

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

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

STAFF:

Matt Anderson, Senior Sustainability Analyst
Solanch Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager
Jeannette Reyes, Administrative Assistant Public Works Facilities

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairperson, Marlin Ebbert called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

GUESTS:

Linda Lawrence, Presenting on Pollinator Gardens
Jasper Brock, Resident
Leisha John- Resident

MOTIONS:

March 24, 2021 meeting minutes – Monique made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Enrique Seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Enrique made a motion to excuse Rita and Martin; Piero seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (5): Monique, Enrique, Piero, Marlin, and Teddy

Presentation on Pollinator Gardens – Linda stated that in 1937, 66% of the planet was wilderness with 2.3 billion people. In 2020, 35% of the planet was wilderness with 7.8 billion people. As a result of the loss of habitat and human beings taking up 2/3 of the planet, 40% of all known insect's face extinction due to habitat loss and pesticides. 37% of all animal species are insects and a large percentage of animals depend almost entirely on insects to access the energy stored in plants. Insects are pollinators, they pollinate 75% of our food crop. With humans occupying 2/3 of the planet there is no habitat for the insects to go. We need to provide habitat in our yards and City landscapes for the insects and pollinators to go. Linda is working on a project to get a pollinator patch located in one of the landscapes in the City of Coral Gables. The patch will have pollinated plants that people can buy at local native nurseries to show them what they can put in their yards. Linda suggested going to <https://www.plantrealflorida.org/> you will find a list of native nurseries in Miami where you can go and get these plants.

Matt had Solanch share the screen with the Board showing a map of a landscape patch in the city, he also mentioned that a website was created to educate the public on the benefit of pollinators (www.coralgables.com/pollinators), and it was also added to the e-news. Matt helped our Landscape Services Division on creating/posting the educational materials on the City's website

Linda encourages the Board to watch the following movies on Netflix to get an overview of what the problems are that we are facing; *A Life on Our Planet* by Sir David Attenborough and *Kiss the Ground*. Entomologist, Doug Tallamy who teaches at the University of Delaware, bought property in Pennsylvania where they used to raise hay. As he is walking through his property with all the profusion of plant life bursting with food, nectar etc., he notices there are no caterpillars. The reason there are no caterpillars is because there are only exotic plants, no natives where they can lay their eggs and eat.

Ms. John suggested looking into the Biltmore sustainability practices and see what they are doing to preserve the bees, as there is a massive bee die off going on there. Matt stated the city has been having on going conversations with the Biltmore and will continue to do so. Ms. John also mentioned that she did some Kayaking in Coral Gables recently and noticed the green substance in the waterway as she was getting close to the Biltmore and she is sure its due to the fertilizer runoffs.

Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives

Matt mentioned that USGBC (U.S. Green Build Council) announced today that the City of Coral Gables is one of 15 Cities selected from around the Country to be part of a National Cohort to get the entire community and City certified under LEED under their LEED for Cities and Communities Program. Matt and David Lindsey will be leading the City's efforts on this project.

Earth Month Events/Activities

Earth Month City Social Media Campaign/E-News - Matt gave thanks to Solanch, Martha and the entire Communications team for all their help in posting environmental tips throughout the month of April. Environmental Tips were posted each day on social media that educated the public on how they can take simple steps to save money and the environment.

Earth Hour: Saturday, March 27th (8:30pm-9:30pm) - Matt will check with the communications team to see what engagement was received so he can report it to the Board at the next meeting.

April 1-30: Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation (www.mywaterpledge.com) - Matt will be getting a report on this as well, he encourages the Board to take the challenge before the end of the month, if they have not done so.

April 21st (12-1pm): Biscayne Bay: The Health of Water - The City partnered with UM to discuss the water quality at Biscayne Bay. Matt presented on the City's Water Quality initiatives. In addition, Irela spoke on the State of Biscayne Bay and her role as the Chief Bay Officer.

