

CORAL GABLES SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
 CORAL GABLES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
 3010 DESOTO BLVD.  
 CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 @ 5:00 P.M.

- MINUTES -

MEMBERS	O 15	N 15	D 15	J 16	F 16	M 16	A 16	M 16	J 16	J 16	A 16	S 16	APPOINTED BY:
<b>Ramesh Airan</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Cason
<b>Sharon Trbovich</b>	P	E	E	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Quesada
<b>Rhonda Anderson</b>								P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Lago
<b>Roy Wasson</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Slesnick
<b>Marlin Ebbert</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Keon
<b>Enrique Bernal</b>	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
<b>Irela Bague</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Commission-As-A-Whole

A – Absent  
 P – Present  
 E – Excused  
 (\*) no meeting

**STAFF:**

Matthew Anderson, Sustainability Advisory Board Staff Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson, Ray Airan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**GUEST:**

Sallye Jude – Coral Gables Resident  
 Michelle Drucker– Coral Gables Resident

**MOTIONS:**

**August 24, 2016 meeting minutes – Marlin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Rhonda seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Rhonda made a motion proposing that the City’s Commission consider adopting a rule that requires the permitting process for tree removal in a tree survey, with an elevation, be done before the drawings are submitted to the Board of Review Committee, Marlin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**Rhonda made a motion that the City puts out a request for bids from other providers of waste pick up service when the current contract expires for apartments and commercial in the City, Sharon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Sharon had a question about the final motion made by Enrique in reference to the electric vehicles at the previous SAB Meeting. Matt said the motion was finalized towards the end of the discussion, for the City to investigate the feasibility in purchasing new electric trolleys and or any vehicles purchased by the City, as well as retrofitting or replacing the old ones. Matt also mentioned that Steve Riley said he would attend an upcoming SAB meeting and talk about the City's Fleet.

Sharon mentioned that she has seen the small electric vehicles around the City. Matt said a resident sent an e-mail expressing how she was hesitant about electric vehicles but noticed that the City has added and is committed to the infrastructures as well as adding electric vehicles to their fleet that she went out and purchased one for her son. Matt said this is exactly the message and goal of the Sustainability Advisory Board.

### **MEMBER'S REPORT:**

*Enrique – Met with the Mayor, the City Manager, Commissioner Lago, the Assistant City Manager, Jessica and FPL representatives to discuss LED Lighting and their plans and proposals. FPL now willing to offer Led Lighting but to change sodium lights to LED's, they will charge \$600 per pole. Enrique said the new Public Works Director, is currently reviewing the discussions held at the last meeting.*

*Rhonda – is requesting that the contractor's symposium be postponed, until the next recycling event and joining them together.*

*Permits for removal of trees – Rhonda spoke with Brook Dannemiller in reference to the removal of trees on Almeria Town Hall without a permit. Rhonda said this process needs to be done ahead of time, an Arborist should be able to determine, for example, if a branch or root can be cut or should it be cut or will this affect the health of the tree.*

*On her way home, Rhonda passed by a trash pile that looked like it belonged to an apartment building, she provided photos to the board members. Rhonda asked the young man in the Waste Management truck if the trash pile belonged to the apartment building or the residential unit. Rhonda also asked the young man if there is a dump site for that type of trash for the apartment building, in which his response was no. Based on the discussion with residents, the trash is from the apartment building, and the City of Coral Gables is picking up apartment building trash that should be picked up by Waste Management. Rhonda wanted to mention this to staff and the board because there is a Waste Management contract coming up and this is an issue that needs to be resolved.*

*Irela mentioned that she is experiencing the same problem at her 20-unit apartment building but she's not sure if a dumpster will resolve the issue since there is no place for the dumpster.*

*Ray asked that a member(s) of the Board take on this task and discuss with the commission the issues at hand. Irela said she's been dealing with Waste Management and would be happy to take this on.*

*Irela – Asked the Board members to forward to Matt their recycling & trash concerns and issues for her to work on an agenda and present to the City Manager.*

*Irela and Matt have been working on a Green Certification Program that includes solid waste reduction and recycling, energy conservation, water conservation, pollution prevention, and alternative transportation. They are presenting it to the Chamber for their input and hoping it can launch by Earth Day, in April 2017.*

