



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

Sustainability Committee

Margarita Kruyff, Member – Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber
Michael DeFilippi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez
Johann Moore, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian
No appointment, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez
Jason Koslowe, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Stephen Meiner
Mike Gibaldi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola
Sarah Kott, Member – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson

DATE: February 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for February 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Mike Gibaldi, Sara Kott, Jason Koslowe, Michael DeFilippi, Johann Moore

Absent: Margarita Kruyff

City Staff: Yanira Pineda, Sustainability Manager; Monica Beltran, Parking Department Director; Omar Leon, Urban Forester; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Vice Chair Vote – MOTION:** Motion to elect Sara Kott as the Vice Chair of the Sustainability Committee. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Johann Moore.
- b. **Review of the January 27, 2022 Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve January 27, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion made by Sara Kott, seconded by Mike Gibaldi.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. **Backyard Composting** – Yanira Pineda, Sustainability Manager, presented the item. Anastasia Mikhilochkina, Surfrider Foundation, gave an overview of the backyard composting program which Surfrider received a grant to implement. The committee discussed strategies to engage the community and maximize participation in the composting program.
- ii. **EV Infrastructure** – Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, presented the item. Monica Beltran, Parking Department Director, provided an overview of the city's electric vehicle (EV) charging stations network. Ms. Beltran explained that new technology is being considered, including chargers with battery packs. Ms. Beltran stated that the city's current contract is with Blink and they install the fastest chargers that can be supported by the electric infrastructure. Mr. Gibaldi asked if the City has data on the utilization of the charging stations. Ms. Beltran stated that she does not have the data readily available but explained that there was a continuous increase in utilization up to the pandemic and utilization has since

dropped. Ms. Beltran answered additional questions from the committee and spoke about some the City's future plans as technology develops. Michael DeFilippi asked if the City has considered offering grants for infrastructure upgrades on private property. Ms. Pineda stated that the Resilience team is developing a private property adaptation program which will provide grants for homeowners to implement adaptation projects on their property. Mr. DeFilippi suggested that it would be a good idea to include EV chargers as part of that program.

b. Old Business

- i. **Climate Action Plan Update** – Ms. Berthoumieux provided an update on the progress of the Climate Action Plan development. Ms. Berthoumieux shared that Miami-Dade County's BE305 program, focused on reducing energy and water consumption through benchmarking, is recruiting large buildings for its second cohort. Ms. Pineda added that the City currently has three municipal buildings enrolled in the program.
- ii. **Urban Forestry Master Plan Update** – Omar Leon, Urban Forester, provided updates on urban forestry items. Mr. Leon explained that additional outreach is being performed for the Middle Beach reforestation project. Mr. Leon stated that many of the Commission Committee items that had previously been deferred will be discussed in upcoming Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee, Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, and Land Use and Sustainability Committee meetings.
Mr. Leon answered questions from the committee and clarified the difference between the Tree Preservation Ordinance and the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Sara Kott asked where residents can get information about trees and their benefits. Mr. Leon shared the link: <https://www.mbrisingabove.com/trees> and that organizations such as Arbor Day Foundation, American Forest, and Trees Are Good provide educational resources.
- iii. **G.O. Bond Committee Update** – Jason Koslowe gave an update on last month's G.O. Bond Committee meeting. Mr. Koslowe described the project delays that were presented by staff, specifically for park projects and projects with an environmental overlay. Mr. Koslowe highlighted the grant funding that the city has received. Mr. Koslowe shared an update of the G.O. Bond reforestation project.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

Mr. Moore shared an item about road-raising and reconstruction of streetscapes and suggested bringing the item back if the committee is interested.

Mr. DeFilippi asked about the enforcement of the City's plastic straw ban. Ms. Pineda explained that the Ordinance went into effect in 2020, during the pandemic and the ban was additional burden to businesses so enforcement did not begin. Ms. Pineda stated that education and outreach has ramped up in the past few months.

4. Next Meeting

- a. March 31, 2022