



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

Sustainability Committee

Mike Gibaldi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola
Jason Koslowe, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Stephen Meiner
Sarah Kott, Member – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson
Margarita Kruffy, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Luiz Rodrigues, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Santiago R. Tarditi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian
Jeremy Waks, Member – Appointed by Major Dan Gelber

DATE: February 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for February 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment & Sustainability Director; Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager; Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Manager; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sustainability Specialist; Omar Leon, Urban Forester; Manuel Sanchez, Urban Forestry Inspector; George Nunez, Forestry Specialist. Members of the public also attended.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **MOTION:** Motion to approve the January 25, 2021 minutes. Motion made by Sarah Kott, seconded by Jason Koslowe.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business & Old Businesses

- i. Palm vs. Shade Tree Ordinance Issues/Tree Giveaway/ Urban Forestry Master Plan - Omar Leon, Urban Forester, presented the item and discussed the Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP). Jason Koslowe, Committee Member, asked how preferred tree species would be selected while considering the city's brand and how the city would be planning to encourage residents to have the right type of tree species. Mr. Leon explained there were several initiatives for tree planting on private property, as well as public green spaces which included ordinances to preserve, protect, and expand tree cover. Mr. Leon further explained urban tree management was about balancing economic, ecological and social factors relating to urban forestry. Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment and Sustainability Director, explained the UFMP provides a template to deal with many issues within the City and palm trees would still be a focal point. Mr. Leon presented a slideshow of the Urban Forestry Master Plan. He highlighted the 10-20-30 Rule which suggests no single tree species should be more than 10% of the urban forest, no genus should be more than 20% of urban forest and no family should be more than 30% of urban forest. Margarita Kruffy, Committee Member, inquired on whether healthy palm trees will be removed. Mr. Leon stated the plan never called for healthy palms to be removed. The only palms that would be removed are those tied to city construction. Mr. Leon highlighted that shade trees sequester more carbon than

palm trees, which would make Miami Beach more resilient in the future and help mitigate the urban heat island effect. In addition, he mentioned palm trees require more maintenance and cost the City more per year. Mr. Koslowe stated the focus of the plan should be proper education and management so the public could understand healthy palm trees would not be affected. Santiago Tarditi, Committee Member, asked where palm trees will be disposed of. Mr. Leon stated there was no existing program for disposal of palms. Mr. Koslowe suggested having the Urban Forestry division develop reports on public opinion. Committee members discussed language for a motion on the UFMP. Mike Gibaldi, Committee Member, stated the committee was not ready to make a motion. Mr. Koslowe agreed and stressed the committee should wait until after the workshop when the public is more informed on the issue. Mr. Tarditi suggests working with local non-profits to highlight the importance of the UFMP and urban forestry. Mr. Leon explained the UFMP included a section specifically with a community outreach program.

a. Updates

- i. G.O. Bond Oversight Committee - Mr. Koslowe provided an update on the G.O. Bond projects. He explained the last meeting focused on restructuring tranches to take advantage of the low interest rates which allowed for funding to be shifted forward and allowed for additional funding to be borrowed earlier. He explained in order to do that, the city could not have outstanding bond funding to spend. To address this, the G.O. bond committee agreed to have three tranches instead of four. Mr. Koslowe explained funding would be moved from delayed projects to other projects that were more advanced in the process.
- ii. Climate Action Plan - Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sustainability Specialist, provided a summary of Climate Action Plan. Ms. Berthoumieux explained the City is moving forward with hiring a consultant as well as drafting recommended options, coming up with a cost for the options and a return on invest on programs and potential reduction in emissions

3. Public Comment and Announcements

- a. Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Manager, announces upcoming Sustainachella event. Mr. Gibaldi announced the Surfrider dune restoration event.

4. Next Meeting

- a. Ms. Pineda suggested adding time next month for an update on the UFMP workshop. Ms. Kruyff suggests discussing energy and renewable energy.