

CORAL GABLES GREEN TASK FORCE
 GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011, 9:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

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

Dan Keys, Public Service Director
 Olga Hasbun, VIP Associates, Inc.
 Andy Kinard, Car Charging, Inc.
 Robert Ruano-Annabelle Bovet, Belle Plume Communications

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 (September 28, 2011):

Ms. Soto made a motion to approve the September 28th minutes, Ms. Trbovich seconded and all members unanimously approved.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- *Special Guest* – Dan Keys, Public Service Director

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Mr. Keys to discuss the functions of the department and its handling of waste streams and pick-up in the City.

Mr. Keys said his department handles the garbage and recycling as well as the landscape maintenance in the City. He said curbside weekly trash and yard waste goes to an environmentally friendly facility and the recycling waste goes to a vendor that separates the paper waste streams from the solid waste streams. Mr. Keys mentioned a popular issue with the recycling service is residents want to add more recycling streams to the bins. However he said the City's recycling vehicles do not compact waste therefore at this time they are unable to add more streams due to the trucks coming back full every time. He also said the collection method currently used is a back yard pick-up: employees use carts to go from house to house until the cart is full, meet the truck to unload and then repeat the process. He added residents prefer this type of pick-up versus the curbside pick-up with a container and therefore the volume collected isn't as great.

Ms. Jude asked if it would be possible to be greener by acquiring newer vehicles. Mr. Keys stated the vehicles currently being used are roughly 4 to 5 years old. He said as new vehicles are acquired, the City would look into other designs. However due to the existing budget constraints, Public Service will not be getting new vehicles but when the opportunity arises they will definitely look into it.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo stated at the last meeting, the Automotive Director made a presentation that helped the Task Force understand the costs to run his operation and what things are used the most such as tires. He asked if Public Service Department has a 2, 5 and 10 year plan on how to transition to more cost beneficial and greener business models. He also suggested bringing in an outside vendor to pick-up electronics and larger cardboard streams.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said the purpose of the Green Task Force is to help his department achieve its sustainability goals and that if Mr. Keys has a vision or plan, the Task Force can make recommendations to the City Manager for these ideas.

Mr. Keys said one of the things that citizens can recommend is possibly changing the service from what it is now to possibly a curbside type service. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said the Task Force could ask citizens if they would be willing to accept this, but inevitably they will want to know what the City will do them instead such as: offering cardboard and electronics pick up at no charge. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said the upcoming Earth Day festival presents an opportunity to

ask these types of questions and get valuable citizen feedback on these issues and others such as willing to pay a fee to ride the trolley.

Ms. May said the Task Force is looking for is a 2, 5 and 10 year plan from the Public Service Department. Mr. Keys said the question of how we make a perfect system becomes dependant on what the idea of a perfect system is. Ms. May said they are looking for ideas and recommendations that can be done. She further stated other cities are doing it and North Miami uses coupons as incentives for residents to recycle. Mr. Keys said those cities have curbside collection. Ms. May suggested for Public Service to create a plan for public information purposes.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said some issues regarding to curbside collection and containers are really zoning code issues, but what a vision is needed first. Ms. Jude stated that part of the problem is the people and their willingness to change to this type of system. Mr. Christensen said he has no problem with a curbside collection system and he feels it should be allowed to have a trashcan in front of your house.

Mr. Dannemiller suggested for a system that charges like a pay-by-use system to pay for what you only put out. He also asked what happens to the lawn waste that is collected each week. Mr. Keys said it is used as daily cover for landfills as a cap.

Mr. Dannemiller asked if this was the best use for this material or are there other possible uses for this material.

Mr. Keys stated that the City has limited options and is sending the waste stream for use. He said the City had a chipping and composting program prior to 1995 but that was curtailed because of the location of the 72nd avenue facility. He said this operation created neighborhood issues and it was stopped. However, he stated the material being collected isn't necessarily pristine and a beneficial use and would likely involve testing of the material. He added the City of Miami has a mulching program but they make no guarantees as to the quality of the material. He also said this type of operation requires a great deal of space to be able to hold the material for long periods of time.

Ms. Trbovich asked if any efforts were being made to recycle in apartment buildings. Mr. Keys said the City does recycling for single family homes, but other multi-family homes such as apartment and condo buildings are covered under a franchise agreement with Waste Management. He said they are required to provide access to recycling under this agreement.

Ms. Jude asked if offices are required to have access to recycling. Mr. Keys said they are required, however Waste Management doesn't have an exclusive to do these businesses and theoretically they could use another recycling company.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo reiterated the Task Force wants to help the Public Service Department accomplish its goals and asked Mr. Keys not to let anything get in the way. He said that if there

is a department vision and a plan with recommendations, the Task Force can help. Mr. Keys said any process that changes public opinion about the collection system issue to help residents see

that curbside is more efficient would help. He said the convenience factor and the aesthetics of having containers on the street after collection for half of the day is a big issue with residents.

