



## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 5, 2019

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE (SRC)  
ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

A meeting of the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee was held on Monday, May 20, 2019 in the City Manager's Commission Chambers in attendance: Commissioner Mark Samuelian, Commissioner John Elizabeth Aleman, and Commissioner Joy Malakoff. Members of the administration and the public were also in attendance.

### **1. REVIEW OF RESILIENCE STRATEGY WORKPLAN - PLANNED AND IN PROGRESS RESILIENCY PROJECTS**

#### **AFTER-ACTION**

Amy Knowles, Deputy Resilience Officer, presented the item and provided updates to several standing items.

- The Resilience Strategy was finalized, and the official kickoff is on May 30, 2019 at the Perez Art Museum. This summer, the Pivot Team would be announced, and it would be focused on developing a work plan for implementation of the Resilience Strategy.
- The City of Miami Beach Strategic Plan was being finalized. The Resilient305 actions and the community survey results were currently being incorporated into the Strategic Plan which should be finalized this spring or summer.
- The Ready Team, at their last meeting, welcomed the Jacobs Engineering Project Manager to have a full team discussion about the overall tasks and provide all departments the opportunity to speak with Jacobs Engineering.
- The three types of modeling, as part of the business case analysis of the stormwater resiliency program, are underway. There were regular meetings to discuss and confirm any assumptions and the data, and to look at baseline results.
- The city was recognized by Miami-Dade County for improving the city's community rating system score. The National Flood Insurance Program was extended again by the House and is going to the Senate for a vote. If it passes, then it would be extended through the end of the fiscal year.

David Martinez, Capital Improvement Projects Director, provided an update on the status of active neighborhood construction projects.

Commissioner John Elizabeth Aleman asked for a status update on the private drain tie-ins for the Palm & Hibiscus Island Neighborhood Improvements Project.

Mr. Martinez explained that the biggest challenge for this project is not the execution of the harmonization agreements but navigating the Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resources Management's (DERM) logistics. A follow up meeting will hopefully answer many of the logistical and permitting questions that have been raised.

Commissioner Aleman asked how many homes in that Neighborhood Improvements Project that would like to have the residential tie have had to wait for this delay to be resolved.

Mr. Martinez stated that there are about 60 properties, most of them on the west end of Palm Island but also including properties on the west end of Hibiscus Island.

Commissioner Mark Samuelian mentioned the recent community meeting and asked if there were any other issues that may affect the anticipated September 2019 completion date.

Mr. Martinez explained that the DERM process is the largest obstacle but some other things that were left to be completed in the project included installing generators at the three locations which were underway, landscaping of the center medians which were also moving forward and undergrounding of Hibiscus Island which would be wrapping up.

Commissioner Joy Malakoff asked if landscaping and tree plantings for all projects are being considered in advance.

Mr. Martinez stated that the new design criteria packages being developed by Jacobs Engineering will address that upfront. Landscaping was included in the West Avenue project.

Commissioner Malakoff asked if the Stormwater Pump Station at 19th Street East of Meridian Project should be considered as South Beach or Middle Beach as it was listed.

Mr. Martinez clarified that the line of demarcation between South Beach and Middle Beach is Dade Boulevard.

Commissioner Aleman asked if the work on the DERM permitting process will help with residential tie-ins in other neighborhoods or if that only applies to the Palm & Hibiscus Island Neighborhood Improvements Project

Mr. Martinez explained that the work with DERM addresses global issues, so it will not only affect the Palm & Hibiscus Island Neighborhood Improvements Project.

Commissioner Aleman asked if there is anything else that can be done to resolve the delay.

Mr. Martinez stated that the follow up meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 will be a decisive meeting in terms of what direction will be taken for this project and other projects going forward.

Commissioner Aleman stated that if no resolution is achieved at the meeting, then the City of Miami Beach Mayor and Commission should be advised so that they can help.

Commissioner Samuelian asked for an update on the temporary improvements to the current maintenance of traffic during the next two months for the Indian Creek – Street Drainage Improvements – Phase II Project.

Roy Coley, Public Works Director, stated that those improvements are underway and are scheduled to be complete by the end of June 2019.

