

CORAL GABLES GREEN TASK FORCE
 GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011, 9:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	APPOINTED BY:
	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	
Anabella Smith	*	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	E	P	C. G. Chamber of Commerce
Brook Dannemiller	*	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	City Commission
Bruce Christensen	*	P	*	P	P	P	E	*	E	E	P	P	City Commission
Carlos Ruiz De Quevedo	*	P	*	P	E	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	City Commission
Enrique Lopez	*	P	*	E	P	P	P	*	P	E	P	A	City Manager
Ian McKeown	*	P	*	P	P	P	E	*	E	E	A	P	University of Miami
Jenny A. May	*	P	*	P	P	P	E	*	E	E	P	P	City Commission
Miroslav Mladenovic	*	P	*	P	P	P	E	*	P	P	P	P	City Commission
Nati Soto	*	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	City Commission
Sallye Jude	*	P	*	P	P	E	P	*	P	P	A	A	City Commission
Sharon Trbovich	*	E	*	P	P	P	E	*	E	E	A	A	Garden Club

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

STAFF:

Ernesto R. Pino, Assistant Public Works Director
 Kenneth Ingersoll, Public Works

GUESTS:

Steve Riley, Automotive Director
 Eddie Irigoyen, E-Scrap, Inc.
 Iraklis Kalamenios, ArtEcology
 John Rosser, Sustainatopia

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman, Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

ROLL CALL:

The Chairman, Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo proceeded with the roll call.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL (August 31, 2011):

Ms. Soto made a motion to approve the August 31st minutes, Mr. Christensen seconded and all members unanimously approved.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- *Special Guest* - Steve Riley, Automotive Director

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Mr. Riley to discuss the use of vehicles and green initiatives for the City fleet.

Mr. Riley said he has been in fleet management since 1999. He wrote the National Green Fleet Award Criteria standards and is well familiar with Green initiatives. He further stated that his first priority regarding City fleet is right sizing and right typing the fleet. He said right typing the fleet would mean downsizing to the minimum essential standards. In this regard, he said the City is currently looking at Ford Focus, SmartCar and plug-in hybrid vehicles for future purchases. He said the City is also looking into purchasing re-refined oils and eliminating solvent based parts washers. He also said they are trying to eliminate lead wheel weights and are developing an anti-idling policy.

He said his biggest challenge is the budget since there is not enough money in the budget to replace vehicles needing replacement. He further stated the City is currently reusing the Crown Victoria's formerly used by the Police Department. He also said 50% of the fleet is beyond life cycle and that some of the fleet is so old that replacement parts are no longer available. Because the fleet is old it naturally uses more fuel. He said the City just received a brand new garbage truck that has features such as 2010 diesel emissions standards and a trailing rear axle, which helps cut down on tire wear. He said typical tires only last roughly two months before they are too worn for further use.

Mr. Christensen asked if the City was reusing the Crown Victoria vehicles purely because of a funding issue. Mr. Riley said yes. Mr. Christensen asked when these vehicles would be replaced. Mr. Riley said it will take a long time.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo stated the Green Task Force wants to help by making recommendations to the City Manager for things that will help the Automotive Department accomplish its goals. He asked if the City had considered selling the older vehicles and leasing new vehicles instead. Mr. Riley said to do that, it would cost a lot of money due to the amount of vehicles that need replacement.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if it would be possible to change the vehicle replacement strategy. Mr. Riley asked if he was speaking about just pursuit vehicles, or all classes of vehicles. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if it would be possible to sell the older Crown Victoria vehicles and use that money along with the savings in fuel to help replace some of the current vehicles.

Mr. Riley said he is scheduled to meet with a representative from Enterprise Rent-A-Car to discuss leasing vehicles. He also stated that if the City tried to sell these older vehicles, it would not get the return that it would expect to get. He said at a recent auction for older Police cars, these vehicles were only bringing in about \$1,200 dollars per vehicle. Therefore, there isn't a lot of money available in selling the vehicles. He further stated that some vehicles are over 10-15 years old but with not a lot of miles. However, they are in poor condition due to deterioration from the weather and sun. He also said that the City is looking into a car pooling and car share program as well.

Mr. Dannemiller asked what is the current replacement plan for the fleet. Mr. Riley said that the replacement of the fleet is dictated by the fleet management program. He said because the vehicles don't have a lot of mileage, it is mostly based on time. He said that there are no national standards in regards to fleet replacement and that it varies from city to city and it's largely based on utilization. Typically administrative vehicles are replaced after 10 years, while Police vehicles are 7 years/100,000 miles. He further stated the City has a massive replacement bubble which means there are a large number of vehicles that are due to be replaced. He gave an example of the Fire Department's ladder truck which is due for replacement and this could approach the one million dollars cost. He further stated even if he had all the money to replace all the vehicles he needed to replace, he wouldn't do it all at once because it needs to be done according to a smooth replacement curve where vehicles are replaced according to a schedule so as to spread out the cost over a number of years.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if a deal was able to be worked out with Enterprise, would that translate to fewer back up vehicles being needed. Mr. Riley said that availability would become an issue. He said the City looked into a car share program with SmartCar but the cost for having guaranteed availability for City use was prohibitive.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if rental cars would be an option. Mr. Riley said the time to pick- up and return vehicles to the rental agency makes it unfeasible.

