

MIAMIBEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

Sustainability Committee

Vacant – Chair – Appointed by Mayor Steven Meiner

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: December 14, 2023

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Sustainability Committee

A meeting of the Sustainability Committee was scheduled for December 14, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was held through Zoom.

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

City Staff: Laura Dominguez, Commissioner; Aaron Soriano, Commission Aid; Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Coordinator; Alyssia Berthoumieux, Sr. Sustainability Coordinator; Rolando Martinez, Sustainability Specialist, Michael Clarke, Sanitation Superintendent

Members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Committee Responsibilities

- a. Review of the November 16, 2023 minutes – **MOTION** to approve the minutes. Motion made by Michael DeFilippi and seconded by Johann Moore. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. New Business

- i. **Recycling by City of Miami Beach Sanitation Division** – Michael Clark, Sanitation Superintendent, presented on the City of Miami Beach recycling program covering goals and objectives, City responsibilities, solutions, implementation, and future planning. Mr. Clark highlighted that the Division mainly provides recycling for Lincoln Road and assists with recycling on Lummus Park while residential and commercial are done by external haulers. Mr. Clark stated that the City is working on addressing labeling on the bins, moving away from using plastic bags for recycling,

and different color styles of recycling containers. Solutions presented include increased public education, labeling in multiple languages and the removal of plastic bags from the recycling stream. Mr. Clark went on to discuss recycling programs the City is piloting as well as future plans for recycling. Isaiah Mosley, member, inquired about the use of deodorizers and Mr. Clark stated that the City is exploring those options as well. Environment and Sustainability staff updated the Committee on their roles within City recycling efforts. The Committee continued to discuss recycling on Miami Beach.

- ii. **City of Miami Benchmarking Ordinance** - Alissa Farina, Assistant Chief Resilience Officer with the City of Miami, presented on the Building Efficiency 305 initiative and the implementation of the City of Miami Energy and Water Benchmarking and Retuning Ordinance. Ms. Farina highlighted the City of Miami's carbon neutrality commitment by 2050 and a breakdown of their 2018 greenhouse gas inventory and reduction plan. She further discussed the economic benefits of the benchmarking program to reduce energy and water consumption. Reinaldo Rodriguez, Program Manager for the BE305 Program, further provided the Committee with details on the City of Miami Benchmarking and Retuning Ordinance and exceptions. Mr. Rodriguez highlighted that retuning, or the periodic maintenance of the base building system of the facility, is required. The Committee continued to discuss the benchmarking program with the City of Miami staff.
- iii. **Miami Waterkeeper updates on Biscayne Bay and coral reefs** - Audrey Siu, Policy Director with Miami Waterkeeper, presented on the health of Biscayne Bay and Coral reefs as well as the phase 3 Port of Miami impacts. Ms. Siu highlighted a 2023 economic evaluation prepared for the Water Management District of Miami Dade County, which placed the economic value of Biscayne Bay over \$60 billion. Ms. Siu reminded the Committee of the deterioration occurring in Biscayne Bay, focusing on nutrient pollution which can lead to hypoxia, dead zones and fish kills. The Bay has also had an overall seagrass cover decrease of 70-80%. Ms. Siu continued to discuss nutrient pollution in Biscayne Bay. Ms. Siu further went on to discuss corals and the Port of Miami expansion dredging. Ms. Siu highlighted the mismanagement of the contracted agent and prolonged sedimentation that occurred in 2019. Ms. Siu also highlighted a peer reviewed study by Rachel Silverstein et. al and highlighted how it is estimated that between 500,000 – 1 million corals were smothered during the dredging. Using standard restoration techniques, Miami Waterkeeper expects an estimated \$250 - \$400 million to mitigate the effects of the

dredging. The Committee continued to discuss corals, possible impacts from the Baylink project and mitigation efforts with Ms. Siu.

b. Updates

- i. G.O. Bond Oversight Committee** – No updates
- ii. In Person Meeting Details** – Juanita Ballesteros, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, updated the Committee on in-person meeting requirements, reminding the Committee that they must attend the meeting in-person for it to not be counted as an absence. Ms. Ballesteros also highlighted that a Zoom webinar will be hosted for the public and members to join and reemphasized that attending via Zoom will count as an absence and Committee members on Zoom cannot vote.

3. Public Comment and Announcements

Sophie Ringel, member, asked City staff about recycling at special events and Ms. Ballesteros briefly updated Sophie on City efforts to improve the sustainability of special events, including recycling.