

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

COMMISSION CHAMBERS MEETING (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG MINUTES

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	
Nicholas Eterovic	E	E	P	E	*	P	P	E	*	P	P	P	Mayor Lago
Carmen Olazabal	P	E	P	P	*	P	E	P	*	P	P	P	Commissioner Fors
Jasper Brock	E	E	E	E	*	E	E	E	*	P	P	P	Commissioner Menendez
Greg Hamra	P	P	E	E	*	E	E	P	*	E	E	p	Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	Commissioner Anderson
Martin Pinilla	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	E	*	P	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel		*	*	P	*	P	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	E	*	P	E	E	*	E	E	P	C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Piero Gardinali	P	P	E	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	E	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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairperson, Marlin Ebbert called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

GUESTS:

Karelia Martinez Carbonell, President of the Historic Preservation of Coral Gables

MOTIONS:

***February 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes* – Carmen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Jasper seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Jasper made a motion requesting that the SAB members, are final in selecting and appointing the Youth appointee, Carmen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (10): Marlin, Nick, Carmen, Jasper, Martin, Joe, Teddy, Monique, Greg & Piero.

Note: - 6:00 pm Teddy had to leave, and Greg walked in, therefore a physical quorum was still in place.

GUEST COMMENTS:

Karelia Martinez Carbonell President of the Historic Preservation of Coral Gables – is reaching out to the board on how to reach carbon neutrality and the importance of speaking out about the embodied carbon emissions. Karelia mentioned an article that read “worldwide between now and 2050, embodied carbon is expected to account for half of total greenhouse gases from all new construction” this is according to the World Green Building Council. Karelia said she has brought this up to the Commission and that from the Preservation perspective we must start thinking at a larger level, she asked the board to consider adaptive re-use.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Jasper – offered a clarification to a comment made at the last meeting regarding the absence of super chargers in the City of Coral Gables for electric vehicles. The misinterpretation that may have been left is that all chargers are the same and the Tesla chargers are only for Tesla vehicles. Turns out that the Tesla ones charges a tiny fraction of the time that all the others do. And so, the super chargers that Tesla puts in themselves are a benefit and will draw in Tesla drivers to the City of Coral Gables. When Martin first bought his Tesla, he did not have the connection at home therefore he had to drive to Brickell City Center to charge his vehicle. Martin said it would be great to have a Tesla charging station within city limits. Matt mentioned that any electric vehicle can use any of the 32 charging points throughout the city that are mostly Level II charging stations in the parking garages and surface parking lots. In addition, behind City Hall there are two EVGo Level III super charging stations. Four Level II stations were just added to parking lot 20 across from City Hall. Joe asked, what is the outlook for charging a fee for use of the charging stations. Matt said currently the city is not charging a fee to use the Level II charging stations but that at some point they will because the demand is so high. Anyone using the stations do currently have to pay for parking. Piero mentioned that one of the mistakes made was putting the electric chargers in prime parking spots which brings people with non-charging cars to park there with no enforcement. Nick mentioned that letting people know that the city currently does not charge to have your electric vehicle charged, is a good incentive.

Sustainability Advisory Board
March 30, 2022

Monique - apologized to the Board for her absence, she was taking care of personal issues that required her to spend some time in London.

Carmen – mentioned that at the last meeting there was a discussion about vulnerability assessments and possibly using sustainability funds for recommendations from the vulnerability assessment. Matt said he will discuss this with Public Works and provide an update at the next meeting. Carmen asked if FPL has a breakdown on where they get their resources on, are electric vehicle as sustainable as the energy that one gets it from.

Greg – was invited to speak at the University of Miami Schools of Environmental Engineering to speak on Sustainable Construction Materials and The Concept of Embodied Carbon, tomorrow Thursday, March 31st at UM from 6 pm to 7:15 pm.

Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives

City Commission Meeting Agenda Items

Earth Month Proclamation – Marlin, Matt and Solanch were present for the Earth Month Proclamation by the Commission at the March 29th Commission Meeting.

Youth Appointment – the board motion was presented and very well received by the Commission, they agreed with the importance of adding a youth appointment to the board. The next step would be to put it into the ordinance that governs the board. Matt confirmed with the members that the board wants to be the final selection to the appointment.

Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates

Florida Beverage Association Grants – this is a reverse vending machine initiative, Matt and Solanch applied for the grant and provided a presentation and were selected as recipients to a \$25,000 grant. The location chosen for this pilot program is the War Memorial Youth Center due to the high traffic volume. Solanch and Matt will keep the board updated on the program as the grant funding is received.

Downtown Community Cleanup Recap (February 28) – We had another great downtown community cleanup event. There was a total of 38 participants and the total trash collected was 237 pounds. It was our highest total to date. We are looking at scheduling another Downtown Cleanup in May.

Recycling Bin Collection at Farmer Market (March 19) – there were 94 bins collected and 67 participants in attendance.

Upcoming Earth Month Events

Plogging Event at Matheson Hammock Saturday, April 2nd from 8 am to 10 am – kick-off for the Great American Cleanup Season and Earth Month.

Sustainability Advisory Board
March 30, 2022

Screening of The Biggest Little Farm April 5th at 7 pm at the Coral Gables Cinema - a documentary of one family's dream to harvest in harmony with nature.

Recycling Drive-Thru Event on Saturday, April 23rd from 9 am to 12 pm at the parking lot behind City Hall. Our next recycling drive thru event taking place right after Earth Day. During the City's bi-annual Recycling Drive-Thru Events, we will recycle your old electronics, dispose of household hazardous waste in an environmentally friendly manner, shred any sensitive documents safely and securely onsite, donate your gently used clothing, and to drop off your old 14-gallon City issued red recycling bins. As a result of the 13 collection events over the last 6 years, the city has collected and diverted 328,743 pounds of electronic and household hazardous waste, clothing, and sensitive documents from entering the landfills.

Earth Day at UM April 22nd from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm – The City of Coral Gables Sustainability Advisory Board will have a table set up, Matt and Solanch will educate the students on sustainability, Keep Coral Gables Beautiful and all the programs the city has to offer.

Next Meeting – April 27, 2022.

ADJOURNED: 6:22 pm.