

# MIAMIBEACH

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: November 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for November 17, 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:** Amy Knowles, Chief Resilience Officer and Environment and Sustainability Department Director; Lindsey Precht, Environment and Sustainability Department Assistant Director; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator; Rolando Martinez, Sustainability Specialist; Ander Alvarez, Urban Forester; Samantha Tiffany, Environmental Resources Manager; Patricia Rendon, Regulatory Compliance Manager

**Florida Department of Transportation staff:** Kevin Lopez, Project Manager; Patricia Quintela, Project Engineer; Raymond Valido District Roadway Design Engineer

Members of the public were also in attendance.

## MINUTES

### 1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Review of the October 27, 2022 Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the October 27, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruffy.

### 2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- a. **New Business**

- i. **Alton Road Project** – Kevin Lopez, Project Manager, presented on the project providing information on purpose, need, and project history. As of today, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is working toward 90% design plans. Patricia Quintela, Project Engineer, presented on the scope of the project highlighting additional improvements to be provided such as adding a new lighting system, adding two pump stations and new drainage infrastructure and improving pedestrian safety features. Mr. Lopez discussed the impacts of the road elevation on existing landscape and proposed plans for tree plantings. Margarita Kruffy, chair, expressed concerns over a need for shading during hot summer months and asked about finding opportunities to create additional shade along the sidewalks and roadways. Michael DeFilippi, member, expressed concerns over the loss of trees and asked if there are any opportunities to save the mature mahogany trees. Mr. Lopez explained that an assessment has been done in the past with the City to look at alternatives, but due to the high-water and shallow roots that the trees have, there will be unavoidable impacts to the existing landscape, and reiterated FDOT's commitment to re-landscaping the area. Johann Moore, member,

recommended to FDOT to coordinate with Better Streets who will be developing the slow streets and bicycle lane program. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee supports undergrounding of the utilities and preservation of the mature mahogany trees as part of the State Road (SR) 907/Alton Rd project from Michigan Avenue to 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Maria Algarra. Motion passed 4 – 0. Mr. Lopez mentioned that if utilities were undergrounded, then there would be an opportunity for FDOT to provide larger canopy trees in the area to match the area more similarly to how it was prior to construction. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee supports requiring the inclusion of injection wells with the pump stations proposed for the State Road (SR) 907/Alton Rd project from Michigan Avenue to 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Motion made by Michael DeFilippi, seconded by Johann Moore. Motion passed 3 – 1, Margarita Kruffyff opposed.

- ii. **Sanitary Sewer Overflow at Indian Creek Dr. and 69th St. –** Samantha Tiffany, Environmental Resources Manager, presented on the City's response to the sanitary sewer overflow on October 19 at Indian Creek Drive and 69 Street. Upon discovery of the break, Public Works staff worked through Friday night to isolate the pipe segment. While the emergency contractor worked to replace approximately 10 feet and into Saturday morning, a separate crew was cleaning and disinfecting the area. Some of the actions taken for cleaning included pressure washing and for disinfection streets, basins and pipes. Currently, the City is in the process of procuring the contractor to replace 250 feet of the sewer force main. Mr. Moore asked if they prioritize pipe replacements. Patricia Rendon, Regulatory Compliance Manager, mentioned that replacements are prioritized based on age and capacity of the pipe. Mr. DeFilippi inquired if any pipes around Parkview could be linked to the "no contact" water quality advisory. Lindsey Precht, Environment and Sustainability Department Assistant Director, stated that Miami Beach is working with the University of Miami to conduct a study on the area and the Public Works team is also reviewing CCTV footage and has hired Hazen and Sawyer to conduct a separate study to identify any pipes that have deficiencies and pipes that need to be lined.
- iii. **Biscayne Bay Fish Kill –** Ms. Tiffany presented on the City's response to the Biscayne Bay fish kill. She shared that the City of Miami Beach received its first report of a fish kill on Tatum Waterway on October 19. The Environment Resources Management Division worked with the County to confirm fish kill reports and identified it as a Biscayne Bay-wide event. Ms. Tiffany highlighted how scientists believe that the conditions are like the 2020 fish kill event: identifying low dissolved oxygen, possible temperature shock, high groundwater levels and freshwater input as factors. Based on additional information on kill reports received, Miami Beach decided to activate the waterway contractor cleanup. The City also participated in two Biscayne Bay Science Coordination calls with the County, South Florida Water Management District, City of Miami, Miami Waterkeeper, Florida International University, and other scientists to discuss fieldwork findings, potential sources and a plan of action. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee recommends that the City of Miami Beach implement injection wells instead of pump stations as a standard practice. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Michael DeFilippi. Motion passed 3 – 1, Margarita Kruffyff opposed. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee urges the City of Miami Beach Mayor and City Commission to urge the South Florida Water Management District to investigate alternative strategies for flushing canal surface waters in preparation for storms, instead of discharging canal surface waters into Biscayne Bay. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruffyff. Motion passed 4 – 0.

b. **Old Business**

