

MEMORANDUM

TO: SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Michael Grieco, Chair
Commissioner Ricky Arriola, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Kristen Rosen-Gonzalez, Member
Commissioner Joy Malakoff, Alternate

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: May 10, 2017

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE (SRC) ON
WEDNESDAY MAY 10, 2017

A meeting of the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, in the City Manager's Large Conference Room, 4th Floor of City Hall. Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Michael Grieco, Commissioner Ricky Arriola, Commissioner Joy Malakoff, and Commissioner John Elizabeth Aleman. Members of the administration and the public were also in attendance.

1. Discussion Regarding How Green infrastructure including Living Or Hybrid Shorelines Can Complement Grey infrastructure in our Climate Adaptation Ongoing Work

AFTER-ACTION

Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager, provided an updated on on-going living shorelines projects within the City, including Brittany Bay, Muss Park, Maurice Gibb Park, Parkview Island and Indian Creek Drive from 25th Street to 26th Street.

Commissioner Malakoff stressed the importance of having a living shoreline as a view for nearby residents, rather than a regular concrete seawall along Indian Creek Drive. She also asked about the possibility of incorporating oyster beds into certain projects. Ms. Tonioli explained that the species of oysters that thrive in the City's waterways are not the best option for shoreline stabilization, according to previous conversations with DERM. She added that another challenge for living shoreline designs is to get the permits to build into the water.

Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager, mentioned that Margarita Wells, Acting Environment and Sustainability Director, is working with the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact partners and The Nature Conservancy on a workshop regarding natural resources regulations. The goal of the workshop is to engage regulators in modernizing the way these green infrastructure projects are viewed in the permitting process.

ACTION: No further action taken.

2. Discussion On Stormwater Best Management Practices

ACTION: Continued to the June 14, 2017 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

3. **Discussion On The City To Offer Christmas Tree Recycling, Commencing In 2017**

ACTION: Deferred to the June 14, 2017 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

4. **Referral To The Sustainability And Resiliency Committee To Consider Establishing An Emergency Fund Dedicated To Protecting The Tourism Industry From Major Adverse Impacts**

AFTER-ACTION

Eva Silverstein, Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development Director, presented the item. She explained that the request to create an emergency fund stemmed from the withdrawal of Visit Florida funding. This emergency fund would support the tourism industry in the City in the face of shocks such as hurricanes and mosquito borne illnesses which can potentially impact the economy of the city. The goal is to locate a potential funding source and structure a committee to review funding.

Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager, added that the Mayor has created the Blue Ribbon Panel on Emergency Response to delve into this issue.

ACTION: Item referred to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Emergency Response for further discussion.

5. **Referral to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee – Discuss Retrofitting Water Fountains With Water Bottle Refilling Stations**

ACTION: Deferred to the June 14, 2017 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

6. **Referral To The Sustainability And Resiliency Committee Regarding Pending Bills In The Florida Legislature That Would Allow Certain Coastal Communities To Regulate Or Ban Disposable Plastic Bags**

AFTER-ACTION

Eve Boutsis, Deputy City Attorney, presented the item. She explained that the state legislature did not pass any legislation that would allow cities to regulate plastic bags locally. She mentioned that Coral Gables is proceeding with their plastic bag ban based upon pending litigation on a related issue.

Commissioner Grieco added that the Coral Gables law would fall under the umbrella of the existing state preemption. He inquired whether it is possible for the City to regulate the use of plastic bags at sidewalk cafes. Ms. Boutsis explained that this option is possible, because it is a proprietary nature of government and would regulate land that the city controls. Commissioner Grieco explained that, similar to the Styrofoam ban, the City can provide a transition period for any restaurant with permitted tables and chairs on the city's right of way.

Commissioner Arriola asked if the Miami Beach could regulate plastic bag usage as a condition of opening a new business in the City. Ms. Boutsis explained that the action is prohibited by the state. Regulating the use of bags in sidewalk café's is more of rule imposed by a landlord instead of a government law.

Members of the public addressed the committee.

