

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: July 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for July 27, 2023, at 2:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

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

City Staff: Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Specialist; Rolando Martinez, Sustainability Specialist; Manuel Villar, Code Compliance Manager

Members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. Review of the June 29, 2023 minutes - MOTION:** Motion to approve the June 29, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion by Johann Moore, seconded by Sophie Ringel. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Resolution 2022-32050 -** The Committee reviewed Resolution 2022-32050.
- c. Committee responsibilities -** The Committee reviewed the Board and Committee Instruction Manual paying special attention to Committee attendance requirements. The Committee decided to move their scheduled meeting time to 1:00p.m.
- d. Review the City Charter -** The Committee was asked to opine on the City Charter. Committee members will weigh in on the Charter during the September Committee meeting.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- a. Old Business**
 - i. Solar in City Facilities –** Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, updated the Committee on the implementation of solar in City facilities. The Environment and Sustainability Department has been in c with the Facilities Department about solar implementation Ms. Ballesteros stated that Facilities had requested funding for solar implementation, but the request has not been approved to be included in the budget process. The City is currently in the final stage of the budget process. Public hearings will be held on September 13 and 27 and would be an opportunity to opine on the budget. The Committee continued to discuss

the fiscal budget for 2024. Ms. Ballesteros also noted that during City Commission there was a referred item on implementing solar panels as a part of capital projects; the item was referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee. Environment and Sustainability have also met with Solar United Neighbors and the City of Orlando to better understand the opportunities and challenges of incorporating solar in City facilities.

- ii. **Plastic Straw Ordinance Compliance** – Manny Villar, Code Compliance Manager, presented on the plastic straw ordinance. Over the last 12-month period there has been a total of 293 inspections through complaints and proactive inspections. 29 violations have been issued. Sophie Ringel, member, inquired on Code Compliance’s process for issuing a violation. Mr. Villar highlighted how Code Compliance Officers have discretionary power and can issue courtesy notices. However, Mr. Villar suspects some businesses circumvent compliance by using a switch tactic. Ms. Ringel request clarification on what is meant by “environmentally friendly”. Alyssia Berthoumieux stated that, per the Ordinance, straws cannot be made of plastic or bioplastic that may be advertised as compostable. The Committee continued to discuss plastic straws and enforcement of Ordinance 2019-4295. Mr. Villar highlighted that Miami Beach residents can call 305-604-6428 or use the City app to report complaints. Ms. Algarra, member, brought up how residents have stopped submitting report due to fear of backlash since complaints are no longer allowed to be anonymous. Ms. Algarra questioned if anything can be done to not require a resident to put their names on a complaint. Mr. Villar highlighted that this is a part of a State bill which was passed about two years ago. Prior to the bill, anonymous complains were allowed, but since the change, complaint reports have decreased.
- iii. **Balloon Ban** – Maria Algarra presented the Balloon Bill that the Florida Senate was trying to pass. Ms. Algarra urged the Committee to pass a motion supporting a ban on intentional balloon releases and the use of helium balloons in public places. Mr. Moore stated he was in communication with Commissioner Dominguez and that in an email, the City Attorney stated that they think the City has done everything that can be done regarding City regulation on balloons. The Committee continued to discuss the previous motion passed, a fine schedule for the new motion and the State statute on balloon releases. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee urges the City Mayor and Commission to ban balloon releases in Miami Beach, including a fine schedule as follows: \$250 for first offense, \$2,500 for second offense, \$25,000 for third offense or higher. Motion made by Maria Algarra, seconded by Johann Moore. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Updates

- i. **G.O. Bond Oversight Committee** – no updates
- ii. **Committee Meeting** – The Sustainability Committee will meet at 1:00pm starting on the September 28 meeting.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

Ms. Ballesteros updated the Committee on City Commission items regarding EV charging. Item C2 D, an RFQ, was passed on consent, allowing Blink to install level 2 community charging. The next steps will be to update and execute the agreement. Blink will then update the equipment and make further recommendations. In addition to community charging, there will also be increased chargers dedicated for the City fleet. Ms. Ballesteros went on to highlight item C7 S, an agreement with FPL to put in Level 3 chargers. Moreover, the Sustainability team is in conversation with the Parking Department to explore how a Master Plan scope for EV infrastructure can be appropriately carried out while planning for upcoming federal funding opportunities. The Committee continued to discuss EV infrastructure.

Ms. Ballesteros updated the Committee on the waste hauler agreement, which was referred to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC). The item is an RFQ for a multi-hauler agreement. Ms. Algarra inquired if there will be a requirement for unified labeling. Since the RFQ has not been issued, the language has not been negotiated. The E&S Department has already provided recommendations for standardized labelling, which would be included once the RFQ closes and contracts are being negotiated.

Ms. Ballesteros also noted that the Urban Forester is surveying the placement of trees on the Beachwalk and is identifying where trees can be placed. Isaiah Mosley, member, asked the Urban Forester to be invited to present on what has changed over the last 5 years and what the full plan is for the future. He also requested details regarding canopy trimming on coastal dunes. Mr. Moore reminded City staff that the Committee had requested more information on Silva Cells.

Mr. Mosley requested a presentation on coral reef programs in Miami Beach. Ms. Algarra requested updates on potential mitigation plans to protect coral reefs.

Ms. Ballesteros reminded the Committee about the upcoming deadline for the Rising Above Grants.

Sophie Ringel inquired on the Skip the Stuff bill. Alyssia Berthoumieux, Senior Sustainability Coordinator, highlighted that no Commissioners have proposed any items for discussion. Ms. Ringel stated that Monica Matteo-Salinas, Commissioner Fernandez's Aide, mentioned that in Florida we are preempted from passing a bill like the Skip the Stuff Bill. The Committee continued to discuss what may be covered under state preemptions. Ms. Ringel mentioned that she would still like to hear from a City Attorney regarding the Skip the Stuff Bill. Mr. Moore proposed tackling Skip the Stuff in the September Committee meeting.

Michael DeFilippi, member, updated the Committee on his efforts reaching out to Joe Gomez, Public Works Director, inquiring if anything can be done to help private property owners get their laterals examined. Mr. DeFilippi learned that the City would not be able to pursue that route, but Mr. Gomez provided Mr. DeFilippi with a contact from DERM to further explore the topic.

Ms. Algarra inquired if there were any updates on the pipe rupture near 11 Street that led to the City-wide boil advisory. No further updates were available at the time. The boil water notice issued by the City was lifted on Sunday, July 23.

Mr. Moore requested clarification on how much water Canopy Park can retain by volume.

Next Meeting

- a. September 28, 2023
- b. Agenda Planning