Commissioner Samuelian asked for an update on the status of Jacobs Engineering's next steps and milestones.

Mr. Coley explained that the first work order with Jacobs Engineering has been executed. Jacobs Engineering has gathered data from the city and is scheduling a kick off meeting to review the data with staff.

Commissioner Samuelian requested an update on Jacobs Engineering work each month at the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

Commissioner Aleman added that she would also be interested in a monthly update on Jacobs Engineering's task orders and program decision-making.

Commissioner Samuelian asked for an overview on the water and sewer consulting work being done.

Mr. Coley explained that when the city hired Hazen & Sawyer as consultants a couple of years ago, they suggested that that city develop appropriate hydraulic models of our water and sewer systems and overlay them with future plans and planning data to understand what the city's future needs will be. Hazen & Sawyer has been working on developing those models and has concurrently been performing condition assessments and reviewing records. The city is expecting a comprehensive report of the drinking water system and wastewater system from Hazen & Sawyer by the end of the year.

Commissioner Samuelian asked if the results of that work will sync up with the work being done by Jacobs Engineering.

Mr. Coley stated that they have asked Hazen that major improvement associated with the stormwater system improvements be brought earlier so that they can be incorporated in the matrix prioritization being developed by Jacobs Engineering.

Commissioner Samuelian asked that this be left as a line item so that updates can be provided.

**ACTION:** No further action taken.

## **2. DISCUSSION ON CITY OF MIAMI BEACH STORMWATER, SANITARY SEWER, AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Margarita Kruffy, Environment & Sustainability Department Assistant Director, presented the item and provided the quarterly update. During the last quarter, the biggest milestone has been an interdepartmental meeting between City of Miami Beach staff and DERM leadership to discuss water quality and look at action items that can improve the city's stormwater management program.

Commissioner Samuelian asked when some of the results of the 20 actions will be seen.

Ms. Kruffy stated that updates will continue to be provided quarterly as set in the agenda.

Commissioner Malakoff asked for more details about developing and implementing a plan to address scouring at select outfalls with recurring turbidity concerns.

Ms. Kruffy explained that a capital budget request has been submitted for permitting and construction of stabilization at the outfalls.

Commissioner Malakoff asked if that is related to a resident's recommendation that the city should use deep injection wells.

Commissioner Aleman added that the issues the city is facing are not unique and suggested reaching out to other institutions to research those issues that are shared by all coastal cities.

Ms. Kruffy explained that scour protection is not new so there are several options that we can pull from to solve those issues but going through the permitting process will be challenging. She added that the city also participates in statewide forums and has been asking for assistance in dealing with some of those issues.

Mr. Coley explained that the city's engineering team identified a number of existing wells that were not efficient or effective due to their elevation, so they moved to pumped outfalls. He added that the engineering team is currently working on concept plans for hybrid systems of injection wells and outfalls and has discussed them with DERM.

**MOTION:** No further action taken.

### **3. UPDATE ON THE PUMP STATION PLUMES ON WEST AVENUE**

Roy Coley, Director of Public Works, presented the item. He stated that what was seen at outfalls is scouring which would be reduced by installing scouring pads. At 6<sup>th</sup> Street, groundwater was being released and staff was exploring the opportunity to create space in the park to retain that water and keep it on site.

Commissioner Malakoff inquired if the concept involved a lake. Mr. Coley mentioned it would be an underwater structure which would preserve green space.

Commissioner Samuelian inquired if this issue was seen at other pump stations. Mr. Coley responded that there are different challenges throughout different areas. At 6<sup>th</sup> street, the contributor is the dark ground water.

Commissioner Aleman inquired on whether staff explored planting oysters or oyster beds. Ms. Kruffy stated the oysters that grow within Biscayne Bay are not the type that improve water quality or rebuild reefs.

