

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
 BILTMORE HOTEL (GARDEN CLUB MEETING ROOM)
 1200 ANASTASIA AVENUE
 CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018 @ 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	
Martin Pinilla	P	E	E	*	P	P	P	*	P	E	*	P	Mayor Valdes-Fauli
Sharon Trbovich	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	E	*	E	Commissioner Quesada
Rita Teutonico	P	P	P	*	-	-	-	*	E	P	*	E	Vice Mayor Lago
Greg Hamra	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	Commissioner Keon
Enrique Bernal	P	E	E	*	E	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Irela Bague	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	*	P	P	*	P	City Commission-As-A-Whole

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

STAFF:

Matthew Anderson, Senior Sustainability Analyst
 Jeannette Reyes, Public Works Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairperson, Irela Bague called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

GUEST:

Rhonda Anderson, Resident
 Gus Ceballos, Assistant City Attorney
 Teddy, Sustainability Manager for UM
 Kelly Dawson, Resident
 Meagan Rivera, Intern
 Andrea Candelaria, Intern
 Daniel Martinez. Resident 1201 Hardee Road
 Paola Ferreira, Resident
 Caroline Dickinson, Resident
 Jody Finver, South Florida Program Coordinator for Solar United Neighbors

MOTIONS:

October 15, 2018 SAB meeting minutes – Marlin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marlin made a motion to excuse Sharon and Rita, Enrique seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marlin made a motion to support the Skip the Straw Campaign, Enrique seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

GUEST COMMENTS:

Daniel Martinez – submitted plans for solar panels on his residence and he said the current review process is not supportive at solar all. Gus stated that Mr. Martinez has provided a general outline to the Board of Architect. The BOA is an aesthetic review board, they had aesthetic comments, they made suggestions but the applicant did not want to modify his installation.

The applicant chose to appeal the Boards denial, it went to a conflict resolution meeting, and they tried certain considerations but were not able to come to a conclusion. The next step will be to take it to a special master (a hearing officer). The applicant will then make a presentation and that special master will make a decision. This is scheduled for January 15th, 2019.

The City has never denied any sort of installations but they can provide aesthetic standards. Mr. Martinez is requesting clarification of the aesthetic standard process from the Board. He said visibility should not be an aesthetic factor. Gus stated the City's legal position has been the same since 2016 when Craig Lean, the previous City Attorney, issued an opinion on Florida statue 16304, which allows governing bodies such as City of Coral Gables, to provide aesthetic standards (but not deny the installation).

The Chairperson requested that the BOA come to the next SAB meeting and clarify the aesthetic standard, before any resolution is drafted. Jody, South Florida Program Coordinator for Solar United Neighbors, spoke on behalf of the CO-OP. She stated that they have been working with Mr. Martinez for the past year trying to resolve this aesthetic issue.

Enrique requested that the BOA Aesthetic Standard Clarification be added to the next SAB meeting Agenda.

Paola Ferreira – moved to Coral Gables 1 year ago. She has experience with environmental issues, climate change and she would like to know and learn about the City's initiatives and how she can be of value to the Board.

Caroline Dickenson – is a resident of Coral Gables and wants to know how she can contribute to the Board.

Plastic Straw Ordinance – over the past month, staff has been working with the City Attorney's office in drafting a plastic straw ordinance to prohibit plastic straws in city facilities, parks and by special event permittees. The City wants to be the example for the businesses. The draft has gone through the Disability Affairs Committee which added an exemption for people with disabilities. Teddy mentioned that UM already switched to no straws in the dining hall and they just processed the RFP for the office general supplies. UM currently uses compostable straws.

MEMBER'S REPORT:

Greg – The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

The Senate introduced a bipartisan companion bill. The 1st Climate Bill in a decade that is bipartisan, HR-7173 was introduced by democrats and republicans. It is the most progressive plan ever seen in this Country. It exceeds the Curbelo Plan, it returns money to constituents, it starts at a low price and you would get the check before the prices rise.

Irela - the Green Business Report will be rolling out early in 2019. You can visit the website at www.coralgables.com/greenbusiness for more information.

Marlin – The last HHW was on Saturday, November 17th from 9am to 12pm. It was a huge success with approximately 400 vehicles and 800 people attending. Over 12,000 lbs. of electronics; 7,700 lbs. of hazardous waste; and 8,500 lbs. of paper were collected. To date, the City has collected over 120,000 lbs. of e-waste and household hazardous and 17,000 lbs. of documents. Teddy mentioned a lot of students have reached out to him about doing a similar drive on campus.

Enrique – Thanked the previous City Manager, Cathy Swanson for allowing him to represent her on the Board, as he turned in his resignation. The new City Manager, Peter Iglesias asked Enrique to represent him on the Board and therefore Enrique accepted. Enrique stated he has once again failed in trying to get a dog waste station. He's been pursuing this for 9 months now.

Martin – was informed that for several years the City has tried to acquire this green space on San Amaro from a private family that does not want to sell. Martin believes if the City and UM joins together; they might be able to win the family over in selling the space. Martin shared this with the Mayor who agrees.

Matt reminded everyone to please complete the comprehensive Sanitation Community Workshop – survey is located at www.coralgables.com/waste.

Irela said she will be touring the Recycling Plant tomorrow morning and report back on her experience. She also invited everyone to join and listen to her Pod-Cast, called Resilient Forward at www.resilientforward.com

Matt confirmed the 2019 Board meeting schedule. S.A.B. meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5 pm at the Garden Club Room - Biltmore Hotel.

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Irela added if anyone has any topics they would like to present to the Board, to send the information to Matt for scheduling purpose.

Next Meeting – January 23, 2019.

ADJOURNED: 6:30 pm.