

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

COMMISSION CHAMBERS MEETING (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG MINUTES

MEMBERS	N 20	D 20	J 21	F 21	M 21	A 21	M 21	J 21	J 21	A 21	S 21	O 21	APPOINTED BY:
Nicholas Eterovic	P	*	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	*	P	P	Mayor Lago
Carmen Olazabal	P	*	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	*	P	E	Commissioner Fors
Jasper Brock	P	*	A	P	P	E	E	E	E	*	E	E	Commissioner Menendez
Greg Hamra	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	*	E	E	Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	Commissioner Anderson
Martin Pinilla	P	*	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel	P	*	P	*	*		*	*	P	*	P	P	City Commission-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	U.M. Representative
Monique Selman	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	P	E	C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Piero Gardinali	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	*	P	P	F.I.U. Representative

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

STAFF:

Matt Anderson, City Resiliency and Sustainability Manager
Solanch Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager
Jeannette Reyes, P.W. Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairperson, Marlin Ebbert called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. Physical quorum 5:21 pm

GUESTS:

Stephen Matthew Wisniew, Resident

MOTIONS:

September 22, 2021, Meeting Minutes – Martin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Piero seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Martin made a motion to excuse Greg, Jasper, Carmen, and Monique; Nick seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (6): Marlin, Martin, Joe, Piero, Nicholas, and Teddy

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Matthew Wisniew is a Coral Gables resident and a graduate student at UM, studying Architectural. He is doing a thesis on how South Florida does structural assemblages and looking at how to maximize thermal comfort while we are here.

Jasper mentioned that at the last meeting it was suggested that the Board members advise their subject of interest, and he is highly interested in Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations and Sea Level Rise.

Marlin mentioned that Solanch was recognized at yesterday's Commission meeting for Mujeres Legendarias 2021, a program that recognizes Latin women in different industries.

Update on Cardboard Education Program/Enforcement -

Matt introduced Solid Waste Interim Director, Paula Rodriguez who stated as of December 1st, 2021, the Solid Waste Division will not be collecting cardboard boxes that are placed on the swale. The initiative is to place a tag on the resident's door explaining why their trash/waste was not picked up. In addition, Code Compliance will be notified, who will go out and give warnings and fines to those who do not comply. The warnings will be effective for 1 year therefore if you get another violation within the year, you will be fined. The fines start at \$100 and double up to \$500 per expense. In addition, residents are reminded that recycling is to be placed on the side or back of the house, not visible from the street. We also ask residents to please break down the cardboard and place it next to or in the recycling bin to help staff.

Discussion Item: Youth Appointment to SAB

Marlin had suggested several times, if the Board would like to have a youth; possibly from the Coral Gables High School, as part of the Board. Matt had a conversation with the City Clerk's office, prior to today's meeting and all they ask is that before this is taken to Commission, that the Board provide the specifics as to why the request to have a youth on the Board. Marlin asked the Board to think about some of the qualifications they would like to be discussed at the November meeting.

City Commission Agenda Items – Sustainability

1. Green Business Recognition – UM Teddy was present at the Commission with Jessica Brown, Vice President of Facilities Operations and Planning to receive the first Green Business Platinum award.
2. Solsmart Silver Designation – a few years ago the city received Bronze Solsmart Designation from the US Department of Energy and now the city has achieved Solsmart

Silver Designation and the direction was given to go for Gold Solsmart Designation. Matt is working with Development Services and the Solsmart Foundation on this initiative.

3. Department of Agriculture Expanded Polystyrene Resolution – Polystyrene Phase-Out Resolution the Commission passed a resolution supporting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services rule making process because the FDA and their Commissioner Nikki Fried is starting a rule making process to phase out Polystyrene. The Commission wants to pass a resolution to support this effort. It involves a multi-year phase out of polystyrene packaging beginning in 2022, with a maximum allowable amount of polystyrene to be sold or distributed decreasing each year. Based on the phase-out plan, full elimination of polystyrene products in regulated businesses would occur by 2028. The draft rule would also require regulated entities to file an annual report of the amount of polystyrene sold or distributed that year.
4. 2022 City Sustainability Related City Legislative Priorities – Polystyrene and single use plastic bags, the importance of Biscayne Bay, supporting the Department of Agriculture and protection of the city’s tree canopy, and the expansion of the PACE (Property Access Clean Energy) program.

Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives –

a. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program updates

Past events (Downtown Clean up, 100 Yards of Hope etc.) it was a great turn out, 66 tickets were sold, 51 were in attendance, a panel of 6 including the co-founder of Force Blue who was in the film.

Upcoming Events (Recycling Drive-Thru, Downtown Cleanup, UM Coastal Cleanup, Girl Scout Cleanup)

November 6, 2021, Recycling Drive Thru – City Hall parking lot from 9 am – 12 pm.

November 12, 2021 - UM Coastal Cleanup at Matheson Hammock

November 13, 2021, at 10 am the Youth Center - 3rd Event in the Conservation Series – Lecture on attracting Birds to your South Florida Garden.

December 2, 2021, Downtown Cleanup.

December 11, 2021, Girls Scout Cleanup at Matheson Hammock.

Marlin stated that what she has on her list is to have field trips.

Teddy would like to meet with Paula to bring up again the composting discussion.

Matt reminded the Board to watch the City Ethics Training video.

Next Meeting – November 18, 2021

ADJOURNED: 6:33 pm