

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 2017 @ 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	APPOINTED BY:
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	
Martin Pinilla							P	P	Mayor Valdes-Fauli
Sharon Trbovich	E	P	A	E	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Quesada
Rhonda Anderson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Lago
Greg Hamra						P	P	P	Commissioner Mena
Marlin Ebbert	P	P			E	P	P	E	Vice Mayor Commissioner Keon
Enrique Bernal	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
Irela Bague	P	P	P	E	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  
 Tiffany Hood, Administrative Assistant  
 Alexa Bishopric, Intern

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Vice Chairperson, Irela Bague called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

**GUEST:**

None

**MOTIONS:**

**July 26, 2017 SAB meeting minutes – Irela made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections of marking Sharon as present. Rhonda seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**Irela made a motion to excuse Marlin. Rhonda seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**Rhonda made a motion to approve the restructuring of the SAB meeting agenda to make each meeting focus on one specific topic. Sharon seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

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

**Enrique:** Enrique is looking to set up a meeting with Commissioner Lago about his position on the Paris Climate agreement. He spoke about how the new building he is moving into, the Biltmore Park Condominium, is the first commercial building to have a solar roof that will provide all of the power for the common areas in the building. Irela and Matthew suggested that the City of Coral Gables should publicize and promote the building in order to encourage other developers to do the same thing, potentially at a commission meeting. Matt suggested that Enrique do a write up summarizing the work since he is close to the project and then Matt can share it with the City's Public Affairs Office in order to publicize it, potentially in newsletters. Enrique also inquired about the use of permeable pavement and whether it is allowed. Matthew responded by saying that all of the City's engineers and himself are going through an Envision training in order to learn how to include more things like permeable pavement in new projects. Matt said that within our standards comments that we provide on design reviews that permeable pavement is something we are asking private developers to include when developing projects. The same applies to our own City Projects under the Green Building Ordinance and other roadway and alley projects. Enrique also brought up the trolleys because they are diesel and inefficient. Matthew replied that the City of Coral Gables applied to get some of the funds from the Volkswagen settlement in order to get an electric trolley as well as bring all of the other trolleys up to the 2010 diesel emission standards. Matthew suggested setting up a meeting between himself, Enrique, Kevin Kinney, Roy Wasson, and Steve Riley to discuss the efficiency of the trolleys.

**Rhonda:** Reported having meetings with all commissioners, the mayor, and Peter Iglesias, Assistant City Manager regarding metal roofs and they all seemed to be on board. The topic will be brought up at the commission meeting on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. She requested staff's assistance in setting up a meeting with Eduardo Santamaria, the Public Works Director in regards to making a cistern at the golf course, about the drainage pipe that goes through Bird Road and the Grenada area, and just generally talk about plumbing. Matthew said he would help set that up with the help of Tiffany and include Jorge Acevedo.

**Sharon:** She checked in on what was happening with the City's pesticide use on plants and if they had looked into organic alternatives yet. Matthew said he would follow up with Bob Boberman to see if anything has changed after the information about pesticide alternatives was provided. Sharon also would like to work with Tesla to support their solar rooves especially because they are building a new facility right near Coral Gables. She also wanted to do something involving teaching children about trees with the museum in the future, even though the recycling event being held at the museum. She brought up teaming up with Marlin for the green movie showing because she works with the Coral Reef Foundation that has a Disney movie about the Coral Reefs. The garden club that she is involved with planted

three hundred (300) Mangrove Trees at Matheson Hammock Park to help deal with Sea Level Rise.

**Greg:** Made an announcement about the solar co-op, if you join then you can get 20% off of your solar installations. The deadline to join is 8/25/17.

