



TO: Commissioner Michael Gongora, Chair

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Maui Goodbeer – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Luiz Rodrigues – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Gabriole Van Bryce – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Mitch Novick – Appointed by Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

DATE: February 15, 2011

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

The meeting of the Sustainability Committee was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011.

The attendees were as follows: Committee members: Committee Chair Commissioner Michael Gongora, Maui Goodbeer, Liliam Furst, Debra Leibowitz, Mitch Novick, Luiz Rodrigues, and Lanette Sobel.

City Staff: Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director; Lisa Botero, Environmental Manager; Hector Castro, Assistant Public Works Director; Elizabeth Wheaton, Environmental Specialist; and Al Zamora, Sanitation Director;

Minutes

1. Motion to approve minutes. Seconded by Luiz Rodrigues. Commission Gongora made motion to pass a resolution to promote the Sustainability Committee's achievements on MB77 and MB Magazine with a tagline about the Earth Hour event. Luiz Rodrigues seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **ACTION: Luiz Rodrigues will contact the Miami Beach News to confirm that we can put the Sustainability Committee achievements including the Earth Hour tagline on the announcement page.** Debbie Leibowitz would like to meet with Hilda Fernandez to discuss the City's outreach strategy. **ACTION: Diana Fontani Martinez will facilitate arranging this meeting.**
2. **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.**
 - a. Monthly Recycling Tonnage Report Distribution. Lisa Botero and Al Zamora provided data to the Committee regarding the tons of residential trash sent to the landfill since 2005 and the tons of residential recycling since 2009. The Committee is interested in understanding this data in order to establish baselines to track diversion rates and progress and eventually assist in calculating the City's carbon footprint. Lanette Sobel made a motion to pass a resolution to the Commission that states that all contracts pertaining to solid

waste come before the Sustainability Committee for review. Motion seconded by Luiz Rodrigues. Motion passed unanimously. **ACTION: Administration to provide Commissioner Gongora with resolution to present to Commission.**

- b. Green Waste. Fred Beckmann provided information about green waste management in the City. **ACTION: Al Zamora/Fred Beckmann to provide an update in March regarding potential improvements to reduce the amount of green waste entering the landfill. Specifically, the update will include the following information: 1. Where Choice Inc. takes the waste from the Green Waste Facility; 2. Potential improvements to residential curbside recycling; and 3. Parks Department green waste collection practices.**
- c. Luiz Rodrigues inquired about the percentage for franchisee funds collected from the solid waste haulers that had been dedicated to sustainable issues is going to be used. **ACTION: Fred Beckmann will report back to the Committee regarding the amount of fees that have been collected since 2009 and how the Administration plans to utilize these funds.**
- d. Betsy Wheaton provided an update regarding the April Solid Waste Management Workshop for Business Community. Debra Leibowitz suggested that it would be beneficial to have a representative from Raise the Bar and a participant in the program (Opium Group) to discuss the simplicity of recycling. The Committee members suggested creating a tagline for the conference, and suggested "Going Green Saves You Green".

3. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. March Agenda
 - i. Lisa Botero stated that the following items will be discussed in March:
 - 1. Procurement Department will be discussing green procurement and the City's purchasing policies and initiatives.
 - 2. Greenspace Management will be presenting on pesticide usage in Parks.
 - ii. Luiz Rodrigues requested the following topics for March: green purchasing coops for municipalities, Recyclable Planet, & EcoBins. **ACTION: Luiz Rodrigues will forward information to staff for review.**
- b. Commissioner Gongora stated that he had been contacted by Morgan Levy from the South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District regarding the possibility of developing a composting program in Miami Beach. Lanette Sobel stated that 28th Street could be a potential site for a composting facility or the City could support a composting facility outside the municipality. Lanette would like Morgan Levy to present at a future meeting. **ACTION: Diana Fontani Martinez will set up a conference call with Commission Gongora, Lisa Botero and Tim Nardi to further discuss composting and feasibility with hotel community before moving forward with inviting Morgan Levy to speak to the Committee.**

- c. Lanette Sobel suggested the Committee develop an award program to recognize community members and/or businesses who are excelling in sustainable practices. It was suggested that the award could be tied in with Earth Day.
- d. The Committee expressed interest in visiting WM single stream recycling plant in Pembroke Pines. **ACTION: Al Zamora to set up a field trip to the single-stream recycling center in Pembroke Pines for the members of the Committee.**
- e. Luiz Rodrigues discussed that Dream in Green has been working with the County to host home energy saving workshops throughout unincorporated Miami-Dade County. They have additional funds that can now be used throughout the County, not just unincorporated areas. Luiz Rodrigues recommended that the Sustainability Committee contact a County Commissioner and express interest in having a workshop in Miami Beach. **ACTION: Luiz Rodrigues will send Commissioner Gongora information about the program.**
- f. The Committee is interested in holding another Recycling Sub-Committee meeting before the next regular Sustainability Committee meeting. **ACTION: Environmental to coordinate and set date before next meeting and send past meeting minutes to Commissioner Gongora.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.


FHB/FV/LEB/ESW