

MIAMIBEACH

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

Sustainability Committee

David Doebler, Chair – Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg

Sara Kott, Member - Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson

Jeremy Waks, Member - Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

Mohammed Islam, Member - Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian

Luiz Rodrigues, Member - Appointed by Commissioner Michael Góngora

Mike Gibaldi, Member - Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola

Chris Duggan, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Joy Malakoff

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for May 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. and was held through Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/96929838615>

Meeting ID: 969 2983 8615

The attendees were as follows: Dave Doebler, Luiz Rodrigues, Sara Kott, Jeremy Caldwell, Mike Gibaldi, Nora Walsh, and Gianni Feoli.

City Staff: Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager, Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, Omar Leon, Urban Forester, and Rodney Knowles, Greenspace Management Division Director.

Members Absent: Mohammed Islam, Chris Duggan, and Jeremy Waks

Minutes

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **MOTION:** Motion to approve the April 28, 2020 minutes. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Sara Kott.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. Old Business

- i. Sustainachella – Life after COVID-19 – Sara Kott presented this item. She recommended implementing an educational campaign and/or hosting a Sustainachella that would provide information to the public about the positive environmental outcomes that occurred as a side effect of the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage the public to continue these positive behaviors moving forward. Ms. Kott listed the data that she has been able to find. Luiz Rodrigues explained he recommended to city staff a countywide project that would make the temporary positive behavior changes more permanent. Dave Doelber

commended the Sustainability division on their success of reaching out to different communities on topics that go beyond Earth Day. Yanira Pineda stated she would confirm with the Communications department on the signage language that would be placed on the beaches when they reopen. Ms. Pineda spoke on the website she was building that would serve as a central point to the public on how to maintain living a sustainable life. Flavia Tonioli recommended Committee members to join in on the Sustainability conversations. Ms. Tonioli explained the topic could be shared on the website and the city's social media platforms. Ms. Pineda added she would include the sustainable living ideas provided by the Committee members onto the website and share the draft website for the next meeting.

b. New Business

- i. Review of Urban Forestry Master Plan – Omar Leon presented the Urban Forestry Master Plan and brief oversight of the recommendation and goals to maintain a resilient urban forest and City. The master plan would improve citywide preparedness for severe storm, increase tree life expectancy, improve tree canopy health, and provide growth in overall tree canopy benefits citywide. He explained the Urban Forestry Master Plan would be presented at the Land Use and Sustainability Committee and later this year in front of the full commission for adoption. Dave Doelber asked if the cost of maintaining palm trees was greater than the other trees proposed. Mr. Leon stated pruning and maintenance of palm trees does pose a greater cost than that of other trees. Sara Kott asked if trees differ in their capacity to absorb groundwater. Mr. Leon reported an assessment was conducted and the results were that after a 10- and 15-year stormwater event, the tree has exceeded their capacity to manage stormwater. He stated the master plan provides a break down of the environmental benefit, including water retention, of different tree species. Luis Rodrigues asked who was responsible for maintaining trees in the city's right of way. Mr. Leon stated the adjacent property owner was responsible and the city does not have funds allocated for this expenditure at this time.
- ii. Greenspace Projects- David Doelber proposed a Julia Tuttle mangrove expansion with a pollinator corridor. Mr. Doelber stated this project could be completed with potential funds from Miami-Dade County, non-profit organizations, or grants. The proposed project would fit into the City's sustainability and resiliency goals and the Mayor's Monarch Butterfly Challenge. Rodney Knowles stated funding could be found for the initial installation of the mangrove planters, however, it would be challenging to keep the mangroves exotic invasive free and keeping the pollinator plants looking as intended. Mr. Knowles explained that he would have to confirm what the maintenance regimen of pollinator gardens was. Mr. Knowles explained the hurdles faced with Florida Department of Transportation for planting vegetation along the causeway. Mr. Doelber recommended for the City's Greenspace Division to develop a plan for a potential mangrove expansion in this area. Mr. Knowles stated Greenspace Management does not have the capacity to spearhead new projects at this time, however, they would be able to consult with whomever leads the project.

3. Next Meeting

a. June 23, 2020