Ms. May asked if we have any hybrids or electric vehicles in the fleet currently. Mr. Riley said that there are (2) or (3) in the entire fleet. He further stated that Natural Gas is a good alternative but that infrastructure is needed to make it feasible. Ms. May commented there are grants available to help fund infrastructure and help with funding issues.

Mr. Riley said the City of Atlanta got into CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) vehicles while he was employed there. He stated they had (1) fueling station. They needed another one but the cost was prohibitive to build one. He also said that CNG is only about 70% as efficient as gasoline is.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that CNG Hybrids are currently being used in Colombia in taxi fleets and that it is relatively simple to do. He said the biggest challenge would be to find a way to get it done here in the City.

Mr. Dannemiller asked Mr. Riley where he sees the fleet in 5 or 10 years and what is the optimal fleet in his view. Mr. Riley said plug-in hybrids specific to their designated use would be optimal. He also said air conditioning could be an issue since that is mandated here. He also said that the range of hybrid vehicles could also be an issue. These issues combined with a lack of infrastructure would make this difficult to achieve.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that at the next meeting there would be a presentation from a group that is interested in putting charging stations in the City at no cost. Mr. Riley said it would have to be looked at specific to the application. He said for example, CNG vehicles have very little resale value, so that would have to be factored into the investigation.

Ms. May suggested for the City to have a 2, 5 and 10 year plan along with short term goals of such as installation of charging stations. She added the long term goals should address the funding issue. Mr. Riley said the first goal is to start looking at infrastructure in parking garages and other locations throughout the City that would allow him to start seriously considering these kinds of vehicles.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if a written plan could be developed, it would help the Task Force in assisting with accomplishing goals of the City. This will avoid being in the same place 10 years from now.

Ms. May said the South Miami and Miami Beach are already in the process of looking into acquiring this infrastructure.

Mr. Mladenovich asked if there was a cost benefit analysis done for what vehicles should be replaced or is it strictly done by how much money is available to spend. Mr. Riley said no cost benefit analysis was done prior to him. However, funding is still the major issue in replacement. He stated the fleet is in very poor shape and he is even assisting with vehicle repairs. He said the optimal preventative maintenance schedule versus repairs is 70% to 30% respectively. However the current fleet is 60% repairs and 40% preventative maintenance which are almost reversed from what it should be.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that the Task Force is committed to working with the Automotive Department to help accomplish its goals.

- *Special Guest* - Eddie Irigoyen- E-Scrap, Inc.

Mr. George Fery CEO of E-Scrap started by saying that his company has an EPA licensed recycle collection facility located here locally in Miami. He stated that his company has the capacity to recycle all types of computer and electronic materials. He added during the last year his company recycled over 8 million pounds of electronic equipment. He went on to state in Miami-Dade County alone E-Scrap recycled over 24,000 televisions. His company wants to offer the City of Coral Gables a solution for its residents to dispose of old electronics. He said they are proposing a collection point for residents to drop off old electronics at no charge. He said his company can do this at no charge because of the worldwide demand for metals. He went

on to further state that everything his company does is documented and they have the capability to generate reports for the City as to what was collected.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if E-Scrap is requesting 1 or 2 recycling drop off points. Ms. Fery said if there is an assigned location, they will set-up and clean-up after each pick up. He said the company also has the ability to do public drives but these are more demanding traffic wise and would require assistance from the Police Department for traffic control.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked what the cost would be to the City to participate in any of these programs. Mr. Irigoyen said this would be done at no cost to the City. He further stated the only thing the company asks is for the City to publicize the pick-up events through its media partners and outlets. He said Mayor Cason pointed out he didn't know if the City had a good place for a permanent pick-up point and suggested partnering with a local church. He said this could also work unless there is a local non-profit that has a space they would allow to use for these events.

Mr. Dannemiller asked if the pick-up locations needed to be staffed if they were permanent. Mr. Irigoyen said it depends. He mentioned the City of Surfside has a location for drop off that is designated for once a month and E-Scrap picks-up on a monthly basis.

Ms. May asked if it would be possible to recommend two locations for the City of Coral Gables so residents that live in the south area wouldn't have to drive all the way north. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said yes and this could also be done for special events such as the upcoming Earth Day event.

