

# MIAMIBEACH

TO: Commissioner Michael Grieco, Chair

**Members of the Sustainability Committee**

David Doebler – 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: June 26, 2014

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 22, 2014.**

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

**Absentees:** Cheryl Jacobs.

**City Staff:** Raul Aguila, City Attorney; Debora Turner, First Assistant City Attorney; Nick Kallergis, Esq.; Dani Bonini, Commission Aide; Elizabeth Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager; and Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist.

**Guests:** Joy Malakoff, City Commissioner; and Penny Parkham, Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**1. Committee Member Introduction**

- a. The Sustainability Committee chair and its members began the meeting by introducing themselves. Mr. Doebler mentioned his work with litter prevention and his interest in passing smoking bans. Ms. Leibowitz informed the Committee of her efforts to expand recycling throughout the city. Ms. Hart noted her particular interest in climate change. Mr. De Filippi discussed his work with litter prevention and his interest in a Polystyrene ban. Mr. Vincenti shared his interest in passing a plastic bag ban and seconded the proposal for a Polystyrene ban. Finally, Ms. Furst spoke about her interest in adding more trees and greenery to the urban landscape.

**2. Minutes Review**

- a. Motion to approve the January minutes made by Ms. Hart, seconded by Mr. Doebler. Minutes approved unanimously.

**3. Sunshine Law**

- a. Mr. Aguila reviewed the Sunshine Law for the new members of the Sustainability Committee.

**4. Polystyrene Ban**

- a. The Office of the City Attorney is conducting research on banning Polystyrene without triggering State preemption. The first step is to ban the use of Polystyrene by vendors, concessionaires, sidewalk cafes, and other contractors that require City permits to conduct business. The City will also set the example by banning Polystyrene in City facilities. The City has been in contact with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a co-op that will allow businesses to buy Polystyrene alternatives in bulk, consequently lowering the cost of supplies. The ultimate goal is to pass a successful and enforceable citywide ban. Ms. Furst recommended educating affected parties before passing legislation. Ms. Parkam contributed to the discussion by explaining Miami-Dade County Public School's alliance with School Districts in New York City, Los Angeles, Orlando,

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Dallas, and Chicago to purchase trays collectively in order to decrease the cost of supplies. All the schools' Nutrition Directors represent 30% of the program nationally and currently purchase Polystyrene trays at \$0.03/tray. The biodegradable bagasse alternative will cost \$0.12/tray. Discussion returned to the City when Ms. Turner mentioned the expansion of the current Polystyrene ban on the beach to include City parks. Ms. Leibowitz recommended expanding the Polystyrene ban to Special Events. **MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that the Commission approve the proposed ordinance to ban the use of Polystyrene in city parks, by city contractors, and by sidewalk cafes at the June 11, 2014 Commission Meeting. Motion made by Mr. De Filippi, seconded by Mr. Doebler. Motion passed unanimously.** Ms. Wheaton added that the City is planning to offer a Polystyrene cooler exchange during Fourth of July weekend.

## 5. Monthly Clean-up Events

- a. Commissioner Grieco commended Mr. Doebler and Mr. De Filippi's litter prevention efforts and is establishing City-sponsored monthly cleanups. The first cleanup will take place June 22, 2014. Mr. Doebler recommended organizing like International Coastal Cleanup Day.

## 6. Recycling Update

- a. Ms. Wheaton informed the Committee that Miami-Dade County is adding recycling bins to the beach. Mr. Doebler recommended having volunteers stand by the bins to instruct the public on how to recycle properly. Ms. Leibowitz suggested using the City of Hollywood's bin design, which includes a lid. **ACTION:** City staff to investigate Hollywood, Florida's bin design. Ms. Wheaton continued to discuss the City's efforts to promote the recycling ordinance, which includes sending warning letters, hosting a sign-up event, filling the new outreach coordinator position, developing deliverable materials, and conducting a media campaign. Commissioner Grieco explained that the ordinance is being revised to include multi-family residences with 2 or more units.

## 7. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- a. Ms. Wells gave a brief history of the Sustainability Committee and summarized the Sustainability Plan.

## 8. New Business / Future Initiatives

- a. Ms. Leibowitz brought attention to the issue of leaf blowers blowing garbage into the street and stormwater drains rather than placing the trash in the proper receptacle. Commissioner Grieco encouraged contacting Public Works if she witnesses this again.
- b. Mr. Doebler agreed with Ms. Wells that the Sustainability Plan should be updated to include metrics and goals.
- c. Ms. Hurt recommended focusing more on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## 9. Meeting Dates

- a. Commissioner Grieco informed the Committee that meetings will occur every fourth Thursday at 5:30 pm.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.**

**The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or [pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov) for more information.**

ESW/MKW/aem