**Irela:** She said that she would write up a little summary of the facts of the Paris agreement and why local governments are pledging themselves to the climate agreement. She suggested working with Tesla to install charging stations, but Matthew pointed out that he thinks that their chargers are not compatible with other cars. But both agreed it could be possible to meet with Tesla about options. We can look to invite Tesla to an upcoming SAB Meeting to present. Irela is also working on the November recycling 101 workshop. Matthew added that this time they might include commercial recycling, and Irela suggested to partner with the chamber to accomplish this. The board can use the chamber as an avenue for commercial recycling and the green business initiative. She reminded members to provide feedback on the green business application by next week. Rhonda suggested creating a flyer about recycling and to remind businesses that they can be fined if they don't comply. Sharon suggested highlighting businesses that do recycle. Irela then highlighted that she was interviewed by filmmakers who are making a documentary about sea level rise in South Florida but trying to put a positive spin on it by focusing on the business side and how innovations can make big changes. She then suggested that someone should come into a SAB meeting to update the board on the Coral Gables vulnerability assessment so members can talk to people about the great things that Coral Gables is doing. Matthew then highlighted that the current and former mayors will be interviewed on September 5<sup>th</sup> by Xinhua news agency, a Chinese newspaper, on sea level rise and the impacts it will have on real estate and the tax base. The mayor also did a public opinion in the Miami Herald about the importance of climate resilience. Irela then suggested that the mayor should meet with the organizers trying to get the Resilient City Rockefeller grant and potentially have a public forum.

**Martin:** He gave some background on himself about how most of his professional life was spent in the water filtration business. His interests include increasing walkability in the city as well as planting more trees to provide shade.

### **Revamping the SAB meeting agendas/ meeting topics**

Now the meeting is structured by doing the member reports and the upcoming events, and Matthew suggested a new format of having each meeting focused on one topic followed by a short 5 min or less report from each member. It would allow for more preparation before each meeting so that everyone has the same information going into the meeting as well as the possibility of bringing in outside experts related to the topic of the meeting. Irela agreed it would be a good idea and added that there should be time allotted for each member to do a brief update. A list would be made about all of the topics for the year so that the year could be preplanned. Matthew also explained that having a focus would make it easier for guests to come to the meetings because they might be interested in hearing about particular topics.

Irela suggested that before the next meeting there should be a draft of potential topics for the year. Matthew said he could do the first presentation could be about the Sustainability master plan once we have a fully appointed board.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### ***PARKing Day 2017***

PARKing Day is taking place on the third Friday in September; September 15, 2017: PARK(ING) 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. The City is encouraging local businesses to convert their parking spaces to green spaces. Last year we had 8 businesses participate and we want to build on that success. For more information please visit [www.coralgables.com/sustainability](http://www.coralgables.com/sustainability) and click on PARKing Day. Spaces will not be allowed to be reserved on Miracle Mile because of the ongoing construction. There will be a big event in front of city hall with ten parking spaces being used.

#### ***Household Hazardous Waste, Paper Shredding, and Electronic Recycling Event***

The next event is taking place on Saturday November 18th from 9am-12pm in the City Hall Parking lot. We will continue to include all three components (household hazardous waste, electronic recycling, and paper shredding). More information on the event can be found at [www.coralgables.com/electronicrecycling](http://www.coralgables.com/electronicrecycling). Even though there will not be prescription drug collection at the event Matthew highlighted the successful collection of 140 pounds of in the first year of the prescription drug disposal.

#### ***Recycling 101***

The date is set for Tuesday November 14 from 6-7:30 pm. It has been very successful event in the past that taught residents what they can and cannot recycle, in this meeting it was also discussed to incorporate commercial recycling into the event.

#### ***Green Cinema Event***

Marlin will try to coordinate with the Coral Gables Cinema on showing a sustainability related film sometime in November. Sharon suggested showing a Disney film about the coral reefs.

#### ***The South Florida Regional Climate Compact's Annual Conference: December 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> at Ft Lauderdale Convention Center. Theme: Business of Resilience.***

Matthew, Jessica, and the mayor will be attending. In August 2015, the City signed on as a municipal partner of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact. The Compact is a regional effort across Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties. The Compact is the first of its kind throughout the country and represents “a new form of regional climate governance designed to allow local governments to set the agenda for adaptation while providing an efficient means for state and federal agencies to engage with technical assistance and support”.

**Term Appointments:** Enrique, Greg, Martin, Rhonda, Sharon, and Marlin have all been appointed. The new appointments run from June 1st 2017 to May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2019. The only outstanding appointment is Irela who is the Commission as a whole appointment. A final decision should be made at the next Commission Meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Overview of Sunshine law**

Matt just wanted to remind everyone about the Sunshine Law and that we should not be talking with each other outside of the regular public Sustainability board Meetings about issues that could come before the board. Our board members have been doing great at following the sunshine law. There will be an upcoming training in the near future for Board members about the sunshine law given by our City Attorney's Office.

**ADJOURNED: 6:30 pm**