



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: September 20, 2011

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

The meeting of the Sustainability Committee was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.

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

Absentees: Gabriole Van Bryce

City Staff: Duncan Ballantyne, Assistant City Manager, Richard Saltrick, Acting City Engineer and Elizabeth Wheaton, Acting Environmental Resources Manager.

Minutes

1. **Minutes review.** Lily Furst inquired whether Eddie Lopez Technologies had presented his product to the City. Mr. Richard Saltrick explained that the City requested a free pilot program; however the company wanted to charge the City therefore, the City decided not to move forward. **Action:** Duncan Ballantyne to follow-up with Eddie Lopez Technologies regarding a free demonstration at the Convention Center. Ms. Furst also asked if the Parks Department met with Organic Green Solutions. Ms. Elizabeth Wheaton stated that Mr. John Oldenburg will provide an update at October's meeting. **Motion to approve minutes Mitch Novick. Seconded by Luiz Rodrigues. Passed unanimously.**

2. **Sustainability Committee Work Plan**
 - a) **Recycling Ordinance.** Ms. Wheaton provided the Committee with the minutes from the Recycling Sub-Committee meeting held on August 25, 2011 as well as the updated redlined ordinance. Mr. Duncan Ballantyne provided an update on the ordinance's development. Ms. Debra Leibowitz created a comprehensive list of comments regarding the Recycling Ordinance which she shared with the Committee. The Committee developed the following recommendations to be considered by the

Finance and Citywide Projects Commission Committee (FCWPC):

1. Complaint driven code enforcement. Commissioner Gongora suggested in order to appease the concerns of condominium associations, the ordinance should specifically state that enforcement is complaint driven.
2. The Committee would like the ordinance to have greater teeth than Miami-Dade County's current code.
3. The Committee would like to see a strong 18 month educational program that is heavily directed to educating multifamily residences.
4. The Committee suggested enforcement of the recycling program should be phased. The first phase would have Code Enforcement concentrate on the presence of recycling bins and then the second phase Code Enforcement would look at contamination.
5. Commissioner Gongora suggested that a mechanism be included in the ordinance that would allow condominium associations to shift the fine to a member of the association that is found not to be recycling.

b) **Water Reclamation Facility - Ameresco:** Ms. Tracey Gallentine introduced the Water Reclamation phase to the Committee. Ms. Gallentine explained that Ameresco recognized and identified an opportunity at the Miami Beach Golf Course where the City is using tap water to irrigate the golf course. Ameresco presented the concept of a \$7.5 million dollar membrane bioreactor type of water reclamation facility. It is anticipated that the City can save \$1.35 million a year in water and sewer fees. The savings will be used to fund the project. Ameresco has already begun conducting site visits and community outreach to address any concerns. Ameresco will present the proposal to the FCWPC to be referred to Commission to request an Audit Agreement. The Audit Agreement will state that if Ameresco is not able to permit the project, Ameresco will pay for all of the costs that they expend to go through the process or The City can enter into a Memorandum of Agreement to pay \$75,000.00 for the audit process and \$175,000.00 for the permitting fees. Ms. Gallentine stated that this will be a first of its kind in the area and cutting edge for Miami Beach. **Luiz Rodrigues made a motion to recommend Ameresco's proposal of the Water Reclamation Facility pending a complete financial analysis from the FCWPC. Seconded by Maui Goodbeer. Passed unanimously.**

c) **Big Belly Solar.** Mr. Robert Criste, Regional Sales Director presented the company's solar trash compactor receptacles. The units are made out of recycled car bumpers and stainless steel ribbets. It would cost the City approximately \$11,000 a month to lease 125 bins for five years which includes software that allows the City to monitor the units and be able to identify which units need servicing. Commissioner Gongora stated that the Committee has created several resolutions that were in favor for recycling throughout the City, but funding continues to be the

issue and eventually the Committee will have to present it to the FCWPC to figure out how the City will fund better recycling bins. Mrs. Leibowitz asked if these bins could be part of a pilot program. Commissioner Gongora will add Big Belly Solar to the October Commission Meeting agenda for referral to the FCWPC from the Sustainability Committee.

3. **America Recycles Day.** Ms. Wheaton asked if the Committee was interested in putting on an event for America Recycles Day. Mr. Rodrigues recommended having the event at a different location this year. The Recycling Sub-committee will meet to further discuss the event details.

4. **New Business**

- a. Ms. Wheaton to follow-up with Assistant City Manager, Hilda Fernandez regarding The Coca-Cola Agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 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/RWS/ESW/pb

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