

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: June 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for June 29, 2023, at 2:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

Attendees were as follows: Michael DeFilippi, Johann Moore, Sophie Ringel, Isaiah Mosley

City Staff: Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Specialist; Rolando Martinez, Sustainability Specialist; Martin Calcano, Facility Capital Project Coordinator

Members of the public were also in attendance.

MINUTES

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **Review of the May 25, 2023, Minutes – MOTION:** Motion to approve the May 25, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Sophie Ringel. Motion passed 4-0.
- b. **Affidavit of Affiliation and Source of Income Statement** – Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, shared with the committee that all committee members must submit their affidavit of affiliation and source of income statement to the City Clerk. She provided a reminder that the forms were included in the email along with the meeting agenda.
- c. **Review the City Charter** – Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, read the email from the Ad Hoc Advisory and Revision Board to the Sustainability Committee inviting them to provide comments for the update of the City Charter.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. Old Business

- i. **Solar in City Facilities** - Martin Calcano, Facility Capital Project Coordinator, presented on the City's ongoing solar energy initiatives. He explained that the Facilities and Fleet Management Department has been collaborating with other City Departments and they have identified several facilities where it would be feasible to install rooftop solar arrays. He mentioned that one of the buildings being explored is the Fleet building at 140 McArthur Causeway, which has about 30,000 square feet of available roof space to install solar on. Mr. Calcano mentioned that parking garages have a large square footage which could be used. At the 17th Street parking garage, an estimated 140,000 square feet are

estimated to be available. The 1755 Meridian building, a mixed-use building with an office space is estimated to have 20,000 square feet available for a solar array. The last identified spot is the Miami Beach Convention Center, which has a large area of available space.

Further, Ms. Ballesteros noted that the Facilities and Fleet Management Department requested funding for a solar project as part of the City's annual budget process. At this moment, the funding is currently not being recommended. The City is actively looking into solar and planning on meeting with Solar United Neighbors to learn more about opportunities for implementation of solar. Michael DeFilippi, member, inquired if there is any insight as to why the budget request was not recommended for funding. Ms. Ballesteros stated that the funding process is not a part her purview, but that city staff can try to get more information on the topic.

b. New Business

- i. **Convention Center Hotel** - Ivette Batista, Construction Manager with Terra Group, presented the planned sustainability initiatives of the Grand Hyatt Convention Center Hotel. Ms. Batista highlighted that the hotel is pursuing LEED Gold in construction and plans to have an estimated 174 solar panels. She stated that other sustainable design elements include improvements in energy performance, water use reduction, heat island reduction, storage and collection of recyclables, responsible sourcing of raw materials and low-emitting materials. Sophie Ringel, member, inquired if the hotel is planning on being plastic free. Ms. Ringel highlighted how the Eden Roc and Nobu hotels have committed to being plastic free. Ms. Ringel also inquired on plans for water refill stations and the feasibility of solar windows. Ms. Batista mentioned she will discuss with the Operations team about the possibility of going plastic-free. Furthermore, Ms. Batista explained that solar windows have been previously determined to not be feasible at this time. Johann Moore, member, inquired on the cistern and if they are planning on developing an injection well. Ms. Battista stated that the water collected will be used for the property's irrigation. The committee continued to discuss solar on the Convention Center. Ms. Ballesteros noted that only certain areas of the Convention Center are available for solar due to the structural capabilities of the roof.

- ii. **Skip the Stuff** – Ms. Ringel presented on the Skip the Stuff Bill which passed in New York requiring restaurants to only add disposable utensils into a takeout bag upon request. Ms. Ringel mentioned how she has noticed how water or soda ordered at restaurants automatically come with a straw, and recommended that like the utensils, straws should also be available only upon request. Mr. DeFilippi mentioned that there is little enforcement of the Plastic Straw and Stirrer Ordinance, and inquired if Code Compliance could be brought back to the committee to provide updates on the Plastic Straw and Stirrer Ordinance. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee urges the Mayor and City Commission to explore the implementation of a policy similar to the Skip the Stuff bill that was recently adopted in the State of New York. The Sustainability Committee further urges the Mayor and City Commission to establish a stiff fine schedule for repeat offenders of the current City-wide Plastic Straw and Stirrer Ban, per Ordinance 2019-4295. Motion made by Sophie Ringel, seconded by Johann Moore. Motion passed 4 - 0

c. Old Business

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- i. **Balloon Ban** – The item was deferred to the next committee meeting.

- d. **Updates**

- i. **G.O. Bond Oversight Committee** – There were no updates.

3. **Public Comment and Announcements**

- a. Mr. Moore announced that EV curbside charging will be on the Planning Board Agenda on September 26 meeting and people will have an opportunity to speak for 2 minutes.
- b. Mr. Moore stated that he reached out to Commissioner Richardson about the South Beach compost drop-off bin and that the Commissioner was willing to discuss.
- c. Mr. Moore provided an update on the Back Bay Project meeting with Miami-Dade County and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- d. Ms. Ballesteros highlighted that the Rising Above Grants will open on July 3. For more information, committee members are encouraged to visit the MB Rising Above website.
- e. Ms. Ballesteros also highlighted that Surfrider is giving away free compost bins for backyard composting for single family residences in Miami Beach.