

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

COMMISSION CHAMBERS MEETING (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 @ 5:00 P.M.

MEETNG MINUTES

MEMBERS	O 20	N 20	D 20	J 21	F 21	M 21	A 21	M 21	J 21	J 21	A 21	S 21	APPOINTED BY:
Nicholas Eterovic	P	P	*	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	*	P	Mayor Lago
Carmen Olazabal	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	*	P	Commissioner Fors
Jasper Brock	P	P	*	A	P	P	E	E	E	E	*	E	Commissioner Menendez
Greg Hamra	E	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	*	E	Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	E	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	Commissioner Anderson
Martin Pinilla	P	P	*	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Joe Fadel	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	E	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	P	C.G. Chambers of Commerce
Piero Gardinali	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	E	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 Reyes, P.W. Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairperson, Marlin Ebbert called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

GUESTS:

Julia Gomez

MOTIONS:

July 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes – Carmen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Marlin made a motion to excuse Greg and Jasper; Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Monique made a motion to accept the FY21 S.A.B. annual report, Piero seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PHYSICAL QUORUM (6): Marlin, Martin, Carmen, Joe, Piero, Monique, Nicholas, and Teddy

Resolution passed by the Commission for all Boards and Committees - Solanch went over some updated rules for board meetings and for anyone on zoom.

- *The new policies in place for board meetings in terms of member's*
 - a) back to normal operations
 - b) if unable to attend in person, you can participate via Zoom, but you will not be able to vote on any items and you will be considered absent (the board will have to excuse you depending on the situation).
 - c) masks must be worn while on city premises.
 - d) Board draft meeting minutes must be submitted within **(30) days** of the meeting taking place.
 - e) Recordings of the meetings will be posted within a few days of the meeting taking place to make greater access to the public.
- *The new policies in place for residents or guest on zoom*
 - a) if you would like to speak at any point throughout the meeting, you will need to either raise your hand on zoom or message the host or co-hosts and we will queue you to unmute when you are called upon.
 - b) as the new standard, cameras will be kept off for those on zoom during board meetings.

Sustainability Board Annual Report

Every year at the end of each fiscal year, a board report must be submitted to the City Manager's office. It's 7 questions asking whether the board is serving its purpose for what it was created, accomplishments, and goals for the next year. Matt included on this report; the board continues to do a great job in supporting and overseeing the city sustainability and resiliency initiatives. Matt added that the board has also taken on additional responsibilities including overseeing the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful program and listed all the FY2021 accomplishments.

This report also asked that the board list their priorities for 2022 –

- continue implementing and overseeing the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful program
- host clean ups
- complete litter analysis
- expand litter and recycling education and outreach
- continue to market and certify additional businesses to the C.G. Business Certification program.
- continue the Household Hazardous Waste Collection events
- continue overseeing the implementing of projects identifying the Sustainability Management Plan to reduce the city and communities' energy, water waste and greenhouse gas emissions.
- continue assisting in educating and awareness efforts in the city on issues related to water quality, fertilizer use, Biscayne Bay restoration, recycling, energy and water conservation, fuel conservation, climate resiliency etc.

Matt wrapped up the annual report, he asked if anyone on the board wanted to make any corrections or if anyone wanted to add anything else to the report, if not, for someone to make a motion to approve as is so that he can submit it to the City Manager's Office before October 1, 2021.

Martin said prior to COVID there were certain rules concerning the usage of plastic in restaurants, are they coming back? Matt has received a few calls regarding this, initially the courts ruled on the city's favor for the single use plastic bag ordinance, unfortunately when it went through the appeals court, the court's decision was reversed. The city still enforces the single use of plastic bags and through the special events process but cannot enforce it on the business because of the existing state law.

Piero is worried that if we say on these reports that we are adding something new on the projects to do list, that when we do a new project add it on the reports, so that those who follow the SAB can see that things are getting done.

Marlin agrees with Piero, though Matt provides the Board with a lot of information at every SAB meeting, it often does not involve the members. Marlin suggested to the members, if you see something in other cities that is sustainable and it may benefit the City of Coral Gables, say something.

Matt mentioned that in the past each board member that had interest based on their expertise; suggested projects they wanted the board to address. For example, we had speakers come and educate us on Waste Management, one board member addressed LED and energy issues, another addressed recycling etc. Matt will leave it up to the board to come up with projects of their own interest that they want to address in the upcoming meetings.

Martin mentioned development within the city and how he believes there is not enough economic incentives provided to the developer to build with sustainability in mind, and how this

is a very important subject to address. Matt said in 2016 the Green Building Ordinance was passed that required any new development 20,000 feet and above to be built to either LEED Silver, the Florida Green Building Code, or a national equivalent. Not only is the city requiring LEED, but they also require any off-street parking with 20 or more off-street parking spaces to include 20% EV infrastructure.

