emissions from a flight. Teddy wants him to share the article with the Board. Matt wanted to update him with the information on the

sustainable dashboard. Sustainability is reaching out to procurement soon to procure the energy and water dashboard software and is in contact with a few companies that are used by a lot of municipalities.

B. Anabella:

- i. Went over the Green Business application with Mark, he wants to set up a meeting Matt to discuss more about the application.
- ii. She wants to know what stage the Mobility Hub is at, Matt let her know that the city is still in the design stage of it and it is on hold at the moment.

C. Jasper:

- i. Is very concerned about the decline in manatees in South Florida. The Bay is a big contributor to that due to the seagrass being unable to grow. He hopes that the city is aware that they are part of the problem due to being on the Bay and having many waterways leading out to the Bay. Matt says that the city has been educating the public on fertilizer and pesticide ordinances within Miami-Dade.

D. Martin:

- i. Met with the president of the Tropical Animal Society about the greenspace across and it is the home of certain birds that have not seen for many years. It has become a big concern for many people. Teddy mentioned that he would like to learn more about it because there are many UM students who are very passionate about this topic.

E. Teddy:

- i. Asked Matt about his take on the Southeast Florida Climate Compact. Matt mentioned it is the largest conference for sustainability and resiliency in the region. It was very successful with many environmental leaders gathered together. Next year it will be in Key West. The Florida Sustainability Directors Network had their annual meeting December 6 & 7.

F. Dipak

- i. Two recent encounters have occurred when new homeowners have been informed that the current tanks are leaking and need to be replaced. This resulted in a lot of confusion. While the City implements a long-term plan to convert, perhaps an interim solution for immediate issues can be addressed. The Vice Mayor has implemented a resolution that passed recently, requiring expedited permits and waiver of City permitting fees that passed at the last commission meeting. Grants will not be available until the City obtains funding from the legislature and it will be based upon income levels and extraordinary or high out of pocket medical costs. That criterion is being developed.

G. Tiffany:

- i. Would like a standing agenda item on septic to sewer and sea level rise and initiatives the city is taking. If there are no updates Matt will let them know that there are no updates.

H. Joe:

- i. There will be a Farmers Market Sustainability Village at the end of March with many different vendors and groups who will be educating the public about a variety of sustainability topics and Matt would like the Board members to attend the event.

I. Gabi:

- i. Tomorrow is the Commission meeting for Miami-Dade County and one of the agenda items is the Miami Wilds water park being built on the endangered Pine Rockland ecosystem on the Zoo property. Anabella and her business partner are the architects of the Miami Wilds park. Anabella says they are trying to preserve the surrounding ecosystems. Gabi would like to learn more about the research Anabella has on the subject. Anabella's business partner has more information on the topic and will be providing that information to whomever is interested.

Next Meeting – January 22nd, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNED: 6:26 p.m.