Mr. McKeown asked what separates E-Scrap from other companies, and do they ship materials overseas. Mr. Fery said they do not ship overseas. All material is sent to partners in the United States they have relationships with. He said they work exclusively with United States vendors.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked for a motion to recommend to the City Manager that the City negotiate with E-Scrap, Inc. to provide for pick up points in two locations within the City of Coral Gables to provide residents with the ability to drop-off used electronic equipment for recycling. Mr. Mladenovich made the motion, Ms. May seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Special Guest* - Iraklis Kaleménios, Artecology

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that the Artecology event is scheduled to be held April 15th, 2012. He said the Green Task Force's Earth Day event is scheduled for April 22nd but the Special Events Planning Committee suggested the Task Force look into combining efforts. Therefore he said he asked Mr. Kaleménios to come and speak about his event.

Mr. Kaleménios said that Artecology is a non-profit based in Greece. In the year 2012 this festival will be having events in Spain, Germany and Greece. He said the April 15th event will be a street festival that will have approximately 95 tents with artists and environmental artists as well as 30 to 40 booths for local green businesses. He also stated that there will be 2 stages for

Jazz music that will also feature kids groups in addition to adult groups. He said he wanted to see if the two events could work together and if not, maybe separate out the activities to avoid an overlap. He further stated that in Greece, Spain and Germany the events are custom built to the Cities they are held in. He said if the Task Force preferred the Earth Day event be held on Earth Day then maybe his organization could advertise it through press releases and promotional work.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said this event starts on April 15th with an outdoor festival on Alhambra Circle. He stated the choice is to do a week of events in association with Artecology that culminates with Earth Day on April 22nd or just stay with Earth Day. He said identity may be an issue.

Mr. Mladenovich asked if there is a value in coordination with Artecology so that each group doesn't go after the same sponsors. He wondered if there is enough volume of sponsors for both events.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that the Farmers Market lasts a couple of months and takes place every week. He said this event focuses on Art, the Earth Day event will focus on sustainability and the car rally as its signature event.

Ms. Soto said she would like AIA Miami to have an event that week as well. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that they would need to develop a menu of events for that week.

Ms. May asked if Artecology had already started soliciting vendors and sponsors for the event. Mr. Kalemienos said they just got approved with the exception of a small issue with the liquor license. He said they are just getting started but are ready to go.

Ms. May said that she wanted to make sure both events don't overlap sponsors because the Earth Day event could get left out if sponsors commit to an event one week before Earth Day. Mr. Kalemienos said with communication everything can be worked out. He said it isn't about one event winning out over the other and the main focus is the community.

- *Special Guest* – John Rosser, Sustainatopia

Mr. Rosser said he has a real passion for sustainability. He said that Sustainatopia started as a conference that focused on the business of good, finding projects for private enterprise and government entities to fund and get involved in. He said this event will now be hosted on Earth Day permanently. This event now includes a festival that will feature 280 speakers from 50 countries as well as film, art and fashion. He said the focus is on education for solving green issues. He said the framework for the event is a 3 day conference with a 3 day festival and 1 shared day. He further stated that Sustainatopia has major media relationships that include MTV, New York Times, Rolling Stone Magazine and TreeHugger. He said this isn't new and that they have history with local Miami sponsors as well. He said the conference from Monday to Wednesday helps draw people into the area and helps the festival to grow for the Saturday and Sunday Earth Day main event. He said Donna Karan came to last year's event and that the other

celebrities that participated could come to this year's event as well. These include Patricia Arquette, Tico Torres from Bon Jovi and Venus Williams. He said the event is growing and that he would love to partner with Coral Gables because of the huge opportunity to do something big for Earth Day.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that the Task Force recently received approval in concept for the Earth Day event. He said the agreement is that the event cannot cost the City any money and he ask would this cost be. Mr. Rosser said if Sustainatopia manages the event, they have to be able to realize revenue in order to cover costs.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said the event needs to be first class. Mr. Rosser stated there will be administrative costs, support costs and possible facility costs to cover.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said the Special Events Committee told him that for the scope of event he is planning, he would need to budget around 4 to 5 thousand dollars including the costs for booths, tents, tables and chairs. He said he also wants to include the car rally in the event. He further asked who would plan the event if the City and Sustainatopia teamed up.

Ms. May said that the Task Force would have to hire an event planner. Mr. Rosser stated he had resources he could pull from including a good volunteer record.

Ms. Soto said she felt that interest from the Hispanic community was lacking and that it would be great to pull in more of that interest to help make the event more successful. Mr. Rosser agreed and said there is good sentiment from the Latin community for an event like this.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked what the next step is. Ms. May said Sustainatopia won't plan the event for us. She said they will help out with publicity and that would help drive a lot of traffic to the event.

Mr. Rosser said the only thing he asks is that Sustainatopia needs to be top line sponsor of the event. It should be The City of Coral Gables in association with Sustainatopia.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if Sustainatopia had an event planner that could help. Mr. Rosser said Sustainatopia could do the operations if need be, but will need assistance. Ms. Soto suggested for each party meet to put on paper what is expected so that there are no misunderstandings.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that someone should be assigned from the Task Force to meet with Mr. Rosser to collect all of the information and bring it back to the Task Force. Ms. May said that she would do this for the Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.