

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

PARKING & MOBILITY SERVICES OFFICE (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025, 5:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	
Nicolas Eterovic	A	P											Mayor Lago
Jasper Brock	P	P											Commissioner Menendez
Martin Pinilla	P	E											City Manager
Joe Fadel	P	P											Sustainability Board-As-A-Whole
Teddy Lhoutellier	P	E											U.M. Representative
Deiter Manstein	P	P											Youth Appointment
Dipak Joshi	P	P											Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
James Covey	A	A											Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Anabella Smith	P	E											C.G. Chambers of Commerce
--	*	*											Commissioner Melissa Castro
Tiffany Troxler	E	P											F.I.U. Representative

A – Absent
P – Present
E – Excused
R – Resigned
* – No Meeting/Member

STAFF:

Matthew Anderson, Sustainability & Mobility Assistant Director
Diego Cancel, Sustainability & Resiliency Supervisor

GUEST:

Nelson Manstein – Student at Ransom Everglades High School

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Teddy Lhoutellier.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (6): Nicolas, Joe, Deiter, Jasper, Tiffany, and Dipak

Quorum was met at 5:09 P.M.

MOTIONS:

January 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Joe motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Jasper seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

March & April Meetings Reschedule – Jasper motioned to approve moving the March and April meetings to May 14, 2025, due to the March meeting falling during Spring Break.

Public Comment:

Nelson Manstein brought up creating a program to give refurbished electronics to foster homes. Diego will connect him with contacts who would have information on this type of program.

Block By Block Presentation

Gene Kowalski, manager of Block by Block operations, has 7 employees who work very diligently to keep Miracle Mile looking its best. Matt and Diego oversee the Block by Block contract, which is now under the Mobility and Sustainability division. The team handles cleaning, hospitality, and safety on Miracle Mile and Giralda for the past 8 years. Their duties include removing gum, dead animals, leaves, assisting homeless people, and many others. They also provide directions and information to visitors, repairs of uneven pavers, and sanitize garbage and recycling bins to prevent pests. One of the larger challenges they face is the management of dog waste on Miracle Mile, but the team provides dog waste bags to encourage responsible pet ownership. The Block by Block team does a splendid job in keeping Coral Gables the City Beautiful. Keep

Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates (KCGB)

i. Recent Events:

1. Christmas Tree & Holiday Cardboard Recycling – Nov. 29 through Jan. 10

- a. The annual Christmas Tree Recycling was from Dec. 26 till Jan. 10 and the Holiday Cardboard Recycling began earlier on Nov. 29. There was a drop-off point at the Coral Gables Youth Center for multi-family homes and curb-side collections for Christmas trees. The final collection number was 983 trees collected, producing 49,150 pounds of mulch, and 4,800 pounds of cardboard.

2. Sustainability Presentation at the Coral Gables Democratic Club – Feb. 12

- a. Diego and Matt presented to the Democratic Club about the city's sustainability initiatives and programs, specifically about the alternative recycling programs offered throughout the city. 30 attendees were present at the presentation.

3. Farmers Market Garden Talk – Feb. 22

- a. 18 participants came by the KCGB table to learn about the different sustainability initiatives the city has available as well as the upcoming Earth Month events.

i. **Upcoming Events:**

1. Sustainability Village at the Farmers Market – Mar 29

- a. The second annual Sustainability Village event will be on Saturday, March 29, from 10 am to 1 pm at the city's last Farmers Market of 2025. Ten local sustainability vendors will be participating in this event to teach the Gables community about their programs and organizations.

2. Pinewood Cemetery Invasive Plant Removal – Mar 31

- a. An invasive plant species removal event at the historic Pinewood Cemetery will be held on Monday, March 31, from 10 am to 12 pm. This will be the fourth invasive removal event held at Pinewood Cemetery and will contribute to the restoration of this historic site.