*Ray – sent an e-mail for Matt to forward to the Board members regarding the Solar Tree & Rain Water Conservation. What Ray would like to discuss with the Commission is, if he applies for a permit and he would like to do something like this, he would like to know, why is it that he can't do it. Ray suggested that someone from the City (Development Services) come to one of the SAB meetings and address why is it that this cannot be done.*

*Rhonda looked up (she provided picture) to see if she could have an awning or car port, in the back of her house. This is not allowed in the City of Coral Gables and she would like this added to the, "why not" request.*

*Ray will send the information at hand to someone in Development Service, including the City Manager and the Commission as an individual, for their review and response as to what will happen if there is ever an applicant.*

September 13, 2016 Commission Meeting – there were 2 discussions, one was a brief intro on the *Sea Level Rise legal paper*. This will be officially presented to the Commission at the next Commission meeting next Wednesday. It will also be presented at the Climate Summit in West Palm Beach, next week. The other discussion was on *leaf blowers*. Commissioner Keon would like to discuss gas and electric leaf blowers, Matt provided them with research he had done throughout the Country on what other cities have done to phase out gas leaf blowers on the basis on noise and air pollution. Some have implemented an all-out ban on gas leaf blowers or restrict the times that it is allowed to be used. Matt mentioned that the City wants to lead by example and therefore currently the Landscape Services, under Brook, is testing electrical leaf blower durability because they were worried about battery life, they will do this for a week and then report their findings to the Commission in December.

Parking Day, September 16, 2016 – it was a big success. PARKing Day is an opportunity for people to temporarily turn on-street parking spaces into public places. This international event raises awareness about the importance of a walkable, livable, healthy city and helps people re-think how our streets can be used. This year's event was the biggest one yet with 9 locations that were set up throughout the City. Those that attended were able to learn about a variety of topics including recycling, Everglades National Park, the City's Sustainability Efforts, and much more. Individuals were also able provide input on the development of the City's Multimodal Transportation Plan. Thank you to everyone that attended and participated. Please see the list

below of businesses/organizations that participated. The City looks forward to having the event again next year on Friday September 15, 2017.

**Upcoming Events:**

- November 3, 2016: Recycling Seminar 101 5:30-7 pm at the C. G. Museum
- November 12, 2016: the next Electronic Recycling Event from 9am-12pm in the City Hall Parking Lot. To date over 22,500 pounds of electronic waste has been collected and recycled.
- Yearly Board Report to the City Manager, Matt drafted the attached report for the Boards input.

**Guest:**

Michelle has been communicating with Matt regarding the Sustainability Community Expo scheduled for a week from Thursday @ The Miami Science Barge from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, to educate on sustainability to the Federal Employees at DHS. In the Federal Government, there's an executive order that mandates all Trans Federal Agency's to drive towards Sustainability. The Federal Government is the largest consumer of energy in our economy and DHS wants to:

- Cut its greenhouse gasses 51% by 2025
- Reduce water intensity use 36% by 2025
- Increase fleet vehicles by 10% as electric vehicles by 2019

Michelle commended the City's lead by example attitude, it is the reason she purchased an electrical vehicle because she's noticed the electrical vehicles throughout the City as well as the charging stations.

Mitchell shared with the Board the fact that there are a number of cities around the country that are trying to go to 0% waste:

1. San Francisco
2. Seattle
3. Washington D.C.
4. New York City
5. Austin
6. Dallas
7. Houston
8. Fort Collins, Colorado

San Francisco is apparently at 80 %. The amount of recycling and composting in 2013, the amount of CO2's saved, as a result was the same amount of CO2's admitted for all the cars in Florida times two.

Matt reported on the first 90 days of the charging stations in the city, there have been:

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Continued

- Almost over 550 charges
- 966 gallons of gas reduced
- Greenhouse gas emissions by 3,232 kilograms

Irela mentioned that on October 18, 2016 from 6 to 8 pm at the C. G. Museum, will be hosting a celebration for Biscayne National Park. She will forward the invite to Matt to share with the board.

**ADJOURNED:**

6:30 pm