

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
 BILTMORE HOTEL (GARDEN CLUB MEETING ROOM)
 1200 ANASTASIA AVENUE
 CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019 @ 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	APPOINTED BY:
	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	
Martin Pinilla	E	*	P	P	P	*	P	E	*	P	P	E	Mayor Valdes-Fauli
Sharon Trbovich	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	E	*	E	E	P	Commissioner Quesada
Rita Teutonico	P	*	-	-	-	*	E	P	*	E	P	P	Vice Mayor Lago
Greg Hamra	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	E	P	Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	P	P	Commissioner Keon
Enrique Bernal	E	*	E	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Irela Bague	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	P	P	City Commission-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier												P	U.M. Representative
Monique Selman												P	C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Piero Gardinali												P	F.I.U. Representative

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

STAFF:

David Lindsey, Public Works Administrative Analyst
 Jeannette Reyes, Public Works Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairperson, Irela Bague called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

GUEST:

Rhonda Anderson, Resident
 Colette Worm, Resident
 Jasper Brock, Resident
 Luc Deschamps, Bacterras.com
 Anders Mygind, Sostainable.com
 Camilo Ospina, Resident
 Ayla Larson, Resident

Rudford Hamon, Resident

MOTIONS:

January 23, 2019 SAB meeting minutes – Sharon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Enrique seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marlin made a motion to excuse Martin, Sharon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sharon made a motion to adjourn, Rita seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

GUEST COMMENTS:

Rudford Hamon expressed his concerns about the Scooter program. A week ago; his wife and new born baby were almost run over by teenagers riding the scooters on the sidewalk, at a high speed. David mentioned that he received this complaint and forwarded to Mark Brown, who oversees the program. David will get Mr. Hamon's information after the meeting so he can forward it to the Transportation Advisory Board.

Update on Sustainability Board Items

New members - Irela introduced the 3 new Board members; Teddy (U.M.), Monique (Chamber of Commerce) and Piero (F.I.U.)

Piero is the newest member, since Teddy and Monique have been part of our public meetings for some time now. Piero is an Environmental Chemist, Professor and Co-Director of FIU's Southeast Environmental Research Center and Co-Director of the CREST Center for Aquatic Chemistry and Environment. He resides in Palmetto Bay and loves Biscayne Bay.

Skip the Straw Campaign – In January the Commission passed a law, effective July 9, 2019 that prohibits the use of single-use plastic straws and stirrers in City Facilities, Parks, Contractors, Vendors and Special Events throughout the City. There will be a six months educational and outreach campaign.

Green Business Program – To date, the Board has hosted two Recycling 101 events. On March 8, 2019 the Board will be touring the Waste Management Recycling Plant. Teddy expressed the importance of educating the public on recycling; the system needs lots of work. Teddy suggested having some interns investigate other cities that have transitioned to dual-stream recycling. Irela asked David if he can please look into this.

Employee Sustainability Trainings – Staff is contracting with the Cleo Institute to provide a series of climate and sustainability workshops for employees and residents. This will consist of; (1) workshop for the Department Directors, Parks Dept., Police & Fire, Public Works, City Hall, (1) for all other departments, (1) for the residents and (1) for Coral Gables Senior High School.

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It is currently being reviewed by Craig Dewald, Organizational Development & Training Specialist and will then move on to the Procurement process.

Water Quality – Staff is waiting on the scope of work from the water quality team; FIU, Miami Water Keeper and NOAA. Once received staff will work with Procurement to get the contract moving forward.

SolSmart Designation – A National Designation Program recognizing Cities and Counties throughout the Country for making it faster, easier and more affordable to go solar. The Program was launched in 2016 and more than 200 Cities have achieved some sort of Designation (Bronze, Silver and Gold). One of the requirements for Silver and Gold is to have a three day turnaround on the solar permitting process. The SolSmart Advisor, Jen Barenholtz, is working with the City's Building Department and Planning & Zoning Department on the requirements needed for designation.

Monique mentioned that the Coral Gables Chambers is hosting a candidate's forum at U.M. on Thursday, March 7, 2019 for the Commissioners and Mayor's Race. Attendants are sending in questions and one of the questions on her list is; do you support or what is your position on having solar panels facing the street?

