

Sustainability Committee

Margarita Kruff, Chair– Appointed by Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Mike Gibaldi, Vice-Chair – Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola
Jason Koslowe, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Stephen Meiner
SaraKott, Member – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson
Santiago R. Tarditi, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian
Jeremy Waks, Member – Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

DATE: March 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

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

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

Members of the public were also in attendance.

City Staff: Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment & Sustainability Department Director; Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager; Omar Leon, Urban Forester; Francisco Garcia, Senior Facilities Capital Projects Coordinator; Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; and Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sustainability Specialist.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Review of the February 25, 2020 Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the February 25, 2020 Minutes. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Sara Kott.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. **Energy Efficiency in Buildings** - Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager, introduced the item. She gave a breakdown of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory that was compiled annually. She explained that staff started conversations with a consultant to do an energy assessment and to prioritize energy efficiency retrofits. Margarita Kruff, chair, asked what the cost was estimated to be. Ms. Tonioli explained the cost was estimated to be \$100,000 to \$150,000. She added there was also interest to look at pump stations to identify any energy conservation measures that could be applied. Ms. Kruff asked how an energy assessment might be impacted by different buildings. She provided an example of the Convention Center which was LEED Silver and asked how that will affect greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Tonioli explained the City was using EnergyCAP to track electricity bills and the performance of energy projects. Mike Gibaldi, member, asked about the natural maintenance cycle of buildings. Francisco Garcia, Senior Facilities Capital Projects Coordinator, explained that the Property Management Department had an operations and maintenance team which conducted regular retrofits for HVAC systems and lighting while following best practices. Ms. Tonioli explained that completing the energy assessment alongside the Climate Action Plan would help ensure that actions are aligned and could be prioritized. Jason Koslowe, member, suggested the energy assessment should include a prioritized list that could easily be implemented.

MOTION: Motion to support the allocation of funding for an energy assessment of municipal buildings and the allocation of funding to execute energy efficiency upgrades

to the top 10 city facilities that are identified as having the highest Energy Use Intensity (EUI). Motion made by Jason Koslowe, seconded by Mike Gibaldi.

- ii. **Solar Co-op** - Alyssia Berthomieux, Sustainability Specialist, introduced the item. She stated Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County were selected to participate in the Rocky Mountain Institute's solar cohort and have partnered with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) on a solar co-op. Laura Tellez, South Florida Program Coordinator, provided background information about SUN. Mike Gibaldi, member, asked if it was possible for the City to require solar on reroofing projects. Ms. Tonioli explained that any new construction was required to install a sustainable roof which could either be a cool, green, blue, solar, or metal roof. Sara Kott, member, asked if information about solar co-ops was being shared with those applying for building permits. Ms. Tonioli said that they will bring to the Building Department to share that information.

b. Old Business

- i. **Urban Forestry Master Plan Update** - Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment & Sustainability Department Director, presented the item. She explained that at the beginning of the month, a public workshop regarding trees took place and as a result, a number of items were placed on the agenda for numerous committees. She stated that a count was performed to identify the number of trees to be removed as part of the regular tree permitting process and in the last 3 years, there were over 1,009 removals of palm trees and more than 3,000 palms were planted- therefore, there was a net increase in palm trees. She also explained that from the list of the 22 projects that started in 2016 and for which construction will end in 2025, 1,000 palm trees are slated to be removed, and 921 palm trees will be replanted. Mr. Koslowe expressed that many concerns from the community could easily be addressed but there seems to be a communication issue. He suggested that an easy solution could be to add palm trees in tourist facing areas and to increase shade trees in residential areas. He asked if it would be easier to address this in the Urban Forestry Master Plan than through resolutions. Elizabeth Wheaton explained that when looking at different corridors, palm trees are used as the focus, and that shade trees and palm trees could exist together. **MOTION:** Motion to recommend that the Mayor and City Commission continue to prioritize the sustainable forestry principles laid out by the Urban Forestry Master Plan, and to reaffirm that the Urban Forestry Master Plan already adequately addresses protection of the city's iconic palms. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, seconded by Margarita Kruff.

c. Updates

- i. **G.O. Bond Oversight Committee** – No update.
- ii. **Climate Action Plan** - Alyssia Berthomieux, Sustainability Specialist, provided an update on the Climate Action Plan. She stated that the Land Use and Sustainability Committee passed a motion to proceed with the development of a climate action plan and moved a resolution to the City Commission to commit to carbon neutrality by 2050.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

4. Next Meeting: April 29, 2021