

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
Jeremy Waks, Vice Chair - Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber
Sarah Kott, Member - Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson
Mohammed Islam, Member - Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian
Luiz Rodrigues, Member - Appointed by Commissioner Michael Góngora
Mike Gibaldi, Member - Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola
Jason Koslowe – Appointed by Commissioner Stephen Meiner

DATE: November 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee has been scheduled for November 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held through Zoom.

The attendees were as follows: Dave Doebler, Luiz Rodrigues, Sara Kott, Mike Gibaldi, Jeremy Waks, Jason Koslowe and Mohammed Islam

Members of the public were also in attendance.

City Staff: Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment & Sustainability Director; Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sustainability Specialist.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a) Review of October 27, 2020 Minutes - Mike Gibaldi, member, raised concerns from the surfing community regarding the Reefline Project and asked to include his comment on the potential adverse effects of the project on surfing waves. **MOTION:** Motion to amend the October 27, 2020 minutes to reflect changes to the Reefline discussion. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Jeremy Waks.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. Biscayne Bay/Water Quality Matrix - Elizabeth Wheaton, Director of the Environment & Sustainability department introduced the item. Ms. Wheaton mentioned the matrix included 62 recommendations and 44 of them were related to Miami Beach. She announced the fertilizer ordinance passed first reading and recommended the committee follow discussions being held at the county such as the assigning of the Chief Bay Officer and the establishment of the Water Management Board. Ms. Wheaton explained the importance of being engaged in these discussions, and to take a unified approach. Ms. Wheaton added the department could carry out more public outreach and focus on the task if there was a position focused specifically on Biscayne Bay and Water Quality. Ms. Wheaton shared the matrix and briefly reviewed the key points with the group. Jason Koslowe asked how they could best utilize the document. Ms. Wheaton clarified the recommendations as follows: ensure staff engages with new Chief Bay

Officer as well as the Water Management Board and to look at which ordinances have some quick wins. Dave Doebler, Chair, suggested the city coordinate not only with the county but will all the different entities/municipalities that were involved in water quality and share reports. Ms. Wheaton responded the City of Miami Beach coordinates with other municipalities but believes there could be improvements for a more centrally coordinated effort. Mr. Doebler asked the committee to take a look at Ms. Wheaton's matrix and provide any feedback.

- ii. Stormwater Strategies – Item deferred.
- iii. Commercial Composting – Mr. Doebler introduced the item and guest, Dr. Lanette Sobel. Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, provided brief background information about existing composting programs in the city. Dr. Sobel shared a presentation on the Fertile Earth Foundation. Mr. Doebler inquired on where most food waste is created. Dr. Sobel stated any institution that moves a lot of food such as importers and distributors. She added if composting was done correctly, it should not have a smell, flies, or other concerns the public generally would have on composting. Jason Koslowe, member, inquired on what steps the city can take to encourage business to become part of the solution. Dr. Sobel responded that an option was working with the city on education and outreach. Ms. Pineda explained the Plastic Free Miami Beach certification program has a section for businesses and suppliers that provide sustainable and environmental services on Miami Beach. This would allow the city to place the Fertile Earth Foundation on the site as a supplier of sustainable services.

b. Old Business

- i. #PlasticFreeMB Next Steps – Item deferred.
- ii. Volunteer Beach Cleanup Program – Mr. Doebler introduced the item and guest, Manny Rionda. Mr. Rionda presented on the Fill-a-Bag organization and how it began in Key Biscayne. Mr. Doebler inquired on some of the challenges that Mr. Rionda foresees if the program is expanded to Miami Beach. Mr. Rionda responded he did not want to assume what could happen in Miami Beach without being familiar with the city but provided scenarios that were encountered in other areas. One of the organization's goals includes collecting data via QR Codes. Ms. Kott asked if individuals could assist in sponsoring Fill-A-Bag and if they would have to obtain city approval. Mr. Rionda explained the individual would have to work with the city but the organization does help with the process. Ms. Wheaton added she would be interested in partnering with Fill-A-Bag to explore options to deploy the program throughout Miami Beach as well as build on the programs the city already has in place. She explained she would set up a meeting to discuss further with Mr. Rionda.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

4. Next Meeting

- a. December 22, 2020
- b. Agenda Planning – Stormwater management, volunteer beach cleanup program, waste hauler messaging and prices were discussed as possible agenda topics for December.