

MIAMIBEACH

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 Kruyff, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Luiz Rodrigues, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Góngora
Santiago R. Tarditi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian
Jeremy Waks, Member – Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

DATE: January 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee has been scheduled for January 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Mike Gibaldi, Sara Kott, Jason Koslowe, Luiz Rodrigues, Jeremy Waks, Margarita Kruyff, and Santiago Tarditi.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

City Staff: Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager; Omar Leon, Urban Forester; Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; and Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sustainability Specialist.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Introductions** – Staff, Sustainability Committee members, and members of the public introduced themselves.
- b. **Chair/Vice-Chair Vote** – **MOTION:** Motion to appoint Margarita Kruyff as Chair. Motion made by Luiz Rodrigues, seconded by Mike Gibaldi. **MOTION:** Motion to appoint Mike Gibaldi as Vice-Chair. Motion made by Jeremy Waks, seconded by Luiz Rodrigues. The newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair provided background of their work in the environment and sustainability field.
- c. **G.O. Bond Ex-Oficio Non-Voting Member** – **MOTION:** Motion to nominate Jason Koslowe, member, as G.O. Bond Ex-Oficio member. Motion made by Jeremy Waks, seconded by Mike Gibaldi.
- d. **Topic Selection** - Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, shared a list of the topic ideas submitted by the committee members. Members provided additional topic ideas and voted on their top ten priority items from the list of ideas. Ms. Pineda reviewed the list of items voted on and shared the list of most popular topic items picked. The committee members agreed to tie the three tree topics together for the next meeting and requested to include energy efficiency in buildings as an additional topic. Margarita Kruyff, Chair, requested that staff organize the topic items voted on into groups and to send the updated list to the members.
- e. **Review of the December 22, 2020 Minutes** – **MOTION:** Motion to approve the December 22, 2020 Minutes. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Sara Kott.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. **Environment and Sustainability Department** – Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager; Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; and Omar Leon, Urban Forester, presented the Environment & Sustainability Department’s responsibilities and projects.

b. Old Business

- i. **Urban Forestry Master Plan** – Mr. Leon presented an update on the Urban Forestry Master Plan. He stated that Urban Forestry has recently received concerns about the Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) particularly as it relates to the palm tree population in Miami Beach. He explained the UFMP was a guiding document, based on previous studies, that would be used to assist the City when redeveloping areas to improve urban canopy. He explained the City had a 17% tree canopy coverage and would be able to reach a maximum of 22% coverage. In addition, 57% of the urban canopy was currently comprised of palm trees which was a concern because they would not provide as many benefits as shade trees. He explained that the UFMP would not require the removal of palm trees, but was a guiding document focused on maximizing the benefits of the urban canopy in areas that are being redeveloped. He added the plan approached the process holistically and considered walkability and connectivity. Members of the committee provided feedback and asked some questions regarding what steps can be taken to support the UFMP. Jason Koslowe, member, asked about how it would affect the city’s brand in terms of palm trees in tourist facing areas. Mr. Leon clarified that palm trees could still be planted, the UFMP just considers the appropriate species for different areas. The plan lists a combination of strategies and planting mixtures for different areas.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

4. Next Meeting

- a. February 25, 2021 Meeting
- b. Agenda Planning