

TO: Commissioner Jerry Libbin, Chair

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Eric Hecht – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Lilium 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: January 15, 2012

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2012.**

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

Absentees: Eric Hecht and Luiz Rodrigues.

City Staff: Richard Saltrick, City Engineer; Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager; and, Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist.

1. Minutes Review

- a. Motion to approve minutes made by Ms. Van Bryce, seconded by Ms. Furst. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- a. **Water Quality and Conservation – City Alley Inventory Field Trip, Richard Saltrick.**

- i. City staff guided the Committee on a field trip of City alleys to identify potential sustainable initiatives that can be implemented to transform regular alleys into green alleys (see attached map). Commissioner Libbin recommended that the Commission create a policy to incentivize private properties to install these initiatives. Ms. Sobel suggested providing various incentives from which to choose. Commissioner Libbin directed Staff to develop a plan for a green alley demonstration project, assuming that money is no object, and to provide a breakdown of the cost associated with each incentive.

ACTION: Staff to develop a plan for a green alley demonstration project and research the cost of implementing each incentive feasible within the City's alleys.

3. New Business

- a. **Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan and the Mayor's Climate Action Pledge, Betsy Wheaton.**

- i. Ms. Wheaton introduced the Committee to the South Florida Regional Climate Action Plan and distributed copies to the Committee for their

review and comment. Additionally, the Environmental Division staff will be reviewing the plan, as well as linking it to and using it to update the City's Sustainability Plan.

b. Earth Day, Betsy Wheaton.

- i. Ms. Wheaton asked the Committee for input regarding the City's celebration of Earth Day 2013. The Committee provided some event suggestions. However, due to time constraints, Commissioner Libbin recommended that a sub-committee be formed to further discuss this item.

ACTION: Staff scheduled an Earth Day sub-committee meeting for Tuesday, January 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Public Works Conference Room.

c. Environmental Grants, Commissioner Libbin.

- i. Commissioner Libbin informed the Committee that this year ECOMB will receive one of the \$5,000 Boucher Brother grants for environmental programs. However, in future years, this funding will be awarded through a competitive process.

d. Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE).

- i. Ms. Sobel indicated that she believes PACE financing would be beneficial to the City and asked for a status on its implementation. Ms. Wheaton responded that she will send the last memorandum referencing PACE to the Committee and look into the PACE agreement verbiage for discussion at a future Committee meeting.

e. Sunrise Pedestrian Connection Vegetation.

- i. Mr. Novick expressed his discontent with the use of non-native vegetation in the landscaping for the Sunrise Pedestrian Connection project. Mr. Saltrick indicated that the planting plan was developed in coordination with the Continuum, who funded the project. Ms. Wheaton indicated that all new projects are reviewed to ensure that only native vegetation is planted to avoid this problem in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 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/MKW

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