Past Events and Activities – Kessler Consulting was hired to do a Comprehensive Sanitation Master Plan for the City. Community meetings were held on February 7th and 9th. Sanitation and budgeting data was collected and provided to Kessler. Surveys were created and distributed – there were approximately 400 respondents. All operational changes/efficiencies are on the table, except for removing backdoor service. At some point in May or June, a Commission workshop with community input will be scheduled.

Solar Bench Ribbon Cutting – February 8th was the Solar Bench Ribbon Cutting for 11 benches; Ponce Circle Park, Coral Bay Park, Phillips Park, William H. Kerdyk & Family Park, Salvadore Park, Jaycee Park, Rotary Park, Youth Center, and Pittman Park.

March Events:

- Bike to Work Day is on Friday, March 1st at 7:30 am – 9 am meet up place will be at Crema Café on Ponce and Miracle Mile.

Earth Month Event Planning:

- Coral Gables Art Cinema - Wednesday, April 10, 2019
- Merrick House - Sunday, April 28, 2019

Marlin is still working on other events, she is open to suggestions.

Teddy mentioned UM will be hosting an Earth Day Fair on Monday, April 22, 2019, an all-day event. And Arbor Day will be on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

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Marlin stated that the Garden Clubs' Arbor Day is on Friday, April 26, 2019 at Carver Elementary.

Irela sits on the Regional Council for the National Parks Conservation Association and they partnered with the European Union on an exhibit April 25, 2019 at 6 pm – 9 pm, at the Coral Gables Museum. It will be an exhibit and a dialogue focusing on the impacts of climate change in our national parks.

MEMBER'S REPORT:

Teddy – Dean John Quelch will have a Masters of Sustainable Business Luncheon in the fall and he wants to walk the talk by having UM set an example. UM was finally approved for an 80 kilowatts system on top of the new Murphy's Studio.

Sharon – In April she will be the State Chairman for the Florida Federation Garden Clubs for Coral Reef Restoration and Sea Level Rise. She will be traveling around the state talking to different clubs about it and planning events.

Rita – A resident asked her about the lighting on Giralda, are they LED, why are they so bright. Enrique will speak to the City Manager about it.

Monique – Is interested in composting and energy codes.

Enrique – He posted a sign next to the dog poop station referencing the fines, and a few days later it was found damaged on the side of the street.

Greg – January 24, 2019 officially in the new congress, the first piece of bipartisan climate legislation was announced in a decade. It is the boldest ever introduced in our country, by far. It calls for 90% down by 2050, 40% down in the first 12 years, 2.1 million jobs created in the first 10 years. Bipartisanship is required to make anything doable and durable. The elements that make it doable are HR763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. You can read about it at <https://energyinnovationact.org/>. Greg has been in contact with Senator Rubio and asked "What do you need to back this?" Senator Rubio replied, "The voice of business." 15 members of Congress and the House are backing this. Greg joined the Business Climate Leaders action team. They help American businesses understand and take action in shaping federal climate policy. Greg helped bring in a few endorsements from the Spinnaker Group, Golden Solar, EverBlue, The Green Jobs Training Center, Global Reach, The National Ski Association, and Carnival Cruises. There are also municipal resolutions. Greg has communicated with the Commissioners of the City of Coral Gables regarding this. He also spoke with Mayor Stoddard of South Miami and 24 hours later a draft was in place ready to be presented to his Commission.

Greg stated that having the City of Coral Gables endorse this, simply gives fuel to the discussion that we would have with business leaders. "If we are not working on the biggest issue humanity has ever faced, what are we doing here? We need to work boldly on this."

Piero – What is the standard for water quality for the residents of Coral Gables and why?

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Irela – Biscayne Bay is our estuary and my big passion. Irela has been working advocacy for Biscayne Bay for a long time because everyone forgets about Biscayne Bay, especially at the state level. Water Quality is so important that the County Commission established The Biscayne Bay Task Force and they are currently accepting resumes. Irela suggested having a couple of speakers present at the S.A.B.

Rhonda Anderson presented a recycling board she created. She asked for the SAB's input and collaboration on what pictures and items (no words) to post under what is and is not recyclable.

David mentioned that the Board will need to find a place to host the S.A.B. meetings for the month of March and April. Irela said it can be arranged.

Next Meeting – March 27, 2019

ADJOURNED: 6:30 pm