

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS (BOARD MEMBERS ONLY)  
GUEST CAN ATTEND VIA ZOOM

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

MINUTES

| MEMBERS           | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  | J  | APPOINTED BY:               |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------------------|
|                   | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 |                             |
| Martin Pinilla    | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | E  | P  | P  | *  | P  | Mayor Valdes-Fauli          |
| Gordan Fales      | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  |    | P  | P  | P  | *  | P  | Commissioner Fors           |
| Rita Teutonico    | E  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | E  | P  | P  | *  | A  | Vice Mayor Lago             |
| Greg Hamra        | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | P  | E  | P  | *  | P  | Commissioner Mena           |
| Marlin Ebbert     | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | P  | E  | P  | *  | P  | Commissioner Keon           |
| Enrique Bernal    | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  |    | P  | P  | P  | *  | A  | City Manager Peter Iglesias |
| Irela Bague       | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | P  | P  | P  | *  | P  | City Commission-As-A-Whole  |
| Teddy Lhoutellier | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | P  | P  | P  | *  | P  | U.M. Representative         |
| Monique Selman    | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | P  | E  | P  | *  | P  | C.G. Chambers of Commerce   |
| Piero Gardinali   | P  | *  | *  | *  | *  | *  | P  | E  | P  | P  | *  | P  | F.I.U. Representative       |

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

**HYBRID MEETING**

In Person Quorum: Irela Bague, Piero Gardinali; Monique Selman; Marlin Ebbert, Gordan Fales, and Martin Pinilla.

Virtual (via Zoom): Greg Hamra and Teddy Lhoutellier

**STAFF:**

Matt Anderson, Senior Sustainability Analyst  
Solanch Lopez, Administrative Assistant City Manager’s Office  
Jeannette Reyes, Administrative Assistant Public Works Facilities

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Rhonda Anderson, Coral Gables Resident  
Amalia Garrido, Coral Gables High School  
Alex Haq  
Tico, Native Oyster Project  
Jonathan Taylor, Andromeda District  
Emily Gonzalez, Coral Gables High School  
Nicholas Eterovic  
Elizabeth Diaz  
Emilio Lopez  
Saadin Dassum

**MOTIONS:**

***November 18, 2020 SAB meeting minutes –Marlin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

As the meeting started Irela announced that she has accepted a position with Miami Dade County as the new Chief Bay Officer. It is a brand-new position to the County. She will oversee coordinating all efforts related to Biscayne Bay. As a result of the new position, Irela announced that she will be stepping down from her position and role as Chairperson of the City Sustainability Board. She looks forward to continuing to coordinate with the City on water quality and Biscayne Bay related items and commended the City for its leadership on water quality. Staff and the board members congratulated Irela and thanked her for her leadership on the board.

Amalia Garrido requested information on 100 % renewable energy goal – Matt provided her with his email address and offered to meet with her to discuss in more detail. Greg also provided her with his contact info regarding Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

Alex Haq – was told by a lot of voters that the recyclables were being thrown away and not being recycled properly. Matt stated that other Cities have stopped recycling because of the cost associated with it, it is market driven and a lot is dependent on the contamination rate. In the City of Coral Gables, the contamination rate in our residential recycling is under 10% because of the way it is collected and because of the open bin system. Recycling is getting done in the City, Matt is willing to follow up offline with additional information and recommends if anyone is interested in visiting one of the Waste Management recycling plants, to do so to see the entire process.

Updates on Ongoing City and SAB Initiatives

- Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program

Christmas Tree Recycling Program Recap:

- Share report with board members.
- Program Time Frame: Dec. 28, 2020 – Jan. 15, 2021
- Advertisement:
  - o Featured on City e-news weekly from Dec. 23 – Jan. 13
  - o Organic Posts on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram through program time frame.
  - o Two boosted posts totaling \$150 in ad spend.
    - First Ad: Reach 20,324 | Link Clicks 291
    - Second Ad: Reach 9,727 | Link Clicks 105
  - o Organic exposure through Miami Herald article about tree recycling services in Miami-Dade and Broward County.
- Program Results: 2,800 trees collected and chipped into mulch.
- Share Holiday Recycling Tips Graphic

Grant Opportunity:

- Florida Beverage Association \$25k grant available.
- Application being reviewed by City's grant writer for submission.
- If awarded, monies would be used for Nov. 2021 HHW event.

Great American Cleanup Season:

- Program Time Frame: March 20 – June 21
- Plogging Kickoff event being planned at Matheson Hammocks.
  - o Date TBD (Last weekend of March or first of April)
  - o This will also act as the Earth Month Kickoff event.
  - o Event would be limited to 30 volunteers max with pre-registration required.
  - o Check-In times will be scattered.
- April HHW event.
- Possible Smaller Cleanup events in May and June to close off the season.
- More details to come.

Litter Index:

- Depending on COVID numbers we will try to plan our litter index for some time in May.

Matt took a moment and publicly thanked Solanch for her support and leadership on the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program.

Green Business Certification Program:

- CG Diamond Awards, Andromeda District – first business to be awarded gold certification. They specialize in the design and development of green spaces. They design green walls with all Florida grown plants, supporting local agriculture, and creating local jobs.

Energy and Water Efficiency in City Facilities Projects:

- Matt updated the Board about the Venetian Pool; The LED lighting conversion project is almost 100% complete.

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- The following facilities have all been converted to LED lighting, having huge energy savings: Portions of City Hall, all the Public Works facility, Venetian Pool, Merrick House, Fire Station 2, and 3.
- Also, this Friday is the grand opening of the new Public Safety Building, a LEED Silver building.
- Using 2013 as the base line, citywide, we are down 14% on electricity use and over 2,000,000 Kilowatt Hours based on the energy improvements the City have been doing (i.e., lighting, installing high efficiency AC units etc.).

City Water Quality Projects:

- Matt has been in communication with Tiffany from FIU who is managing the City's waterway water quality assessment. They have already taken up to 400 samples to date, both within city waterway and outside of Red Road. They will analyze the first batch this month, providing an update to the Commission next month.
- Smart Sponge – captures hydrocarbons (fuel oils, anything that goes into the storm drains and end up in the waterways) is in process.
- Curb Filters and Baskets – To prevent Stormwater Pollution, the City of Coral Gables is in the process of implementing 10 stormwater filters along Ponce de Leon Blvd. The goal of the program is to prevent leaves (nutrients) and street litter from entering storm drains and discharging to Biscayne Bay. The City is working with SOP Technologies on the pilot program.
- Native Oysters in our waterways – project will help to fight the nutrient load as well as the algae bloom. The goal of the project is to re-establish the native oysters which is currently less than 1% due to lack of population density.

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Monique – advised that there are vendors at the Farmers Market giving out plastic bags. Matt will follow up with Norma from our Parks Department to confirm and address.

Marlin – suggested putting out on the E-news, the schedule on lawn watering and a reminder about Miami Dade Water Restrictions.

Pierro – all the programs the City is implementing, like pollution etc. he would like the data received and the results shared with the public.

Teddy – announced the Student Government will be installing an 80 KW System in the Field House, hopefully this semester. The Florida Food Waste Prevention week will be of interest to the C.G.H.S. students, Teddy will share the information with Matt. Teddy also said that atala butterflies have returned to campus.

Greg – thanked Irela for the meeting a few weeks ago, to promote legislation economy wide federal legislation with global reach. February 9, 2021 Greg will meet with the Commissioners to address

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this and Greg will also ask Congress Woman Ileana Elvira Salazar to cosponsor the bill when it is re-introduced to Congress.

**Next Meeting** – February 24, 2021

**ADJOURNED:** 6:30 pm