HHW Collection Event: Saturday April 24th (9am-12pm) – Marlin stated that there was a steady stream of people coming in, although it was not as big as the one in November. The people were constantly thanking staff for this event, it shows people want to do good. The totals in over 6 years are 289,791 lbs. of household hazardous waste, electronic waste, sensitive documents and 8,500 attendees. Matt wanted to make sure that he publicly gave thanks to the Church for allowing the city to use their parking lot and the entire City staff that was involved in the event. Jasper stated that the Coral Gables Police did a great job in keeping the traffic aligned along LeJeune Road and that it worked very well. Piero asked what the popular item on the e-waste was. The answer was mixed electronics at 3,110 lbs. The next HHW Collection event is scheduled for Nov 6th.

April 24th (1-2pm): Virtual Earth Week EV Ride & Drive – Matt said that they partnered with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy who did a virtual Earth Week EV ride & drive with a former female NASCAR driver. The webinar highlighted the current EV market and what the future holds.

April 25th (2pm): Screening of AQUARELA – at the Coral Gables Art Cinema coordinated by Marlin and Irela. Matt attending with Irela and introduced the film and spoke about the

City's and County's water quality efforts. There were over 50 attendees which was the largest movie screening to date since COVID for the Coral Gables Cinema. Matt and Marlin thanked the Cinema for their continued support, and we look forward to partnering more in the future to show more environmental films.

Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program Updates

Great American Cleanup Season:

Program Time Frame: March 20 – June 21

Solo Cleanups:

Program Time Frame: April 5 – June 20, 2021

Registration opened: <https://arcg.is/1DWqKC0>

- 10 registrants as of April 26, 2021
- Supplies for 24 participants provided as of April 26, 2021.
- As of April 27: 97 pounds recorded as collected via Clean Swell App

Promoting on E-News and social media.

Community Service hours will be provided upon request.

Contest: Most litter collected in terms of pounds throughout the season.

- Community Foundation donating prizes. Gift cards to local businesses.

HHW Event

- 400 cars drove through event.
- 8,804 pounds of e-waste collected.
- 8,000 pounds of paper shredded.
- 13,959 pounds of household hazardous
- Pictures and video were provided to the Board.

Litter Index Update:

UM Litter Index Completed

- Campus Litter Score: 1.33 out of 4
- Map and Report provided

Citywide Virtual Index Update:

- Matt and Solanch to record litter index areas on May 3.
- Once recording is complete, SAB meeting will be scheduled to receive training and conduct Litter Index based on recordings.
- More information to come.

Awards:

Submitted application for the Florida League of Cities Environmental Stewardship Award

- Winners will be announced in June.

KFB Annual Awards submitted for the following categories:

- Outstanding Great American Cleanup-DIH “Trash-Off” Campaign
- Outstanding Recycling Efforts
- Winners will be announced at the KFB annual conference in early June.

Sustainability Advisory Board

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Matt mentioned that the Sanitation Director, Al Zamora, is interested in attending the next meeting to discuss recycling.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Enrique – Electric Vehicle Chargers in multifamily buildings, there is little information on how to proceed, how does it work and what are the risk one takes. Enrique also mentioned the current state of the recycling market around the Country and wants to verify what is being collected is actually getting processed by Waste Management.

Monique – Chamber of Commers to start an educational program on what to recycle. Monique mentioned ZODO (fertilizer from Miami Zoo) and wanted to know if the City is interested in promoting it. Matt will investigate it.

Gordon: Wanted to congratulate the new Commissioners and Mayor and he hopes that this board continues to receive the incredible support it has in the past.

Marlin: Wants to put out educational materials on recycling/reusing campaign signs. Matt said the signs are not readily recyclable but will work with Communications on doing an article in E-News on creative ideas on what to do with the signs.

Teddy: UM is going to be installing 12 new charging stations as a part of FPL's EVOLution program.

Marlin also asked members to think about the Summer SAB meeting schedule and if the board would like to take a month or so off.

Next Meeting – May 26, 2021

ADJOURNED: 6:30 pm