

Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

Committee Members

Clare McCord, Chair
Curt Dyer, Vice Chair
Ronald Starkman
Karin Matos
Julie Basner
Barbara Montero

TO: Members of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

DATE: February 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee on February 18, 2025, Meeting

Present: Clare McCord, Curt Dyer, Karin Matos, Ron Starkman, Barbara Montero, Julie Basner

Absent: N/A

City Staff: Amy Knowles, Sabrina Batlle, Juanita Ballesteros, Melissa Berther, Linda Stevens, Lauren Firtel

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

C. McCord calls meeting to order.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

C. McCord moved to approve January 18, 2025, minutes. K. Matos seconded. Approved unanimously.

ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS

C. McCord gave an overview of the committee's responsibility to identify communications gaps between the city and the public.

Discussion ensued between City staff and committee members regarding Public Information Officers (PIO's) and their responsibilities as well as where challenges present themselves.

C. McCord brought up how previously the committee had recommended via LTC an ambassador program which would function as a middle ground for communication between the public and City.

M. Berther brought up how ambassadors can be particularly helpful in cases such as difficulty during harmonization efforts. Mentioning that there have been cases where spokespersons have come forward naturally, particularly for videos which are then shared with the public. However, finding these spokespeople is challenging as they are either unwilling to be recorded or are unavailable.

C. McCord encouraged identifying potential ambassadors at community events, suggesting that individuals actively engaged in the community are more likely to take on this role. They emphasized that even a small group of dedicated individuals could significantly help bridge the communication gap.

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Discussion ensued emphasizing the need for a comprehensive list, if not already available, containing the contact information of individuals who have expressed interest in participating in outreach projects. It was concluded that L. Firtel would reach out to Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to inquire about the existence of such a list.

J. Basner asked if the committee felt it would be best for ambassadors to be present during the inception of a project or towards the end.

C. McCord affirmed that an ambassador would provide support at every stage of a project and emphasized the value of visuals, including before-and-after photos, FAQs, and graphics, in enhancing communication and engagement.

M. Berther confirmed that the Neighborhood Affairs Division is actively involved in these types of initiatives and provided insight into how information is disseminated. They explained that certain projects have not been publicly released due to their incomplete status but noted that the city website serves as a resource for accessing additional details, including videos from past meetings. Additionally, Berther elaborated on outreach efforts, clarifying that text-based communications are reserved for emergency and traffic-related updates.

R. Starkman brought to the committee's attention how it is often challenging to find meeting recordings, giving an example of the 72nd Street project meeting.

M. Berther and L. Firtel concluded that public meetings should just be standardized to be posted 24 hours after a meeting. And led the committee through the website interface.

R. Starkman recommended improving accessibility to the meeting recording link by including it directly in the meeting invite or sending a follow-up email with the subject line "In Case You Missed It."

L. Firtel and M. Berther agreed that consolidating all necessary information into a single email or listing clear steps would be the most effective approach to minimizing email overload.

PRIVATE PROPERTY ADAPTATION PROGRAM

M. Berther expressed excitement for the Private Property Adaptation Program.

A. Knowles elaborated on the Private Property Adaptation Program details.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

C. McCord reminded the committee that due to public notice issues at the last meeting, the committee was unable to make a motion. As a result, Chair and vice chair have not yet been nominated for the new year.

R. Starkman nominated C. McCord as Chair, K. Matos Seconded. Approved unanimously.

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R. Starkman nominated C. Dyer as Vice-Chair, J. Basner Seconded. Approved unanimously.

ADAPTATION PLAN

A. Knowles shared details of a community meeting in collaboration with the University of Miami, titled "How Will Miami Beach's Adaptation Plan Chart Pathways for the City's Future?" The meeting will be held on February 20, 2025, at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. She then provided an overview of the adaptation plan, which will be presented at the meeting, before passing the discussion to J. Ballesteros for further details.

J. Ballesteros concluded the presentation by highlighting the key differences between this adaptation plan and previous traditional ones. She outlined the plan's categories and the signals that will guide the implementation of necessary adaptation measures.

A. Knowles reminded the committee that the Adaptation Plan would be discussed on March 11, 2025, at the Land Use and Sustainability Committee, providing commissioners an opportunity to conduct a deep dive into the plan. A Knowles then discussed the details regarding funding and grants.

GRANT LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM COMMITTEE

C. McCord informed the committee that she has signed the previously approved grant letter of support and submitted it to the Grants Department, allowing them to proceed with pursuing funding for the 1st Street Stormwater Project.

L. Firtel elaborated on the contents of the letter and the purpose of the grant, reminding the committee with details on its objectives and intended impact.

FUTURE MEETING DATES/TOPICS

C. McCord confirmed future meeting dates with the committee and invited members to suggest topics for discussion at the next meeting. Topics such as Resiliency code, data collection, and West Ave. were discussed as potential topics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

C. McCord makes a motion to adjourn. B. Montero seconds.