



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

### **Sustainability Committee**

Margarita Kruffy, Chair – Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

Michael DeFilippi, Vice-Chair – Appointed by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Johann Moore, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Mark Samuelian

Jason Koslowe, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Stephen Meiner

Maria Algarra, Member – Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez

No appointment – Commissioner Ricky Arriola

No appointment – Commissioner David Richardson

DATE: October 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for October 27, 2022 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Margarita Kruffy, Michael DeFilippi, Johann Moore, Maria Algarra

City Staff: Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; Rolando Martinez, Sustainability Specialist; Milos Majstorovic, Assistant Director of the Transportation and Mobility Department; Kenneth Varela, Code Compliance Administrator; Ander Alvarez, Urban Forester

Members of the public were also in attendance.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Committee Responsibilities**

- a. It was announced that a new vice-chair had to be elected for the Sustainability Committee. Michael DeFilippi nominated himself and was elected by the committee as the new vice-chair.
- b. **Review of the September 29, 2022 Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the September 29, 2022 meeting minutes with an edit to add details on solar lighting recommendations. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruffy.

#### **2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan**

##### **a. New Business**

- i. **Trolley Program** - Milos Majstorovic, Assistant Director of the Transportation and Mobility Department, presented on the Citywide Free Trolley Program. He stated that before the pandemic, 25 trolleys were operated with about 14,000 people boarding every day. He explained that due to the pandemic, ridership has decreased, but a budget enhancement was provided to improve service frequency. Mr. Majstorovic share that all trolleys currently run on diesel, but in 2017, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2017-30112 that set goals for trolleys to be zero emission and powered by clean energy by 2025. Mr. Majstorovic stated that the current trolley contract expires in August 2023 and the City will solicit proposals for trolleys. Margarita Kruffy, Chair, asked about if there is a hesitation with implementing full electrification of the trolleys. Mr. Majstorovic mentioned that there are concerns over the ability of electric trolleys to sustain 18 hours of service per day. Further, Mr. Majstorovic estimated that electric trolleys can be four to five times more expensive compared to diesel or CNG vehicles. Johann Moore, member, inquired about the feasibility for the City to develop its own electric or mass transit capabilities. Mr. Majstorovic mentioned that if the City were to purchase its vehicles, it would also need to acquire space, but there is not sufficient space to provide for parking, maintenance, and storage of vehicles in Miami Beach. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee

recommends City Administration include, in the bid documents for the selection of a trolley service provider, a selection criterion that prioritizes the bidder who maximizes electrification of the trolley fleet as part of their proposal. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruffy. Michael DeFilippi, member, requested an update from Fleet about the options for electric vehicles for the Police Department at a future meeting.

- ii. **Food Rescue US** – Ellen Bowen, Site Director for Food Rescue US, presented the work of the nonprofit Food Rescue US including how they help feed communities and protect the planet. Ms. Bowen shared data from Miami-Dade County regarding food insecurity and food waste. Ms. Bowen stated that in 2021, Food Rescue US provided over 1.6 million meals, saved 1.9 million pounds of food, and made 1,615 food rescues in South Florida. She shared that Food Rescue US received a grant through the MB Rising Above Grant program and launched a pilot program at North Beach Elementary to save non-perishable food and distribute it to a local childcare center while educating students about the impacts of food waste. Committee members proceeded to discuss Food Rescue US. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee recommends the inclusion of a panel and/or discussion on food waste at Aspen Ideas: Climate 2023 and further recommends inviting Food Rescue US South Florida to speak on the success of their food rescue initiatives in South Florida, including at the Miami Beach Convention Center and large hotels, grocery stores, and festivals across the city and region. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruffy.

## b. Old Business

- i. **Plastic Straw Ordinance** – Kenneth Varela, Code Compliance Administrator, presented updates on the Plastic Straw Ordinance and explained that Code Compliance officers monitor restaurants, cafes, and concessions for plastic straws. The committee discussed updating the Plastic Straw Ordinance language to specify that bioplastics are not allowed and recommended providing educational materials including information on bioplastics to Code Enforcement Officers to share with businesses.

**Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance** – Mr. Varela mentioned that Code Compliance has been educating private businesses and landscapers about the Ordinance. He stated that the warnings period will begin on November 1, 2022.

## c. Updates

- i. **Urban Forestry GO Bond Project Updates** – Ander Alvarez, Urban Forester, presented on the Urban Forestry G.O. Bond Projects. He shared that the Neat Streets project is close to completion; contractors have a few deficiencies to work out and 2 more trees need to be planted. Mr. Alvarez stated that plantings at Pine Tree Park and La Gorce have started and that about 117 trees will be planted between the two locations. Mr. Moore shared his concerns and asked several questions about the removal of mature trees along Alton Road as a part of the FDOT project including the practicability and related financial considerations to preserve the mature trees, the benefits of the road raising not being canceled out by the loss of canopy and mature tree root benefits, and if it a community will be denied the right to plant curb trees until a neighborhood improvement project (NIP) is implemented. Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator said that project managers for the FDOT project would be invited to the next meeting to provide background information on the project. Mr. Alvarez explained some of the considerations for removals compared to relocations, the approximate cost of a tree relocation, and tree relocation survivability. Mr. Moore suggested focusing on butterfly-friendly planting for the FDOT medians.

## d. Public Comments and Announcements

### 1. Next Meeting

- a. November 17, 2022