

MIAMIBEACH

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

Sustainability Committee

Margarita Kruyff, Chair – Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber

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

No Appointment – Appointed by Vice Mayor Steven Meiner

Elizabeth Wheaton – Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola

Johann Moore – Appointed by Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Maria Algarra, Member – Appointed by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez

Janet Silverman, Member – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson

DATE: January 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for January 26, 2023 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Margarita Kruyff, Michael DeFilippi, Maria Algarra, Janet Silverman, Johann Moore, Elizabeth Wheaton

City Staff: Lindsey Precht, Assistant Director of the Environment & Sustainability Department; Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager; Samantha Tiffany, Environmental Resources Manager; Ander Alvarez, Urban Forester; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; Rolando Martinez, Sustainability Specialist; Farosha Andasheva, Senior Assistant City Attorney.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Introductions** – City staff and committee members introduced themselves.
- b. **Chair/Vice-Chair Vote – MOTION:** Motion to elect Margarita Kruyff as Committee Chair. Motion made by Michael DeFilippi, seconded by Johann Moore. Motion passed 5 – 0. **MOTION:** Motion to elect Michael DeFilippi as Committee Vice-Chair. Motion made by Maria Algarra, seconded by Margarita Kruyff. Motion passed 5 – 0
- c. **Ethics and Sunshine Law Briefing** – Farosha Andasheva, Senior Assistant City Attorney, briefed the committee on ethics and the Sunshine Law. Ms. Andasheva specified that the Sunshine Law has three basic requirements for meetings of public officials and bodies: the meeting must be publicly noticed, open to the public and minutes must be taken. She clarified that any gathering of two or more committee members to discuss committee business is prohibited unless at a public meeting that was properly noticed. Johann Moore inquired if communication between members of different boards is prohibited, Ms. Andasheva confirmed that it is not.
- d. **Review of the November 17, 2022 Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the November 17, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruyff. Motion passed 5 – 0.
- e. **Review of the December 15, 2022 Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the December 15, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruyff. Motion passed 5 – 0.
- f. **2023 Topic Selection** – The committee dedicated time during the second half of the meeting to go over topic selection for the year. The committee members

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listed their topic suggestions on Padlet and then scored their preferred topics on a scale of 1 star to 5 stars. The final list of ideas was sorted by highest score and presented to the committee.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. **Environment & Sustainability Department Overview** – Lindsey Precht, Assistant Director, introduced the Environment & Sustainability Department Overview. Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability & Resilience Manager, introduced the Sustainability and Resilience Division and gave an overview of resilience projects, greenhouse gas mitigation, compost programs, plastic regulations, and City campaigns. Samantha Tiffany, Environmental Resources Manager, presented an overview of the Environmental Resources Division and highlighted efforts made by the City to protect the environment. Ms. Precht provided an overview of the Urban Forestry Division, highlighting reforestation efforts, hazard tree removals, the benefits of trees and tree care. Michael DeFilippi inquired on the upcoming City Commission item on the replacement of palm trees. Ms. Precht clarified that the Environment & Sustainability Department did not move the item, but the proposed language included that any palm can be replaced with palm trees, in-kind, with no additional mitigation requirements. Presently, there is a mitigation structure. Ms. Precht concluded the presentation with an overview of the Division's tree assessments and Urban Forestry Master plan.

b. Old Business

- i. **Balloon Ban** – Maria Algarra, member, shared information about balloon ban ordinances that have been implemented and highlighted other cities across Florida that have banned balloon releases. Ms. Algarra recommended that language opposing biodegradable balloons be included in an Ordinance. The Committee proceeded to discuss balloons on Miami Beach and recommendations for a possible Ordinance.
MOTION: Motion to urge the City Mayor and Commission to consider a city-wide ban on intentional balloon releases, in line with the Boynton Beach Ordinance, and if permissibly by law, that the city consider a tenfold fine schedule. Motion made by Maria Algarra, seconded by Johann Moore. Motion passed by acclamation. Ms. Algarra also highlighted that North Bay Village is currently working on an Ordinance to ban balloons.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

Mr. DeFilippi requested an update on plastic straw and cigarette ordinance enforcement and highlighted that an email update could suffice.

Ms. Algarra mentioned she loves seeing the smoking ban campaign and inquired if there are any updates on adding ash trays at entrances on the beaches.

4. Next Meeting

- a. February 23, 2023