Commissioner Aleman suggested creating a social media campaign the reduction of plastic bags that can be tied into our current anti-litter campaign.

MOTION: City staff and the City Attorney's Office to draft an ordinance requiring sidewalk cafés to discontinue the use of plastic bags. Item passed by acclamation.

7. Referral To The Sustainability And Resiliency Committee To Explore Urban Indoor Farming Opportunities On Underutilized City Property

AFTER-ACTION

Item presented by Flavia Tonioli, Sustainability Manager. She explained that indoor farming consists of growing crops and plants indoors and can be used as a strategy to control ambient conditions to achieve a higher yield, provide sustainable food opportunities, and conserve water. She explained that implementing these types of projects in Miami Beach will require both a zoning review, as well as a building permit.

Commissioner Malakoff expressed concerns over the application of urban indoor farming to grow hydroponic marijuana. She also asked for details on how the indoor farmed crops are harvested and how they were specifically used in the example provided from the Orange County Convention Center. Ms. Tonioli explained that the restaurant within the convention center harvests the crops and utilizes them.

Commissioner Grieco explained that vertical farming is being conducted within old shipping containers and can be used to grow food for restaurant use. Commissioner Malakoff suggested implementing more community gardens instead of reusing garages or other buildings for this purpose.

Commissioner Arriola inquired about having City staff conduct an inventory on potential city-owned site/lots that would allow for additional urban farming opportunities. He added that the City can activate urban or private lots, create tax incentives, and permit the creation of urban farms. A possible food co-op could also be created and would allow for food to go back to senior citizens.

Members of the public addressed the committee.

ACTION: Staff to conduct an assessment on private and public parking lots or underutilized parking garages that can be used for farming opportunities.

8. Update Regarding Discussion On Alternatives To Plasticware In Beach Concessions

AFTER-ACTION

John Ripple, Beach Maintenance Director, presented the item. He provided a brief presentation on increasing number of trash and litter volume on the beach, as well as on-going efforts by the City and County to address this issue. He added that City staff met with beach concessionaires and beachfront hotels to discuss alternatives to plasticware. Staff discovered that some concessions have already transitioned to reusable products. This option has been found to not only reduce litter, but also provides a cost savings to the concessionaires and hotels. Mark Milisits, Asset Manager, explained that there is a lot of support from the Boucher Brothers, the largest concessionaire operation on the beach, to move in this direction, which can help with garnering more support from other beach concessionaires.

Commissioner Grieco asked how many properties still need to convert to reusable products. Mr. Milisits explained that out of 81 concessionaires, 40 serve food and approximately 30 have yet to convert to reusable products.

Commissioner Malakoff asked what staff is doing to inform beach goers how to recycle properly on the beach. Mr. Ripple explained that recycling cans have a recycling wrap to differentiate them from trash cans.

Commissioner Grieco added if the City wanted to have as much buy-in as possible, they needed to provide beachfront concessions with a transition period to allow them to move over to the new products.

Members of the public addressed the Committee.

Commissioner Aleman suggested researching reusable items that can withstand the temperature of dishwashers for easier maintenance

ACTION: Staff to begin compiling a plan for beachfront hotels and concessionaries to transition to reusable products. Item continued to July 19, 2017 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

9. Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Flooding and Sea Level Rise

ACTION: Continued to the June 14, 2017 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee

10. Sustainability Committee

AFTER-ACTION

Dave Doeblar, Committee Chairman, presented the item and provided an update of the last Sustainability Committee meeting. He explained that the committee passed a motion to encourage the City to begin discussing the installation of Tesla superchargers within City garages.

Commissioner Grieco explained that the City is also working with other EV charging networks specifically for charging vehicles that are not manufactured by Tesla.

Mr. Doeblar added that the City has been working closely with the County to improve beach operations. Among these improvements, new recycling bins with lids will be deployed and messaging will be placed on all receptacles to differentiate trash from recycle.

11. Resiliency Strategy

ACTION: Deferred to the June 14, 2017 Sustainability and Resiliency Committee

JLM/SMT/MKW/FCT/YP