Piero said we need to come up with a technology that address the things we do now. The requirements and developments we have now were developed 10 years ago as good standards. We need to start thinking about what the new standards is going to be 10 years from now.

Teddy suggested that at the next meeting each member discuss their sustainability project of interest.

Julia Gomez asked the board if the city is looking into composting options for the citizens. Matt said the city does allow backyard composting for the citizens; they have been doing it for many years. Community wide composting is a topic that Matt and Teddy hold near and dear, and it's been a topic they have been discussing since Matt started working in the city. It is tough on the commercial scale because there is no commercial composting in South Florida. Julia said she knows Miami Beach has a community garden where you can take your compost and they use it for their garden. Julia wanted to know if CG had something similar or if the city would team up with Tropical Fairchild and see if there may be some options there. Matt said this is something the board continues to explore.

City Commission Agenda: Sustainability – Green Business Certifications and Diamond Award was presented to Lovvett and Andromeda District at the 9/14 Commission meeting. UM will be presented with the first Platinum award at the next Commission meeting on 9/28

Updates/Recap on City/SAB Initiatives - Keep Coral Gables Beautiful: Saturday, September 18, 2021, was International Coastal Cleanup Day, Solanch shared some of the photos of the event with the Board. There were over 150 participants in the city, within the 4 sites throughout the city. Over 550 pounds of litter collected, in Matheson Hammock there was around 450 pounds of litter collected and throughout the sites of events there was over 1,000 pounds of litter collected. Pero asked what was the most item collected. Matt said in Coral Gables and worldwide, cigarette butts is the most collected item.

On Saturday, September 25, 2021, at the Youth Center from 10 am – 12 pm will be the kickoff event for a new conservation event series that the city is collaborating with the Community Recreation Department. It's a 5-part series, that will focus on a different conservation initiative each month, the month of September will start the KCGP Parks Pollinator Palooza in partnership with the City of Coral Gables Garden Club. The second event in this series will be on October 20, 2021, at the Art Cinema at 7 pm, it is a documentary screening and panel discussion on the documentary film 100 Yards of Hope. The next event is the Recycling Drive Thru Event on November 6, 2021, at the City Hall parking lot from 9 am to 12 pm. The 4 components of this event are Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Recycling, Paper Shredding and Clothing Donations for Camillus House. The next event, Attracting Birds to your South Florida Garden will be the third event in the conservation series, it will be at the Youth Center on November 13,

2021, at 10 am. There will be more information on this event next month. And once again, at the end of December we will kick off the Christmas Tree Recycling Event.

Two additional events in the works; a Downtown Cleanup Event in partnership with the Chamber and the BID on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 6 pm and on Saturday, December 11, 2021, in partnership with Tropical Girl Scouts, South Florida Miami Dade County Parks, Coral Gables Parks Department, Coral Gables Greenspace Management Division and KCGB are planning an event at Matheson Hammock Park for the Girl Scouts of Tropical South Florida. There will be different stations set up throughout Matheson beach area where there will be speakers talking about Micro-Plastics, Water Pollution, Biscayne Bay, Mangroves, etc.

Marlin asked Matt if there are any updates on the cardboard ordinance. Matt said the city is doing an outreach campaign on Break the Box, educating the residents on the benefits of cardboard recycling. Starting in December the city will start enforcing cardboard recycling by giving out fines to those who do not comply with the ordinance.

Joe said the problem the city has is that they don't enforce ordinances that they put in place, he said the city needs to stop being nice to people or get rid of the ordinance if they are not going to enforce it. The problem with enforcing an ordinance is that there are not enough people, or they are overworked. The city has a responsibility to let the Commission know where they stand on this.

Solanch said that the Commission's directive was that after December 1, 2021, if the cardboard is in the trash pit, the Solid Waste Division will not pick up the trash. Leading up to December 1st and after December 1st, there is a door hanger that the Solid Waste Division and Code Enforcement are going to leave on the resident's door that has a check list of things that are being done wrong explaining why the trash was not picked up. A letter was also sent out to all the HOA's, from the City Managers Office outlining the process, the education and providing Matt's contact information.

Julia read an article on Miami New Times regarding the Miami Lights Out Miami Program where it helps reduce the number of bird collisions that are happening at night while the migration south for the winter. Matt asked that Julia send him the article and he will investigate it and share with the Board at the next meeting.

Marlin asked the members if they have any interesting articles they may want to share, to send it to Matt and he will forward it to the Board.

Next Meeting – October 27, 2021

ADJOURNED: 6:45 pm