

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017 @ 5:00 P.M.

- MINUTES-

MEMBERS	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	APPOINTED BY:
	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	
Ramesh Airan	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Mayor Cason
Sharon Trbovich	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	A	E	Vice Mayor Quesada
Rhonda Anderson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Lago
Roy Wasson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Slesnick
Marlin Ebbert	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Commissioner Keon
Enrique Bernal	E	P	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
Irela Bague	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	City Commission-As-A-Whole

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

STAFF:

Matthew Anderson, Sustainability Advisory Board Staff Liaison
 David Lindsey, Administrative Analyst
 Alex Bishopric, Intern
 Tiffany Hood, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chairperson, Ray Airan called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

GUEST:

Rita Teutonico
 Teddy L'houtellier

MOTIONS:

April 26, 2017 SAB meeting minutes – Irela made a motion to approve the minutes. Sharon seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Irela made a motion to excuse Enrique and Marlin from the meeting. Rhonda seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Rhonda made a motion recommending that the City of Coral Gables look into alternatives to Glyphosate herbicide which is found in “Round-up” that has harmful chemicals in them to try to find other alternatives possibly organic and confer with the Landscaping Committee and Parks & Recreation Committee. Irela seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Sharon presented Matt with the Outstanding Citizen award on behalf of the Ten Garden Clubs in Miami-Dade & Monroe Counties.

Matt introduced Alexa Bishorp who will be interning with us for the summer of 2017 to Board members.

Ray asked for an update on the Prohibition of Single Use Plastic Bags. Matt updated the Board that at the March 9th City Commission Meeting the Ordinance on single use plastic bags received unanimous support on first reading from the City Commission and the Environmental Community. He mentioned that he is working with the City Manager's office, Economic Development and Mark Trowbridge from the CG Chamber of Commerce to get additional input from the business community and make modifications between first and second reading. Some of the anticipated changes include extending the education/phase in period from 180 days to 1 year, defining small events as 100 people or less, allowing for retail establishments to propose innovation programs that eliminate plastic bags, and issuing warning before citing. Staff presented to the Economic Development Board on April 5 and it received unanimous support. The ordinance will be going for second reading on May 9.

MEMBER’S REPORT:

Rhonda: mentioned to the Board the detriments of the chemicals used in “Round-up”. Matt commented that he spoke with Bob Boberman, the City of Coral Gables Landscape Superintendent, who said that we do use Round-up because we have found it to be effective in weed removal. Bob indicated he is open to trying alternatives and is open to recommendations, including organic. Ray stated that the Board make a recommendation for research to be done on alternatives and see what other municipalities are using.

Sharon: mentioned a newspaper article that she saw where you can park, shop and save and buy a parking space by the month or for the day in the City of South Miami parking garages also plug-ins for electric cars. She feels that this is an option that the City of Coral Gables should look into for our parking garages. Matt commented that he would certainly pass this information along to Kevin Kinney the Parking Director.

Irela: spoke with the Dave Dobler who is the chair for Sustainability Board for the City of Miami Beach. She stated that they have joined in collaborative efforts with Tesla which is worth looking into. Irela mentioned how this process works: they will store super charging stations on the rooftops of the parking garages for free and the trade-off is that persons with compatible Tesla's can charge their vehicles for free. This is also part of their VIP program so anyone that has a compatible Tesla with the aid of an app can find these super charging stations. Matt stated that he would reach out to Kevin Kinney regarding any recent discussions with Tesla. Irela stated that the court on the state level threw back the item of plastic bags. Matt updated the Board on the topic of plastic bags On May 9th City Commission Meeting the Ordinance on single use plastic bags received unanimous support on second reading from the City Commission with no opposition. We became the first City that prohibited the single use of plastic bags. Some of the anticipated changes include extending the education/phase in period from 180 days to 1 year, defining small events as 100 people or less, allowing for retail establishments to propose innovation programs that eliminate plastic bags, and issuing warning before citing. Irela stated that there is an upcoming meeting with the CG Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Green Gables Business Certification program that we would like to launch. Matt mentioned that he is working with the City Manager's office, Economic Development and Mark Trowbridge from the CG Chamber of Commerce to get reusable bags. Irela mentioned that she will be meeting with Waste Management to set-up another recycling 101 to educate the community and will be looking at some dates in November to schedule.

Ray: mentioned that he attended the Miami Herald Silver Knight Award ceremony and met an awardee that does work on the Sea Level Rise. He will be meeting with Mayor Cason on that particular subject.

Roy: mentioned the House Bill seventeen (17) was not passed, which would repeal previously passed laws and prevent cities, counties statewide from enacting any law that affected businesses, commerce, registration fees, licensing fees, paper, plastic and Styrofoam. He updated the Board on the item of paper bag vs. plastic bags and will do a life-cycle analysis and draw up a proposal for academia to submit to various universities to suggest as a thesis for college students to research.

Matt: stated that we are getting ready to move forward with FIU, the representative Tiffany **Chausler**, they are currently reviewing the proposal with plans of installing tide gages and sediment elevation gages to monitor the Sea Level Rise, right outside of Matheson Hammock Park. Irela stated that she attended the Sea Level Rise Conference and CCTV recorded the event which should be ready to view soon.

Upcoming Events:

Parking Day: Friday, September 15, 2017

Matt stated that we will be converting parking spaces into natural spaces

2017 Electronic Recycling Events (November 18th, 9am -12pm)

Matt mentioned the success of the previous electronic recycling and household hazardous waste event which took place on Earth Day, Saturday April 22 from 9am-12pm in the City Hall Parking Lot. There were over two hundred and fifty (250) cars that attended the event. We have received several responses via emails and phone calls from the residents that expressed how ecstatic they are that the City of Coral Gables is able to provide this service. Last year we had several electronic recycling events in which we collect thirty-four thousand pounds (34,000) and this year at this event alone we collected over seventeen thousand (17,000) pounds. We partnered with the police department to offer sensitive document shredding as a part of the event as well. John Osgood coordinated household hazardous waste collection which was included in the event as well and we are still waiting on that report. The second event is scheduled to take place on November 18 which is the first Saturday after America Recycles Day (November 15). There is an additional opportunity to schedule one additional event during the summer if needed, however last year the summer proved to be the lowest turnout in terms of weight of material collected.

Recycling 101 Part II (November)

A family fun day at the Coral Gables Museum

2-year Term Appointments (Concluding May 31st)

Matt reminded board members about the upcoming 2 year term appointments which are concluding on May 31st. He stated that City Clerk's office informed him that it takes a month or two after the term appointments end for the new appointments to be implemented. Matt recommended reaching out and letting their appointers (City Manager/City Commissioners know if they wish to remain on the Board or if they wish to step down).

ADJOURNED:

6:20pm