

TO: Commissioner Jerry Libbin, Chair

**Members of the Sustainability Committee**

Dave Doeblen – 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: May 21, 2013

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2013.**

**The attendees were as follows:** Committee members: Dave Doeblen, Lanette Sobel, Debra Leibowitz, Liliam Furst, Luiz Rodrigues, and Mitch Novick.

**Absentees:** Gabriole Van Bryce.

**City Staff:** Glendon Hall, Redevelopment Specialist; Candelario Martinez, Chief Electric Inspector; Stephen Scott, Building Director; Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager; Margarita Wells, Environmental Specialist; and, Ariel Moger, Environmental Intern.

**Guests:** Denis Russ, Miami Beach Community Development Corporation; and, Emily Eisenhauer, FIU PhD Candidate.

**1. Minutes Review**

- a. Motion to approve February minutes with additional revisions made by Mr. Novick, seconded by Mr. Doeblen. Minutes approved unanimously.
- b. Motion to approve March minutes made by Mr. Doeblen, seconded by Mr. Rodrigues. Minutes approved unanimously.

**2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan**

- b. **Economic Development & Planning.** Mr. Hall presented information to the Committee regarding the Miami Beach Energy Economic Zone (EcoZone). He stated that the City of Miami Beach was chosen as a pilot community for this State initiative to provide economic incentives to green businesses. Mr. Hall explained that the current ordinance establishing the program provides the eligibility criteria: 1. Clean Technology Sector Business; or, 2. LEED Building; or, 3. Green Lodging Establishment; or, 4. ENERGY STAR Rating of 50 or higher. Mr. Hall stated that Miami-Dade County currently administers the Economic Empowerment Zone (EEZ) tax incentives. Businesses applying for the EcoZone program would go through the same process as they do for the EEZ tax incentives. Thus, because the County already has a program in place it is recommended that the City work with the County to have the County incorporate EcoZone application process into their existing system. Eventually, this program would be extended to all of Miami-Dade County. In order to help promote County programs, staff recommends adding Miami-Dade County's Green Business

Certification Program as part of the programs eligibility criteria. Ms. Leibowitz voiced her concerns about jumping through hoops to become LEED certified. She emphasized the need for incentives and the importance of an easy process for businesses to become environmentally-friendly. Ms. Sobel expressed her concerns with the Green Business Certification Program. **ACTION: Staff to invite a representative from Miami-Dade to discuss the Green Business Certification Program and the process to become certified.**

**c. Green Building & Housing.**

- i. Discussion deferred to the May meeting.

**d. Air Quality and Climate Change.**

- i. Mr. Doebler presented images of the potential “Thank You For Not Smoking” campaign. He explained that this campaign does not preempt the State because the City will not punish smokers. However, the Committee raised the question as to whether the City could incentivize curbing smoking in public areas. Ms. Sobel and Mr. Rodrigues expressed interest in gathering more information about smoking in bars and clubs.

**ACTION: Staff to send out a survey to residents to determine the level of interest in eliminating smoking in bars and clubs. Commissioner Libbin recommended using the Environmental Scan and making it statistically significant by targeting smokers.**

**ACTION: Staff to invite a representative from Tobacco Free Florida and to invite Mr. Resnick to come speak to the Committee about smoking bans.**

**3. New Business**

- a. Ms. Furst recommended that the Greenspace Tree Advocacy Group (GTAG) be invited to speak at May’s meeting.
- b. Mr. Rodrigues discussed the garbage issues at the Gay Pride Parade. He stated that there were no extra recycling bins placed on Ocean Drive and that there was far too much trash for the number of garbage cans. Mr. Rodrigues also mentioned that the existing bins on Ocean Drive are in poor condition. Ms. Wheaton explained that the pilot program with Coca-Cola will be replacing bins on Lincoln Road with new receptacles and the old bins that are in good condition will be moved to other locations in the City. **ACTION: Staff to revisit October 2012 minutes to ensure that the motion regarding a special events recycling requirement becomes an Action Item in Commission.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.**

**The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or [pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov) for more information.**

JJF/RWS/ESW/MKW