Ms. Soto said the curbside collection plan as currently constructed now is not an option for Coral Gables and said in her opinion this is a disgusting, ugly and dangerous system. Mr. Keys asked her if she was referring to the trash collection system. Ms. Soto said trash and recycling. She further said that it is the most hideous thing and dangerous since she has incurred damage to her car mirror as a result of cars passing by the trucks. She stated that the City needs to have options other than cans sitting out for half the day.

Mr. Keys said he wasn't aware of other options but offered to meet after the meeting to discuss.

- *Special Guest* – Olga Hasbun- VIP Associates, Inc.

Ms. Hasbun stated her company offers alternative options to the above discussion. She stated in her experience, issues like sustainability and greening are about education. She said she agreed that curbside collection like the County's would be a bad idea for the Gables and said she would like to present an option that is partially free. Ms. Hasbun said her company works with the section of the population with any type of disability and similar disabling conditions such as cancer recovery, veterans, foster children, mental health and homeless persons. She stated the root of the non-profit is finding work for these individuals. She said her company can offer an alternative to help get the bulk items out of the City waste stream by picking these items up from resident's homes. She said her company has received several donations from Coral Gables residents that have expressed interest in this type of service.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if electronics pick-up is the focus of her company. Ms. Hasbun said yes and said the company could also offer pick-up of large cardboard boxes and old medical equipment. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if the company had downstream users for these materials. Ms. Hasbun stated yes and further said her company could collect these items using receptacles the City would purchase for the residents or they could take the items from a pick-up location. She added her company would advertise the program and publish it to help educate the public. She said that pick up could even be done at events.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked if she had a plant or operation that they run or do they sub out. Ms. Hasbun said they sub-out and they also use equipment donated to them.

Ms. Hasbun said she would like for Task Force to recommend that VIP Associates, Inc. be able to collect electronics, cardboard, bottles and cans in the City of Coral Gables to be able to add additional services to what is already offered.

Ms. Trbovich asked if there is a charge for the pick-up service. Ms. Hasbun said there is no charge for the pick-up. Ms. Trbovich also asked what could be done about bulky items. Ms. Hasbun said that all is needed is a call.

Ms. Smith stated she would also like to see if the businesses in that she deals with at the Chamber would be interested in using their service.

- *Special Guest* – Andy Kinard, Car Charging, Inc.

Mr. Kinard said that Car Charging, Inc., is a publicly traded company that is 2½ years old currently working with the City of Miami Beach. He said the company has a revenue sharing model that installs public car charging stations. He further stated that these stations have antennas which allow them to be located using smart phone applications. He said it normally takes 1 or 2 hours to get a usable charge into a car. He mentioned these stations are installed for free and they function by tapping into the nearby electrical conduit. The company pays for all electricity and then shares a portion of the revenue with the municipality. He added these stations accept credit cards. He said they were just awarded a contract with the City of Miami Beach, which has an excellent use because of the large number of multi-family dwellings.

Ms. Trbovich asked for the cost to install a station. Mr. Kinard said the costs are all in the running of electricity via conduit to the station. Ms. Trbovich asked how much does it cost to charge a car. Mr. Kinard said currently it is \$3 per hour and mentioned each car battery is a different size and pulls electricity at a different rate. He said that optimally he would charge by the kilowatt hour, but there were issues with many states as to whether that made his company a utility and thus subject to regulations by the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Christensen asked who would absorb the initial capital costs to run the electricity to the designated spaces. Mr. Kinard replied his company would assume all the costs with no cost to the City and further stated they would share a portion of the revenue as well. He went on to say the industry seems to be trying to move to inductive charging. He said his company is taking all of the risk, so if this indeed happened it wouldn't cost the City anything.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo stated that in Garage 6 there are dedicated parking spaces for hybrid vehicles that are not being enforced. He asked Mr. Kinard if he would like the Task Force to recommend for one unit to be installed and commented they are also trying to work with the Parking Department to get one space on Miracle Mile.

Mr. Kinard stated sometimes it can be very expensive to get electricity to a surface street unless there are already facilities located nearby. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Mr. Pino if there were some islands on Miracle Mile that could be tapped into to provide electricity. Mr. Pino said there were but that he didn't believe these had enough voltage.

Ms. May asked if Mr. Kinard was also negotiating with the City of South Miami. Mr. Kinard replied he wasn't sure but others seem to be waiting for Miami Beach to execute their contract to piggy-back.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked for a motion recommending to the City Manager for the City to either put out an RFP or piggy-back a contract with Car Charging, Inc. for the installation of electric car charging stations on Miracle Mile and Parking Garages. Mr. Christensen moved the item, Ms. Jude seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kowalchik said by adding a station to a space on Miracle Mile and restricting access to just these vehicles, it restricts access to a spot that turns over 15-20 times per day. He stated the demand for electric vehicles just isn't there yet and that the ideal place for this would be in the parking garages.

Ms. Trbovich added there are many valet parking spaces on Miracle Mile and that between the hours of 11am and 3 pm, it is difficult to find parking. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said from the Parking Department perspective, those spots are paid for already and he understands that. However he said he believes the City needs to be forward thinking. Mr. Kowalchik restated the demand just is not there for electric vehicles at this time. He further asked if it was really the will of the Task Force to restrict access to spaces that turn 15-20 times a day and turn away all other potential users of the space.

