

TO: Commissioner Jerry Libbin, 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: June 19, 2012

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF May 15, 2012.**

The meeting of the Sustainability Committee was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

The attendees were as follows: Committee members: Gabriole Van Bryce, Liliam Furst, Lanette Sobel, Luiz Rodrigues, Debra Leibowitz, and Mitch Novick

Absentee: Maui Goodbeer

City Staff: Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director; Jay Fink, Assistant Public Works Director; Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager

1. Minutes Review.

- a. Ms. Van Bryce made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Rodrigues seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.
- b. Committee discussed the upcoming Water Conservation Event. Commissioner Libbin recommended targeting children to increase participation. Betsy Wheaton mentioned the Normandy Isle Home Owner Association requested this event to be held in their area.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan.

a. Solid Waste

- i. **Keep America Beautiful.** Larry Weber from Keep America Beautiful provided an overview of the program and details on how it is implemented throughout the state and by other municipalities. He suggested that ECOMB be merged with the Keep America Beautiful program to access grants that are available from that organization. Mr. Rodrigues noted that many of the activities performed by Keep America Beautiful are performed by the City of Miami Beach already. Ms. Furst suggested that we join the initiative; Ms. Sobel noted that cost prohibited the committee from doing so in the past, but now cost would be reduced from \$4000 to \$1000, if a “migration” (changing the ECOMB’s name to Keep Miami Beach Beautiful) occurred. Ms. Leibowitz suggested that the City of Miami

Beach cover the cost of a migration. **MOTION: The Committee recommended that Mr. Rodrigues approach the board of ECOMB with the possibility of a migration to Keep Miami Beach Beautiful organization that would potentially be funded by the City of Miami Beach. Mr. Rodrigues report back to the Committee. Motion made by Lanette Sobel and seconded by Debra Leibowitz. Passed unanimously.**

- ii. **Recycling Ordinance.** Ms. Wheaton stated that the proposed recycling ordinance will be going to second reading at the June Commission meeting. Ms. Leibowitz reiterated that there be an individual dedicated to answering the public's questions about waste management. Commissioner Libbin noted that this would be a part of the implementation of the ordinance rather than the ordinance itself and that the wording of said implementation should be reviewed.

b. Airport Noise:

- i. Norman Hegedus of Miami-Dade County Aviation addressed questions about the operation of airports and airport noise. Ms. Leibowitz noted that airplanes have flown dangerously close to land over the past few months, creating noise. Further, she believes that the County should have a paperless complaints process. Mr. Hegedus stated that flight patterns have not changed and thus noise and proximity to the ground have not changed. He also noted that there is an email address through which complaints can be filed.

3. Sustainability Work Plan Development. Ms. Wheaton recommended that the Committee develop a work plan for the remainder of the year in order to effectively address all program areas in the Sustainability Plan. It was recommended that the Committee chose initiatives target efforts.

- a. **Green Procurement.** The Procurement Department and Special Events Division present to the Sustainability Committee about the implementation of sustainable policy within these departments. Mr. Rodrigues stated that recycling should be compulsory for special events and that a copy of the recycling ordinance should be provided with every Certificate of Occupancy. Commissioner Libbin agreed with this point, but stated that there should be one comprehensive recommendation to the commissioners on recycling, as opposed to piecemeal recommendations over time.
- b. **Reclamation Plant.** Commissioner Libbin inquired about the status grey water restoration plant planned for Miami Beach Golf Course. Mr. Beckmann stated that it was determined that the return on investment would not be sufficient to justify the high purchase cost of the reclamation plant itself. However, the Committee perceived that the break-even time of 1-2 decades was not

necessarily a deterrent to investment.

Sustainable Initiatives Fund Commissioner Libbin requested a breakdown of the Sustainable Initiatives Fund and recommended that the Committee weigh in on how this money is spent. Commissioner Libbin suggested looking into the Sustainability Plan and getting an idea of what initiatives could be executed with these funds.

MOTION: The Committee requested a report on how the Sustainable Initiatives money has been spent for the past 3 years. The motion was provided by Debra Leibowitz. Seconded by Liliam Furst. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6 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/JJF/RWS/ESW

\\miamibeach.gov\files\WORK\SALL(1) EMPLOYEE FOLDERS\BETSY WHEATON\SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE\AGENDA - MINUTES\Agenda & Minutes 2012\May\MINUTES 05 15 2012.doc