3. Spring Downtown Cleanup – April 7

- a. The quarterly Downtown Cleanup will be held on Monday, April 7, beginning at 5 pm. This event is a cleanup throughout the downtown area and a post-event mixer will be held at Coyo Taco. Prizes will be given to groups and individuals who collect the most litter. This event is sponsored by Baptist Health South Florida and the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce.

4. Baynanza 2025 – April 12

- a. On Saturday, April 12, at 9 am, DERM will be holding their annual Baynanza event at 40+ locations throughout Miami. The KCGB team will be at the R. Hardy Site assisting the DERM team with check in and providing supplies. Volunteers will be going into the mangrove trails to collect litter that has floated in from the ocean.

5. Plogging (Clean-Up) at Matheson Hammock Park – April 19

- a. The 5th annual Plogging at Matheson event will be on Saturday, April 19, from 8:30 to 10:30 am at Matheson Hammock Park. This is a cleanup event that is hosted every year during the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup Season. Volunteers will go through the large mangrove trails throughout Matheson Hammock to clear debris brought in from the high tides.

6. University of Miami Earth Day – April 22

- a. The University of Miami will be hosting their annual Earth Day Fair on Tuesday, April 22, from 10:30 am to 2 pm. This fair has a multitude of local environmental organizations who come together to show off their programs and showcase their events.

7. Coral Gables Arts Cinema – Common Ground Documentary – April 22

- a. On Earth Day, April 22, at 6 pm, there will be an environmental documentary film screening at the Coral Gables Art Cinema. The film will be the award-winning Common Ground film, a sequel to Kiss the Ground.

8. Recycling Drive-Thru – April 26

- a. The bi-annual Recycling Drive-Thru will be on Saturday, April 26, from 9 am to noon in the City Hall parking lot. Paper shredding, plastic film, household hazardous waste, old electronics, and clothing donations will be securely and properly recycled during this event.

Sustainability City Commission

i. [Keep America Beautiful National Merit Award – Battery & Plastic Bag/Film Recycling](#)

1. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful received the Keep America Beautiful National Merit Award for the battery and plastic recycling programs. KCGB achieved second place nationally for the success of the programs. The team presented the award at the February 25 Commission meeting.

Standing Agenda

i. **Vulnerability Assessment Update**

1. For the Vulnerability Assessment, a draft is being sent to the consultant within the next two months and will be reviewed by the Board. The consultant fees are fully funded by the state, so no city dollars are being allocated towards this assessment.

ii. **Block by Block Monthly Report**

1. The Block by Block report was reviewed during Gene's presentation.

iii. **Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure Update**

1. An update for the Board about electric vehicles (EVs) and the city's charging infrastructure was provided. The city's EV fleet is at approximately 72 vehicles, which makes up 12 percent of the total government fleet. The city's charging rate was reduced from the previous per-minute pricing and is now charging 30 cents per kilowatt hour.

Member Comments

i. **Matt & Diego:**

1. An update for the Board about electric vehicles (EVs) and the city's charging infrastructure was provided. The city's EV fleet is at approximately 72 vehicles, which makes up 12 percent of the total government fleet, making the city's fleet one of the highest in the nation. The city's charging rate was reduced from the previous per-minute pricing and is now charging 30 cents per kilowatt hour.
2. There is money in the budget to hire a consultant to do a feasibility study to possibly do a solar-powered canopy for the top floor of the Minorca parking garage. The energy would be used to power some of the electricity used throughout the building, but not

the whole building. The city streamlines the solar permit process for residents and waives the fees for the permits. This is achievable through a partnership with Solar United Neighbors and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. The first city solar project will be planned for the Birdie Bistro on Coral Gables golf course.

3. Matt wanted to inform the Board that Board appointments expire May 31, 2025, with reappointments pending after the April elections.

ii. Jasper:

1. Was going to discuss the EVs during his member comment but found the update to be very informative. He wanted to know the range on the Nissan Leafs as they are a small car, Diego informed him by saying the Leafs are a great car for city driving and that is the majority of the employees who use city vehicles.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. at the Parking & Mobility Services Office

ADJOURNED: 6:10 p.m.