

# MIAMIBEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139,  
[www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

## Sustainability Committee

David Doeblor, 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: October 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for October 27, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was held through Zoom.

**The attendees were as follows:** Dave Doeblor, Luiz Rodrigues, Sara Kott, Mike Gibaldi, Jeremy Waks, and Mohammed Islam

Members of the public were also in attendance.

**City Staff:** Ana Salgueiro, Building Director; Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment & Sustainability Director; Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager; and Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator.

**Members Absent:** Jason Koslowe.

## Minutes

### 1) Committee Responsibilities

- a) **MOTION:** Motion to approve the September 22, 2020 minutes. Motion made by David Doeblor, seconded by Luiz Rodrigues.

### 2) Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- i) **Biscayne Bay/Water Quality Matrix** – Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment and Sustainability Director, provided an update on the item. She showcased a list of 62 short term, intermedium and midterm recommendations. Ms. Wheaton further explained approximately 40 of the recommendations require city action from various department. She added that she would provide the City Commission with a presentation on the different needs, funding, and program development. She asked for the topic to be kept as a standing item. Ms. Wheaton added the city was working with Ogilvy, PR company and AD agency, on a water quality campaign. She requested the committee be involved in the process as it develops and would like to host a focus group with all the non-profits who are involved in Biscayne Bay efforts to help with brainstorming. Luiz Rodrigues, member, suggested Public Works provide the committee with a presentation on all the stormwater upgrades.
- ii) **Pollinator Gardens** – Yanira Pineda, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, provided an update on the item. She explained the high cost of installing pollinator gardens by the ramp of the Julia Tuttle and other spaces. Mike Gibaldi, Member, suggested speaking to the Pinetree park community garden for assistance. Ms. Pineda informed the members that North Beach Composting Hub was another location they are looking at. Mr. Gibaldi suggested including natives that are butterfly attractors. Dave Doeblor, Chair, and Sara Kott, Member, suggested various ideas via the meeting chat: Invite schools to adopt/host a butterfly garden; apply for a Miami Foundation grant; involve The Nature Conservancy; host

fundraisers at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden and consider donations from the community.

- iii) **EV Stations and City Efforts** – Mr. Gibaldi presented this item. He mentioned he had a difficult time with permitting a condominium building and inquired on further incentives to promote electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and streamlining the permitting process. Ana Salgueiro, Building Director, suggested creating a special permit to simplify the process. She explained one of the challenges was the location of the chargers which led to zoning, planning, and electrical concerns. Ms. Salgueiro explained the permit would require a configuration with IT to create the new EV permit which would take about a month to create. Mr. Doebler suggested a one- or two-year incentive. Ms. Salgueiro stated it would need commission approval. **MOTION:** Motion requesting the City Commission to waive or reduce the permitting fees for a period of two years for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations to incentivize and facilitate emission-free driving in Miami Beach. Motion made by Mike Gibaldi, Seconded by Dave Doebler.
- iv) **#PlasticFreeMB Concessionaires** – Ms. Wheaton explained the ban single-use wares for beach concessions went into effect in October. She stated feedback received includes obstacles with enforcement because of the pandemic. Mr. Doebler suggested incentives for the businesses that join Plastic Free Miami Beach. Mr. Rodrigues shared the possibility of having an article in the April MB Magazine that can provide a lot of different guidance on different programs. Ms. Kott suggested that PlasticFreeMB site to have business listed highlighted in different categories and having some QR codes around the city. Ms. Wheaton would provide an update on the next meeting.
- v) **Special proposal from Reef Line** - Colin Foord, Coral Morphologic, introduced the Reef Line project. He explained the goal was to commission an artist to design a sculpture out of concrete, install it in the reef, and make it an attraction. Ms. Wheaton informed the members the Mayor asked for this item to be added to the November commission agenda and was looking for feedback from the committee.  
**MOTION:** Motion supporting The Reef Line Miami Beach proposal as a concept to create habitats for our local aquatic marine life, promote diverse tourism, and provide recreational activities for locals and guests. Motion made by Luis Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Chair, Jeremy Waks.

**Update per motion passed at the November 24, 2020 meeting:** Mike Gibaldi, member, raised concerns from the surfing community regarding the Reef Line 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.

### 3) **Public Comment and Announcements**

- a) Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager, provided an update on the UM project and stated they have finalized the agreement.
- b) Mr. Rodrigues shared a flyer with the group to help promote the Committee. Mr. Doebler suggested all members promote the meeting via social media on their own accounts.

### 4) **Next Meeting**

- a) November 24, 2020
- b) Agenda Planning