

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

Katie Luddy – Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson

Juanita Ballesteros, City Liaison

DATE: October 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for October 26, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

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

City Staff: Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sr. Sustainability Coordinator; Rafael Granado, City Clerk; Nick Kallergis, Deputy City Attorney

Members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. **In-person meeting requirement** – Nick Kallergis, Deputy City Attorney, presented on in-person meeting requirements for 2024.
- b. **Review of the September 28, 2023 minutes** - Motion to approve September 28, 2023, minutes. Motion by Michael DeFilippi, seconded by Sophie Ringel. Motion passed 6 – 0.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. **City Charter Review** – Rafael Granado, City Clerk, presented the City Charter review and provided examples of suggestions given by other committees. Mr. Kallergis alerted the Committee to the sections of the City Charter that may be of interest to amend. Mr. Kallergis also clarified the distinction between the City Charter and City Code. The Committee continued to discuss the City Charter and will discuss recommendations during the next Committee meeting.
- ii. **ULINK** – Dr. Diego Lirman, Associate Professor at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, presented the University of Miami's Laboratory for Integrative Knowledge (ULINK) project and provided the Committee with an overview of the design and development of hybrid artificial reefs in Florida. ULINK is an innovative project to develop and test coastal resilience strategies that combine grey and green infrastructures to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities. Dr. Lirman reminded the Committee of the record-breaking heat experienced this year and the challenges coral reefs have been facing. Dr. Lirman also highlighted the successes of coral reef restoration in Florida and the benefits that coral reefs provide in mitigating the strength of waves. Dr. Lirman further emphasized that the project is working with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to measure the wave mitigation properties of the ULINK structures. The Committee continued to discuss the ULINK project with Dr. Lirman. **MOTION:**

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The Sustainability Committee expresses its appreciation and would like to recognize the City of Miami Beach's support for the work by the University of Miami on the ULINK artificial reef. The motion was made by Johann Moore and seconded by Isaiah Mosley. The motion passed 6 – 0.

b. Old Business

i. **Urban Forestry Follow-up Discussion** – Johann Moore, member, presented the Urban Forestry follow-up, questioning if the Committee is interested in passing a motion. The Committee continued to discuss recent tree trimmings. **MOTION:** The Sustainability Committee urges the Miami Beach Mayor and Commission to provide clarification that even Miami Beach Police Department or neighborhood-initiated crime reduction driven severe pruning of trees and greenspace require advance notification to community and broad neighborhood assent and only be performed under the general authority of the Urban Forester in conjunction with best practices. Motion made by Johann Moore, seconded by Michael DeFilippi. Motion passed 6 – 0.

ii. **G.O. Bond** – No updates.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

- a. Sonia Arnold, a member of the public, discussed with the Committee about City recycling and wondered if the City could provide a public recycling center or a monthly public recycling program. She also alerted the Committee and City staff to “Unwrap the Waves,” a program for students and community members to collect their candy wrappers from Halloween and recycle them to promote conservation. Many Committee members were interested in the idea of creating hubs for residents to participate next year. The Committee continued to discuss recycling and recommendations to increase recycling education. The Committee requested the Sanitation Division to be invited to present on how City staff collects and handles waste and recycling.
- b. Mr. Moore announced to the Committee that if members would like to comment on the rehabilitation of sewage pump station 1, they would have to do so by October 26, the last day for comments.
- c. Mr. Moore discussed a New York legislation requiring emissions benchmarking and incentivizing mitigation. He also highlighted how the legislation fails to account for embodied carbon and how it's intended to eliminate oil burning furnaces. He proposed to draft an analysis to see how it could be adapted for the City of Miami Beach and asked the Committee if they would be able to review his recommendations, which will be submitted to the Committee in the upcoming months. More details and a draft will be shared at the next Committee meeting. Katie Luddy, member, questioned how it will be curated for Miami Beach. Mr. Moore responded that the New York legislation is based on the principal of removing oil burning furnaces and that he plans to include the use of local electric sources such as solar units, heat pumps, tidal turbines, etc.