

TO: Members of The Ad Hoc Neighborhood Resilience Projects Committee

- Spencer Hennings
- Barbara Herskowitz
- Calvin Kohli
- Clare McCord
- Elizabeth Wheaton
- Galen Treuer
- Jason Koslowe
- Amy Knowles, City liaison

DATE: February 22, 2022

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Ad Hoc Neighborhood Resilience Projects Committee on February 22, 2022 – Virtual Meeting

Present:

Spencer Hennings, Elizabeth Wheaton, Barbara Herskowitz, Clare McCord, Jason Koslowe, Galen Treuer, Calvin Kohli, Amy Knowles

City Staff: Juanita Ballesteros, Cristina Ortega, Melissa Berthier, David Martinez, Joe Gomez, Nick Kallergis, Michael Belush, Lester Sola, Alex Fernandez, Luis Callejas, Yale Herskowitz, Eric Carpenter, Julio Rodriguez, Matthew Gultanoff

1. Roll Call and Introduction

- a. Introduction by Amy Knowles, Chief Resilience Officer, and Lester Sola, Assistant City Manager, welcoming group.
- b. Committee members introduced themselves.
 - Spencer Hennings is a real estate lawyer, has some background in environmental law, and is currently the condo ombudsman for State of Florida. He was born in and grew up in Miami Beach.
 - Barbara Herskowitz has previously served on boards, lived on Miami Beach her whole life, and wants to protect city.
 - Calvin Kohli has been a resident for 30+ years and involved in the city and community. He has been a member of the Miami Beach chamber of commerce and president of his condo. He is extremely concerned with climate change and its impacts and wants to keep Miami Beach safe.
 - Clare McCord has lived here since 2001 and is a community activist, a previous member of the South of Fifth Neighborhood Association. Her experience is in communication and education. Her focus is to hold a commitment to community-government communication.

- Elizabeth Wheaton has lived in Miami Beach for 16 years, worked at the City for over 13 years, and now works for Corvius. She is interested in helping move projects forward in a way that is economically viable and has interest of community.
- Galen Treuer moved to Miami Beach in 2015 and lives in Flamingo Park. He works for the Miami Dade County Office of Resilience and has a PhD in sea level rise in South Florida.
- Jason Koslowe is an attorney and litigator and works on advising municipalities on the legal implications of sea level rise. He believes advancing resilience is a giant public-private partnership and is committed to helping the administration to move these projects forward.

2. City Attorney's Office

- a. Nick Kallergis, Deputy City Attorney, presented an overview of the Sunshine Law and public records. The Sunshine Laws applies to all Commission and Committees. It requires that meetings are publicly noticed, the public has the right to attend, and that the meetings have minutes. Outside of committee meetings, members should refrain from discussing committee business through any communications whether verbal, in writing, email, or social media. The public has the right to public records; any communication between committee members and staff regarding committee business are public record. If at any point members believe they have a voting conflict of interest, they should contact him.

3. Review of Purpose, Powers, Duties

- a. Overview provided by Amy Knowles, Chief Resilience Officer. Overview covered the Purpose of the Committee and its powers and duties. The Ad Hoc Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee shall have the following powers and duties:
 - i. Provide advisory recommendations on best approaches to enhance resident education, resident engagement, and community decision making pertaining to the City's resiliency projects.
 - ii. Provide advisory recommendations regarding best resiliency practices and adaptations, and requirements for private property owners.
 - iii. Receive input from the community and evaluate issues related to the impact of the resiliency projects on neighborhoods, including neighborhood aesthetics and pump locations, and provide advisory recommendations regarding the same to the City Commission and City Administration.
 - iv. To provide a forum for residents to share best practices and lessons learned from previous and ongoing projects.

