

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: August 28, 2014

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 24, 2014.**

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

Absentees: None.

City Staff: Mark Williams, Urban Forester; Danila Bonini, Aide to Commissioner Grieco; Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist; Yanira Pineda, Office Associate IV; and Ariel Moger, Environmental Intern.

Guests: Dara Schoenwald, Miami Foundation Public Spaces Challenge Winner.

1. Minutes Review

- a. Motion to approve the June minutes made by Ms. Jacobs, seconded by Mr. Vincenti. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. Solid Waste Management.

- i. Ms. Schoenwald presented her Miami Foundation award-winning water bottle refill station proposal to the Committee and recommended that a similar initiative be implemented in Miami Beach. Ms. Schoenwald indicated that a filtered station requires a \$50 to \$75 filter to be replaced on a quarterly basis. However, there are refill stations that provide advertising revenue opportunities to cover this and other maintenance costs. Ms. Leibowitz asked if refill stations can be retrofitted onto existing drinking fountains. Ms. Schoenwald explained that electric drinking fountains are more easily retrofitted into water bottle refill stations. Mr. De Filippi recommended placing refill stations in high traffic areas, such as beach showers, and Ms. Leibowitz suggested adding stations next to bus stations and bicycle stations. **MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that the City Commission implement the use of water bottle refill stations, new and as retrofits, where possible. Motion made by Ms. Jacobs, seconded by Ms. Hart. Motion passed unanimously.**

b. Natural Resources & Ecosystem Management.

- i. Mr. Williams advised that the City is in the process of developing its own Tree Ordinance to allow the City to have complete control over its own urban forest and allocate mitigation funds in a Tree Trust Fund for local use. He provided a copy of the proposed ordinance for the Committee's review and requested their input. Mr. Williams expanded on the Tree Trust Fund concept by emphasizing that contribution of a mitigation fee will be the last resort for projects.
- ii. Mr. De Filippi inquired whether the Tree Ordinance includes provisions for green roofs. Mr. Williams advised that they are two separate issues. Ms. Wells added that green roofs fall under the purview of the Environment & Sustainability

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Division which recommends their incorporation into public and private project designs, as applicable. Ms. Leibowitz asked whether the new convention center will feature a green roof. Commissioner Grieco replied that the current plan is to place solar panels on the roof and maximize greenspace in surrounding areas such as the P-Lot.

3. Updates

- a. Commissioner Grieco advised that the City Commission passed the Polystyrene Ban at their July 23 meeting. He also mentioned that the Recycling Ordinance began enforcement July 1 and that the loophole for residential establishments of 2-8 units, which was closed by the City Commission, will begin enforcement starting November 1, 2014.
- b. **Education & Outreach.**
 - i. Ms. Wells invited the Committee to lead a project or participate in the City's upcoming volunteer events, including Family Service Day on September 27, 2014 and International Coastal Cleanup Day (ICC) on September 20, 2014. Ms. Furst suggested exploring the option of giving prizes to ICC participants. **MOTION: The Sustainability Committee will participate in International Coastal Cleanup Day by leading a cleanup at Pine Tree Park, having both kayak and on-foot options for volunteers. Motion made by Ms. Leibowitz, seconded by Mr. De Filippi. Motion passed unanimously.**
- c. **Solid Waste Management.**
 - i. The Committee brought up their concerns regarding the County's beach recycling program, including the lack of visibility of the newly installed recycling bins and their distance from the existing garbage cans. **ACTION:** Staff to invite a Miami-Dade County representative to the August meeting to provide a status on the program and respond to the Committee's concerns.
 - ii. Ms. Wells stated that the July 4th styrofoam cooler swap was a success and that the City intends to continue exchanging coolers throughout the summer, including on Labor Day weekend. Commissioner Grieco suggested reaching out to the Boucher Brothers and asking them to swap coolers at their concession kiosks.
- d. **Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.**
 - i. Ms. Wells reminded the Committee that the Summit registration is open and that sponsor packages are still available.

4. August Meeting

- a. The Committee members were allotted one minute to present a new discussion item for inclusion in the August meeting agenda. Mr. Doeblner requested a discussion on how to regulate Styrofoam products that are exposed to the elements, such as floating docks. Mr. DeFilippi requested a discussion on a City-led anti-litter campaign. Commissioner Grieco encouraged members to conduct more research on these topic before the August meeting.
- b. Mr. Hinmahtooyah, a Miami Beach resident, requested that the Committee consider a discussion regarding a Green Ambassador program similar to the City's existing Goodwill Ambassador program.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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