

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

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

Johann Moore – Appointed by Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Sophie Ringel – Appointed by Vice Mayor Ricky Arriola

Isaiah Mosley – Appointed by Commissioner Steven Meiner

No Appointment – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson

Juanita Ballesteros, City Liaison

DATE: May 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for May 25, 2023, at 2:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Margarita Kruyff, Michael DeFilippi, Isaiah Mosley, Johann Moore, Maria Algarra, Sophie Ringel

City Staff: Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager; Rolando Martinez, Sustainability Specialist.

Members of the public were also in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Review of the April 27, 2023, Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the April 27, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Margarita Kruyff. Motion passed by acclamation.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. **Back Bay study** – Jim Murley, Miami-Dade County Chief Resilience Officer, presented the Back Bay study, a joint effort with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The original feasibility study was conducted between 2018 through 2021 seeking to mitigate storm surge but was paused as the county focused more on equitable protection and natural mitigation strategies. When restarted, two charettes were held allowing citizens to engage with professionals on the study. Mr. Murley stated that it is important to note that the study is years away from any kind of physical project and nothing will happen unless elected officials in Miami Beach and the County sign on to an agreement. Johann Moore, member, inquired if a raised boardwalk or dune is meant to act as a wall as well. Lynnette Cardoch, Director of Resilience and Adaptation with Moffit and Nickel, responded by confirming that the intent is to grant additional protection. Isaiah Mosley, member, highlighted that the study should consider dune renourishment and wave energy, pointing to the wave that crashed in. Maria Algarra, member, inquired if studies have been conducted to

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ensure the surge gates do not have permanent environmental impacts. Mr. Murley stated that to get the permits for the gates, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will need to be conducted, evaluating the tradeoffs and environmental impacts.

- ii. **Solar technology** – Demorian Linton, Owner and CEO of Inertia Resources, introduced the solar technologies item and discussed the role of Inertia Resources as a solar broker. Brian Hebert, Chief Engineering Officer of Inertia Resources, presented a baseline of where solar is in the state of Florida and where the technologies within the industry are. Mr. Hebert provided the committee with an overview of frequently asked questions to the committee. Mr. Hebert highlighted that solar has been becoming more accessible, though it still often-times requires a 650-credit score. Mr. Moore inquired if condos could participate. Mr. Hebert responded by saying that it would depend on localized utility regulations and whether a condo association would approve of the solar project.
- iii. **Solar United Neighbors (SUN) solar co-op** – Laura Tellez, Program Associate at Solar United Neighbors, presented on the solar co-op program. The co-op is open to new registrants until July 31, 2023. Mr. Moore inquired if the co-op is only open for private residences or if it would be available to multi-family homes. Ms. Tellez mentioned that with the IRA passage, HOAs will be able to take the 30% rebate as direct payments to invest in solar, storage, and other efficiency upgrades. Further, she highlighted that Florida does not have virtual net metering. Ms. Tellez highlighted a new technology called Allume, which allows the splicing of electricity between units to conduct real net metering in condominiums. Ms. Algarra inquired if hotels could go solar and Ms. Tellez affirmed that they would, but it depends on their size. If the hotel is too tall, SUN will not be able to install solar panels. Non-profits and houses of worship can also join the co-ops to secure bulk pricing and other incentives.

b. Updates

- i. **G.O. Bond Oversight Committee** – Michael DeFilippi presented on the G.O. Bond Oversight Committee. Mr. DeFilippi highlighted that not many projects have sustainable components.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, updated the committee on the City of Miami Beach Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation plan to evaluate risk of critical assets, environmental resources and cultural centers in the face of sea level rise and compound flooding from other factors. Ms. Ballesteros pointed out that this will help the city receive funding from Resilient Florida grant program for adaptation projects.

Ms. Algarra inquired on how to mobilize the community and city on solar. The committee continued to discuss ideas for the city to move forward with solar. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee encourages the Mayor and City Commission to request staff to identify possible locations to start solar projects. Motion made by Maria Algarra, seconded by Johann Moore. Motion passed 5 – 0.

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Sophie Ringel, member, briefed the committee on the "Skip the Stuff" bill which was recently pass in New York. Ms. Ringel expressed interest in seeing something similar pass in Miami Beach.

4. Next Meeting

- a.** June 29, 2023