4. Resilience Overview

- a. A presentation was given by Amy Knowles on resilience, how the City is approaching it, and what kind of projects and plans are being worked on. Resilience is about communities and individuals, and can provide an opportunity to evolve and sometimes transform.
- b. On Miami Beach, we routinely see flooding, though last year was generally mild in terms of tides and flooding. NOAA has recently updated its projections, it shows that moderate flooding is expected 10x more often than today. The City uses the Southeast Florida Climate Change Projections, which are updated every 5 years.
- c. Resilience work takes the involvement of different departments: planning, building, environment and sustainability, public works, capital improvement, facilities and fleet management, communications, division of emergency management, and city manager's office. To plan for sea level rise, the City uses three approaches: using the best available science and engineering, guiding plans and policies through relationships between the public and private, and implementing projects.
- d. Overview was given on current and past projects, plan, policies, and programs.

5. Agenda Topics

- a. A conversation was opened on what topics the Committee is interested in hearing in future agenda items.
- b. C. McCord expressed interest in the community engagement and communication aspect of these projects. In a future meeting, the Communication Department can go over how they conduct communications and committee can ask them questions. E. Wheaton noted that the communications team from city has done a lot of changes in past year, and that they could provide an overview of what their vision is and how it links with projects coming up.
 - i. E. Wheaton noted that there is an opportunity to look at what is successful about projects and what some of the challenges were, having a forward-looking conversation about how we can move forward. The Committee discussed the need to have a timeline or mapping of projects to see what should be focused on and when. S. Hennings noted that the words we use aren't as familiar to people who aren't involved in this field. It was also noted that committee rules are to provide a more high-level view rather than a project-by-project view. A. Knowles responded that the City has worked with consultants in the past on how to talk about this difficult topic.
- c. E. Wheaton was also interested in future projects and how they're incorporating green infrastructure to complement grey infrastructure.
- d. J. Koslowe suggested that in other committees there's been a form to collect ideas for the agenda. Staff could send notification and have a list where members can vote to see what is most popular and can move forward.
- e. G. Treuer expressed interest in looking at transportation planning and how that can align with resilience planning. He suggests looking at the Forestry Plan too.
- f. J. Koslowe noted that part of the charge is how to best communicate these ideas, but also communicate ways in which these projects are going to affect private property owners in

the short-term. Staff suggested another topic that could be brought forth is what's being done in terms of private property owners and risk—understanding and communicating benefits and concerns, the neighborhood aesthetics, and best practices and lessons learned.

6. Referral from Oct 13, 2021 Commission Meeting

- a. A referral from Oct 13 City Commission meeting was brought forth to have broad discussion on flooding and how to address it. E. Wheaton suggested having Public Works give a presentation on flooding and what the response is, in addition to how to address immediate flooding needs in addition to the prioritization of future projects. A. Knowles suggested that staff can bring a presentation to the Committee about neighborhood resilience and short-term flooding issues and responses. A presentation can be provided from the March Land Use and Sustainability Committee (LUSC).
- b. The Committee requests that staff send around agendas for LUSC and other committees that will address issues that relate to committee. It was also requested to provide links to videos for last couple of months where Commission or Committees addressed resilience issues.
- c. A discussion was had on clarification in terms of the Committee mandate: is the Committee dealing mostly with city infrastructure or dealing with private property? For example, king tides on the street or king tides rolling into properties. The response was that duties cover both and the floodplain manager looks at flood impact to property owners.
- d. The committee discussed the importance that residents understand tools available to them, like the elevation calculator that was provided some years ago. It was suggested the Committee can give recommendations on how this is communicated (what the tools are, when meetings are, where the facts are, when meetings should happen).

7. Committee Business

- a. The Committee commenced voting for Chair and Vice Chair. E. Wheaton was selected as Chair, as she has extensive experience in resilience within municipal government and has the time and interest to give to this committee. C. McCord was selected as Vice Chair, supporting E. Wheaton and the Committee. A. Knowles stated that staff will be working offline with Chair to set committee meetings. There were no public comments. E. Wheaton made motion to adjourn, seconded by C. McCord. Meeting was adjourned.