**ACTION:** Continued to July 10, 2019 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

### **4. DISCUSS THE USE OF PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, AND FERTILIZERS ON BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

Margarita Kruffy presented the item. She explained during last month's meeting, staff went over the impacts of herbicides and pesticides on public properties, one of the questions posed in the last meeting was information on ordinances for private property that City of Miami and other municipalities have passed. Ms. Kruffy mentioned that in Florida, municipalities are not allowed

to pass bans herbicide and pesticides for private property. The different ordinances from other municipalities are similar to what Miami Beach has done. She further explained staff found that some municipalities had passed seasonal restrictions on fertilizers including Manatee and Lee County. The City of Boca Raton has similar legislation but restricts applications based on the amount of rain forecasted.

**ACTION:** The committee directed staff to work with the City Attorney's office on developing a draft ordinance to restrict the use of fertilizer on private property.

## **5. CONSIDER ADOPTING WORLD SEA TURTLE DAY ON JUNE 16 EVERY YEAR IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH AND CREATING TURTLE-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE OCCASION.**

Commissioner Aleman presented the item. She explained that World Sea Turtle day falls on June 16 which presented a great opportunity to celebrate the species that nest on our beaches. Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment and Sustainability Director, stated that one of the ideas was to create a sea turtle sand sculpture on the beach that would bring awareness, have the Miami Beach brand, and provide a great photo op for residents and visitors. The sand sculpture could be designed to be realistic or "cartoonish". She added that another option that staff explored was the installation of mini sea turtle park with sculptures similar to Allison Park.

Commissioner Aleman inquired on the cost of the sand sculpture. Ms. Wheaton replied it would cost approximately \$2,000 to move forward with this concept.

**MOTION:** Staff to move forward with planning a sea turtle sand sculpture in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day. By Acclamation.

## **6. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **7. DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING LIVING OR HYBRID SHORELINES CAN COMPLEMENT GREY INFRASTRUCTURE IN OUR CLIMATE ADAPTATION ON-GOING WORK**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **8. DISCUSSION REFERRING A TASK TO THE CITY MANAGER'S READY TEAM IN ORDER TO BOTH OPTIMIZE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND FACILITATE TIMELY COMPLETION OF PROJECTS**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **9. DISCUSS UPDATES TO THE CITY CODE REFERENCING TURTLE NESTING**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **10. DISCUSSION REGARDING EXPLORING THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH JOINING THE AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **11. DISCUSSION REGARDING PRIVATE SEAWALLS**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **12. DISCUSSION ON REPURPOSING OUR GOLF COURSES FOR THE FUTURE**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **13. DISCUSSION ON ARTIFICIAL REEFS**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **14. DISCUSSION ON EXPANDING THE PLASTIC BAG ORDINANCE IN MIAMI BEACH.**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

**15. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 46 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, ENTITLED "ENVIRONMENT," BY CREATING ARTICLE VIII THEREOF, TO BE ENTITLED "SALE OF SUNSCREEN PRODUCTS," TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF SUNSCREEN PRODUCTS CONTAINING OXYBENZONE OR OCTINOXATE, OR BOTH; AND, PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ACTION:** Item Deferred.

## **16. REVIEW CITY PERFORMANCE, PROGRAMS, AND IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS IT PERTAINS TO LITTER AND CLEANLINESS**

Sarah Saunders, Code Compliance Assistant Director, presented the item. She explained the administration was directed to evaluate residential concerns for contractor negligence and create recommendations. Staff looked at the types of complaints received via the e-gov app and the city hotlines. Ms. Saunders stated she was able to locate 35 complaints regarding runoff, trash/debris, and property damage. The violations were mostly sanitation violations which have fines tied to them. She added that in addition to informing the community on the best way to submit complaints, the city should also reinforce and remind contractors about the rules. When property such as private sidewalks or swales was found to be damaged, Code Compliance inspected the area and provided an inspection number to parties involved. In instances, when people wait too long to call, and the issue was not visible, it would become difficult for staff to enforce. Ms. Saunders recommended departments such as Public Work develop best practices for contractors.

Commissioner Aleman stated that swale destruction was common complaint by residents.

Ana Salguero, Building Director, mentioned there is an ordinance called the parking management plan and any project over \$250,000 is required to have a parking plan in place. The parking department enforces the ordinance.

**ACTION:** No further action.