

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: July 24, 2014

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2014.**

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

City Staff: Danila Bonini, Aide to Commissioner Grieco; Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist; and Ariel Moger, Environmental Intern.

1. Minutes Review

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

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. Education & Outreach.

- i. Commissioner Grieco indicated that the first Dune Restoration/Beach Cleanup Event was a success with 45 volunteers in attendance.
- ii. Ms. Wells stated that this year's International Coastal Cleanup Day event will take place on September 20, 2014 and invited the Committee to lead a clean-up site. Mr. Doebler proposed hosting a beach cleanup from 50th to 60th Street or a kayak waterway cleanup. Mr. De Filippi recommended Indian Creek from 26th to 40th Street as a kayak cleanup route. Ms. Leibowitz suggested a Pine Tree Park dog park/full-day picnic and cleanup event. **ACTION:** Staff to add this item for discussion and final site selection in the July agenda.

b. Solid Waste Management.

- i. Ms. Wells provided information on the City's plans to exchange expanded polystyrene or Styrofoam coolers during the Fourth of July holiday weekend and asked the Committee to volunteer for this initiative. Ms. Jacobs asked how the expanded polystyrene coolers collected by this program would be disposed. Ms. Wells replied that they will be taken to a permitted polystyrene recycling facility.
- ii. Ms. Wells informed the Committee that Miami-Dade County will be deploying recycling bins on the beach. The County will be looking for the Committee's input in the future regarding the design of the banners affixed to each bin.

c. Natural Resources & Ecosystem Management.

- i. Ms. Moger provided a status update on this year's sea turtle nesting season in Miami Beach. Commissioner Grieco advised that Mr. Bill Ahern, the Miami-Dade County sea turtle permit holder, is researching more aesthetically-pleasing tape options for use in delineating sea turtle nests.

d. South Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Update.

- i. Ms. Wells informed the Committee that the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact will be hosting their 6th Annual Summit in Miami Beach on October 1 and 2. **ACTION:** Staff to send Committee sponsorship packet information.

MIAMIBEACH

e. Sustainability Plan Update.

- i. Ms. Wells advised that the City is looking to retain a company to assist in updating its Sustainability Plan and requested input from the Committee members. Commissioner Grieco reminded everyone to directly contact Staff with recommendations. Ms. Jacobs suggested having a public workshop to request public input.

3. New Business

a. Natural Resources & Ecosystem Management

- i. Mr. De Filippi initiated a discussion regarding biodegradable fishing line. Mr. Doebler and Commissioner Grieco advised that it will be difficult for the City to promote the use of biodegradable fishing line and recommended instead implementing fishing line recycling at locations where fishing is allowed. Ms. Wells added that the new South Pointe Park pier is outfitted with fishing line recycling containers.

b. Solid Waste Management

- i. Mr. De Filippi advised that San Francisco passed a plastic water bottle ban. Ms. Wells explained that an initiative like this would have to be vetted by the City Attorney's Office to ensure it is not pre-empted by the State. In the interim, the Administration is looking to provide its employees with reusable water bottles and coffee mugs to reduce plastic water bottle waste. **MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that the Commission discuss a potential plastic water bottle ban in City facilities. Motion made by Mr. De Filippi, seconded by Mr. Vincenti. Ms. Hart and Ms. Jacobs opposed. Mr. Doebler, Ms. Leibowitz, and Ms. Furst abstained. Motion failed.**
- ii. Mr. Doebler introduced Ms. Dara Schoenwald, who provided a summary of her water bottle refill station project. The project, which was a Miami Foundation Public Spaces Challenge Winner, reduces disposable plastic water bottle waste by retrofitting existing water fountains with water bottle refill and dog bowl extensions. The water fountains can also be installed completely new with all of these components. Commissioner Grieco recommended reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor the installation of these stations on City properties, such as South Pointe Park and the Miami Beach Convention Center Park. **ACTION: Staff to discuss installing water bottle refill stations with the Parks, CIP and Public Works departments. MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that Commissioner Grieco bring the water bottle refill station item to the July Commission meeting. Motion made by Mr. Doebler, seconded by Ms. Leibowitz. Motion passed unanimously.**
- c. Mr. Greene, a resident and member of the public, initiated a discussion on food diversion from landfills. Commissioner Grieco requested that members of the public email City staff if they wish to add items to a meeting agenda and advised that only topics on the agenda will be discussed because the agendas are publicly advertised.
- d. Ms. Furst initiated a discussion on urban reforestation. Commissioner Grieco advised that the topic is part of the July meeting agenda and should be discussed at that time.
- e. Commissioner Grieco announced that, starting next meeting, the Committee members will each be given a few minutes at the start of each meeting to introduce a new sustainability discussion item.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Yanira Pineda at 305.673.7000 x. 6840 or yanirapineda@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.