Mr. Kowalchik stated the Parking Advisory Board met last month and discussed the issue of designated parking for hybrid vehicles. He said that they voted against restricting access to spaces on Miracle Mile for just hybrid vehicles. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said the problem is a lack of vision and a shortsighted approach.

Ms. Trbovich asked if the Parking Advisory Board had voted "no" to the spaces. Mr. Kowalchik replied that they voted "no" to restricting the spaces to hybrid vehicles only. Ms. Trbovich asked why and Mr. Kowalchik stated because this would restrict access and not allow everyone to have a chance to use the space.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said the Parking Department hasn't tried enforcement in parking garages. Mr. Kowalchik replied they are enforcing and do write tickets to offenders. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said he feels there should be a better enforcement effort.

Ms. Trbovich asked if the City could try one space next to a handicap designated space for six months as a trial. Ms. May added that all they are asking for is one space.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Mr. Kowalchik to communicate to the Parking Advisory Board Chairman that he would like to come and speak to them on this issue at their next meeting.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Ms. May to update the Task Force about the Earth Day event activities. Ms. May stated has been in touch with an event planning firm to ask them to come speak to the Task Force about this event.

- *Special Guest* – Robert Ruano and Annabelle Bovet, Belle Plume Communications

Mr. Ruano served as the Chair for the Coral Gables Bike Day committee. He said he would like to make recommendations to the Task Force as they move forward with planning the Earth Day event. He recommends: 1- breaking into a group that is separate from the Green Task Force so the group can be free to work on all the details of the event without dealing with Sunshine Law issues; 2- identifying who would chair the committee and lead the effort and; 3- make sure the committee is passionate about the event. He further stated it takes money to do events and fundraising in the private sector is more difficult. He suggested for the Task Force to identify a fiscal agent to take the lead in acquiring money to hire more help. He also suggested to partnering with another company.

Ms. May asked for the budget of the Coral Gables Bike Day event. Mr. Ruano said approximately \$25,000. Ms. May asked if Belle Plume had an estimate cost for the Earth Day event and Ms. Bovet said it depends on the level of sponsors. She said it is best to have a list of sponsors to know how much money to expect and then you will know what is available. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo commented the Gables Bike Day event was a much larger event than the Earth Day festival.

Ms. May asked if Belle Plume prefers having a committee if they were to work on the Earth Day event with the Task Force. Mr. Ruano said a strong committee would be needed. Mr. Ruano also suggested in speaking with the Police Department to discuss the off-duty expense. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said this wouldn't apply since they have met with the Special Events Committee and this is a City event. Ms. May said the Task Force needs to figure out how to create this committee. Mr. Pino said he would ask the City Attorney.

Mr. Ruano mentioned corporations may only want to give to a non-profit 501C3 organization. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Mr. Pino to get with the City Attorney about this issue as well. Mr. Christensen suggested for a volunteer Coral Gables Earth Day Committee be formed for people that want to get involved and are not connected to the City.

Ms. May said that Dream in Green is a non-profit 501C3 organization that could accept whatever monies are raised for the event if that is what the Task Force wanted to do. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said that at this point, the City Manager needs a plan from the Green Task Force about how this event will be done.

Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo added the original idea of having a Car Rally at the festival will have to changed to a car display due to insurance and liability issues. He also added that a plan has been submitted from Sustainatopia but the Task Force needs a plan from Belle Plume to make a decision and recommendation. Ms. May asked Ms. Bovet to provide a budget and Ms. Bovet said the budget would depend on the scope of services requested and start date.

Ms. May said after a budget is received a decision needs to be made in order to move forward. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo asked Mr. Pino if it would be possible to vote on the plans via email. Mr. Pino replied he would find out from the City Attorney.

Mr. Christensen added that it may have to be another publicly noticed meeting to be held in two weeks. Ms. May said that so far the event would consist of the car display, music, drop off areas for scrap and waste, tents and food vendors. Mr. Ruiz de Quevedo said they would meet in two weeks to make the final decisions.

Mr. Pino said he had a couple of updates from previous items. First he said on the Deco Bike issue, the City is expecting a report back in November as to the recommended locations for the rentals. He also said that the City Manager directed him to work with the Public Affairs office to advertise the Miami-Dade Green Print initiative. He also stated the E-Scrap item will be discussed with the City Manager shortly.

Ms. May replied she was under the impression that the Green Print issue included inspections to be done by the City in setting up the Green Certifications so that the businesses could qualify for the loans. Mr. Pino replied he would look into it.

Mr. Ruano said he wanted to add the Miracle Mile Streetscape project was one of the things that he hoped the Green Task Force would address. He said the original design left out bike lanes and hoped they would be supportive of protected bike lanes in the redesign of the streetscape. He further stated that other cities around the nation had made a concerted effort to foster a more bike friendly culture and he hoped that Coral Gables would also be one of those communities.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.