

MIAMIBEACH

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

Sustainability Committee Chairperson

David Doebler – Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Jeremy Waks- Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

Mohammed Islam - Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian

Luiz Rodrigues- Appointed by Commissioner Michael Góngora

Mike Gibaldi - Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola

Max Litt - Appointed by Commissioner John Elizabeth Alemán

Chis Duggan – Appointed by Commissioner Joy Malakoff

DATE: October 29, 2019

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee has been scheduled for September 24, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager’s Small Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall.

The attendees were as follows: Dave Doebler, Luiz Rodrigues, Mohammed Islam, Max Litt, and Chris Duggan

City Staff: Rodney Knowles, Greenspace Division Directors; Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager; Michael Atkin, Greenspace Management Superintendent; Yanira Pineda, Sustainability Specialist and Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sustainability Specialist.

Members Absent: Jeremy Waks

Minutes

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **MOTION:** Motion to approve the July 30, 2019 minutes with revisions. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Max Litt.
- b. **New Business**
 - i. Fertilizer Discussion – Dave Doebler introduced the item. He explained that a major concern of Biscayne Bay was the die-off of seagrass which has been linked to fertilizer use. He explained that Commissioner Higgins would sponsor an ordinance on reducing fertilizer use during rainy periods. The ordinance would apply to all property managers and landscapers and would require those entities to attend a certification program on fertilizer usage. Luiz Rodriguez inquired on what the city can do at the city level. Rodney Knowles recommended educating the public through events and programming. He also suggested collaborating with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and utilizing their educational resources. Mr. Doebler proposed a list of actions that could be taken at the city level to address fertilizer use for landscaping companies. **MOTION:** Employ ‘Florida-friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources’ within the City of Miami Beach by private entities, contractors, and landscapers. This will bring City of Miami Beach in line with other counties around Florida that have adopted similar measures.

The following requirements were proposed and are also listed within the draft ordinance:

- All commercial and institutional applicators of fertilizer (landscapers) within the City to abide by and successfully complete the six-hour training program in the “Florida-friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries” offered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the University of Florida Extension “Florida-Friendly Landscapes” program, or an approved equivalent. All managers and employees must be certified.
- A 10 ft. setback from waterways and storm drains where no fertilizer may be applied
- No fertilizer applied during the rainy season (June-Sept)
- Nitrogen content in fertilizer must be 50% ‘slow release’
- In no case shall grass clippings, vegetative material, and/or vegetative debris be washed, swept, or blown off into stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, wetlands, or sidewalks or roadways.

The following requirements were recommended as additional measures:

- No phosphorous use in applications.
- Require informational placards at retail stores.
- Develop an educational component for residents on good fertilizer best practices.
- Consider banning the retail sale of fertilizers with either phosphorous or less than 50% ‘slow release’ nitrogen.

Motion made by Dave Doebler, seconded by Luiz Rodrigues.

ii. Pop Festival + Sustainability – Discussion postponed

c. **Old Business**

- i. GO Bond – Max Litt provided an updated on the G.O. Bond updates. He inquired on whether the group would be okay with providing updates by sharing the Letter to Commission (LTC) on the projects in addition to his personalized comments on each segment. He explained that the scope for the 72nd community center did not have the full funding and elements that were proposed. The oversight committee voted on funding the gap in order to cover all components that were voted on. Part of the discussion included expanding the number of proposed parking spaces which did not align with the city’s sustainability and resiliency goals. Flavia Tonioli explained that even if they move forward with the larger parking garage, they would follow the city’s green building standards, such as Parksmart.

2. **Public Comment and Announcements** (10 minutes)

- a. Electronic Waste – Mr. Rodriguez inquired on the status of the electronic waste drop off at the Green Waste Facility and how to get more public participation. Ms. Pineda explained the recycling campaign, which was tied to the educational component of the electronic drop off, has been temporarily halted. She added the city is working towards executing the media plan to begin advertising the site.

3. **Next Meeting**

- a. October 29, 2019