

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

COMMISSION CHAMBERS MEETING (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 @ 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG MINUTES

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Vice Chairperson, Carmen Olazabal called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

**GUESTS:**

Paige Jackett  
 Grace Carricarte

**MOTIONS:**

***March 30, 2022, Meeting Minutes* – Jasper moved to approve the meeting minutes, Monique seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Monique moved to excuse Greg, Marlin, and Nick; Jasper seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Jasper made a motion to elect Carmen Olazabal as Vice Chair, Joe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**PHYSICAL QUORUM (7): Carmen, Jasper, Martin, Joe, Teddy, Monique, Piero.**

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**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

*Martin* attended his first Recycling Drive-Thru Event, he congratulated Matt, Solanch and the board members who host the event for their great efforts.

*Monique* mentioned that on Monday, April 25, 2022 Matt, Belkys Perez, and herself attended a meeting with Quirch Foods located in the Bacardi Building, they are the latest applicants for the Certified Green Business Program. Matt said they are up to the silver certification level, and he will be doing a final review. The company's mission is to focus on sustainability and making that part of their overall companies' goals and objectives.

*Jasper* wants to make a point on septic tanks and the fact that those Coral Gables residents who are not on sewers are getting a free ride. Jasper said those who are connected to sewer must pay a significant amount of money every month added on to their water bill for sewer fees. Monique said people on septic tanks would probably prefer to be on sewer rather than septic tanks that need to be maintained, composed and at times needing to update the drain fields. Carmen agreed 100% with Monique's comments, but unfortunately it is not available to the residents because they do not have a wastewater line in front of their house. Currently in the City of Coral Gables there are about 50 to 60% of residents on septic tanks. Piero said since you are not a customer of the Miami Dade Water and Sewer System you don't get access to any incentives or any programs to pay for a connection. Matt mentioned that at the Tuesday's Commission meeting there was a discussion on Kings Bay, where the city applied for a grant and received almost \$3,000,000 to help the neighborhood convert to sewer. Due to the significant amount of money the neighborhood had to contribute to connect, they declined and therefore the grant will be returned.

*Carmen* said that on the Citywide Vulnerability Assessment that was done 3 years ago, one of the areas they focused on was on septic tanks. Carmen believes that it is helpful for the Board to have a presentation on what are the main vulnerable areas. Matt will confirm that septic tanks was one of the areas mentioned.

*Monique* said that a few months ago the Board discussed composting because there are other municipalities that are working with companies that are doing citywide composting. Matt said he

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doesn't know of any city in South Florida that is doing citywide composting, they might be doing small drop off locations. Teddy thinks it would be good for the Chamber of Commerce, to invite some of the vendors referred to by the county. Teddy said UM will start composting with one of companies to see how it goes. Teddy spoke with people of one of the hotels in Miami Beach and they said they were very happy with their service even better than biodigester.

Joe asked if anyone knows if governments elsewhere regulate or require composting? Jasper said he has two communities Vancouver British Columbia and Vermont that does citywide residential composting, and it works well, one is rural, and the other is urban.

Teddy announced that UM just launched the Climate Resilience Academy, go to <https://resilience.miami.edu/> to see more. This is focusing not only on sea level rise and storm surge but also issues with heat related to climate change.

#### Discussion Sustainability Lecture Series

Joe requested to have a brief discussion on lecture series, he provided several topics on educational events or lectures on a variety of sustainability topics. Joe said he was motivated because he's been learning a lot being on the Board. Joe believes education and awareness is important and some of his ideas would be in environment, economic sustainability, social sustainability, climate change and global warming, greenhouse gas emission. He suggested having someone in these fields come and elaborate on what is happening, why it happens, what the consequences are, and what can be done. Another area will be energy renewable options, what's available or a discussion on nuclear power or the problem with sea level rise in south Florida, the problem with the everglades and the lack of biodiversity in south Florida, water sustainability, pollution single use plastic, phosphate, and nitrogen in the bay, septic tanks, pesticides, etc. These are some of the topics Joe is pointing out to the board for discussion. Matt suggested these would be great topics for our next Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Conversation Series with Parks in the fall. Matt will provide the list to the Board, they can add to it and come back at the next Board meeting and talk about it some more.

#### Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives

##### **a. City Commission Meeting Agenda Items**

- i. Youth Appointment (SAB Board Ordinance)** - the ordinance that governs the Board was approved on second reading; the City Clerk's office will start posting it online so people can start applying for the Youth Appointment opening. The Board will review applications and make the final decision and then it goes to Commission for final approval.
- ii. EV Charging Stations** – 2 Commission meetings ago there was an item to discuss EV charging requirement for private developments, right now it exist that any development that has 20 or more off street parking the City requires 2% EV charging Installed, 3% EV ready and 15% EV capable. The Commission requested looking at increasing those numbers.

- iii. ***Electric Powered Leaf Blowers Resolution*** – banning leaf blowers. The Commission was provided with what other cities have been doing. Staff noted it would be challenging for the City of Coral Gables because of the 40% canopy tree coverage. There are other alternatives, like only allowing specific hours and days for operation, not blowing into the street or into the storm drains.

***b. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates***

- i. ***Commercial Beautification Awards*** – 3 to 5 winners will be selected per year, they will receive a plaque including a picture, window stickers to let people know they are award winners, they will be recognized at Commission meetings, they will be listed on the City’s website to show they are award winners as well as social media shoutouts on LinkedIn and Instagram.
- ii. ***Recent Events***
  - 1. ***Plogging at Matheson Hammock Event April 2, 2022*** – 21 volunteers were in attendance and over 100 lbs. of litter were collected.
  - 2. ***Environmental Film Screening and Panel Discussion for the Biggest Little Farm April 5, 2022*** – there were 55 attendees with a very engaging panel discussion (Matt, Irela and Teddy moderated by Commissioner Anderson afterwards on sustainability).
  - 3. ***Battery Recycling Program*** – the collection numbers from November 2021 – April 2022 are in. An additional 290 lbs. of batteries were collected making the total for the first 9 months into the program a total of 619.
  - 4. ***Keep Coral Beautiful Business Group Cleanup April 21, 2022*** – 10 staff members of the Ridgemont North America business were part of the cleanup at Matheson Hammock, they collected 70 lbs. of litter.
  - 5. ***Trip to University of Miami (UM) April 7, 2022*** – Matt gave thanks to Grace and Zach for organizing the trip and he also thanked UM for the educational speeches, and how amazing it was to see the research UM is doing on Coral Restoration, Aqua culture, resiliency, etc.
  - 6. ***Earth Day at UM April 22, 2022*** – 260 students visited the Coral Gables Sustainability table. Teddy said it’s been 2 years since they’ve seen those events it was very impactful and a great success.
  - 7. ***Recycling Drive Through Event April 23, 2022*** – 580 cars drove through, about 1,160 participants throughout the 3-hour event. For the electronic event 12,397 lbs. were collected, for the Household Hazardous waste 21,151 lbs. were collected and Camillus House collect 2,800 lbs. of clothing. To date, over the last 7 years, the City

has collected over 370,800 pounds of E-waste, HHW, clothing and paper through the Recycling Drive-Thru Events.

8. ***Art Cinema Human Element Screening April 23 & 24, 2022*** – 85 participants were in attendance. Matt said it was a great movie, they discussed the impact of climate change all over the world through various aspects like Earth, Air Water and Fire.
9. ***Sustainability Bingo: My Squad Earth Month Event April 27*** – Matt and Solanch will be doing Sustainability Bingo with the My Squad group at the Girl Scout House. My squad is a group of adults with intellectual disabilities and autism that get together once a month for a social gathering and do activities such as painting, fishing, etc.

**Next Meeting** – May 25, 2022.

**ADJOURNED:** 6:38 pm.