



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

TO: Members of the Sustainability Committee

David Doebler, Chair – Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Steve Vincenti – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Grieco
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Michael De Filippi – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Wendy Hart – Appointed by Mayor Philip Levine
Cheryl Jacobs – Appointed by Commissioner Joy Malakoff

DATE: May 28, 2015

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2015**

The attendees were as follows: Dave Doebler, Steve Vincenti, Michael De Filippi, Debra Leibowitz, and Liliam Furst.

Absentees: Wendy Hart and Cheryl Jacobs

City Staff: Margarita Wells, Environmental Resources Manager; Yanira Pineda, Office Associate IV; and, Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Specialist.

1. Minutes Review

- a. Motion to approve April 23, 2015 Sustainability Committee meeting made by Michael De Filippi, seconded by Liliam Furst.

2. SRC

- a. Update of the April 22, 2015 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee (SRC)
 - i. Dave Doebler provided the Committee with an update on the items discussed during the SRC, including the possibility of having Big Belly Solar bins in the right-of-way. Margarita Wells clarified, that if approved, they would first be installed as part of a pilot program. Deborah Leibowitz asked if ash trays can be included in the Big Belly Solar bin design. Mr. Doebler responded that he would rather keep trash bins and cigarette butt litter as separate initiatives. **ACTION:** Staff to add a discussion on cigarette butt litter on the June meeting agenda.
 - ii. Liliam Furst inquired about the storm drain grates and their ongoing progress. Ms. Wells recommended inviting a representative from Public Works to the next meeting to discuss the pilot test for the storm drain grates.

3. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. Discussion on vendor policies
Ms. Wells explained that the City has a strict procurement process so the Committee should avoid scheduling product-specific or sales presentations during their meetings. The Committee can request that an

expert give a general overview on a new technology or sustainability initiative or they can conduct independent research and give the presentation themselves.

- ii. The Committee inquired about Ameresco's energy audit of city facilities and asked for an update at the next meeting. **ACTION:** Staff to provide an update on the Ameresco audit at the May meeting.

b. Solid Waste Management & Natural Resources

i. Plastic Bag Ban

Mr. De Filippi provided an update on current efforts to ban the use of plastic bags. He mentioned that Representative Richardson drafted a bill in which coastal cities in Florida of 100,000 residents or less would be eligible, as part of a pilot program, to ban plastic bags. It was heard in the Senate Environmental Preservation Committee and passed unanimously. However, the bill did not pass due to the early end of this year's legislative session.

ii. Green Alleys

Ms. Wells provided a summary of the Committee's past green alley discussions. She explained that the Committee had previously conducted a site visit of different alleys and recommended potential green improvements to each of those areas. Ms. Leibowitz asked about the ongoing issues with improper disposal of grease. Ms. Wells stated that the Division is currently working with the Code Compliance Department and Miami-Dade County to address grease violations. Ms. Leibowitz inquired about the possibility of adding greenery to the alleys and Mr. De Filippi added that the City recently submitted a proposal to the Miami Public Spaces Challenge for beautifying the alleys in North Beach.

- iii. Ms. Wells informed the Committee that the City is submitting an application to the Florida League of Cities' Environmental Stewardship Award program. She clarified that the award is strictly for recognition and does not have any grant funding associated with it. **MOTION: The Committee approves that a letter be submitted on their behalf supporting the City's submission of an Environmental Stewardship Award application for the City's Dune Management Plan. Motion made by Steve Vicenti, seconded by Dave Doebler.**

4. Upcoming Events

- a. Ms. Wells announced that the Division will be hosting a Household Hazardous Waste and Paper Shredding Event on Sunday, April 26, 2015 for Earth Month. She added that this event has been very successful as evidenced by the need to increase its budget every year.

5. Next Meeting

- a. May 28
 - i. Composting Presentation
 - ii. Greenspace Discussion

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Yani Pineda at 305.673.7010 or yanirapineda@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.

ESW/MKW/YP