



## AD HOC NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

City of Miami Beach  
Clare McCord, Chair  
Amy Knowles, Liaison

### **TO: Members of the Ad Hoc Neighborhood Resilience Projects Advisory Committee**

- **Clare McCord**, Chair, Appointed by Commissioner Laura Dominguez
- **Galen Treuer**, Vice Chair, Appointed by Mayor Dan Gelber
- **Curt Dyer**, Appointed by Commissioner Ricky Arriola
- **Ronald Starkman**, Appointed by Commissioner Alex Fernandez
- **Jason Koslowe**, Appointed by Vice Mayor Meiner
- **Spencer Hennings**, Appointed by Commissioner David Richardson
- **Alon Alexander**, Appointed by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

**DATE: January 26, 2023**

**SUBJECT: Minutes of the Ad Hoc Neighborhood Resilience Projects Advisory Committee on January 26, 2023 – Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Clare McCord, Galen Treuer, Jason Koslowe, Spencer Hennings, Alon Alexander, Curt Dyer, Ronald Starkman

**Absent:** n/a

**City Staff:** Amy Knowles, Juanita Ballesteros, Farosha Andasheva, David Martinez, Cristina Ortega, Joe Gomez, Gabriella Gonzalez

**Commission:** Laura Dominguez

**Public:** John Aleman, Matthew Gultanoff, "Wix"

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### **1. WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE**

- a. Welcome by Commissioner Dominguez
- b. Introduction and welcome by Amy Knowles, Committee Liaison, Chief Resilience Officer/Director, Environment & Sustainability

### **2. CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

- a. Overview of Ethics and Cone of Silence, Farosha Andasheva, Senior Assistant City Attorney. The Sunshine Laws apply to all Commission and Committees/Boards. It requires that meetings must be publicly noticed, the public has the right to attend, and the meetings must have minutes recorded. Committee members should refrain from discussing matters that are in current or future agendas or that may foreseeably come before the committee. Members should refrain from discussing committee business outside of committee meetings; this includes verbal, in writing, text, email or social media. The public has the right to public record, including any communications between

committee members and city staff. Professional personal relationships between committee members are not prohibited, as long as committee business is not being discussed. The only exception previously recognized has been whenever a member wants to share a background article or information with the committee; this can be sent to city staff, who will then distribute via blind copy to avoid inadvertent Sunshine Law violations. Sunshine Law violations may carry up to a \$500.00 fine, and if intentional, up to a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable by criminal fines and 30-day imprisonment.

The Public Records Act grants citizens the access to inspect and copy public records, this includes any emails exchanged with city staff and Commissioners in your capacity as a board member; all minutes and motions are also subject to public record. Each individual is a custodian of their own public records and is responsible for maintaining them. It is recommended to CC staff during email exchanges in order to maintain emails within the city server, available to be retrieved at any point by the Information Technology Department; this eliminates risk of accidental deletion of public records.

### **3. REVIEW OF PURPOSE, POWERS, DUTIES**

- a. Overview of Purpose of the Committee and its powers and duties and adjustments with the most recent adopted Resolution.

### **4. RESILIENCE OVERVIEW**

- a. A presentation was given by A. Knowles on resilience, how the City is approaching resilience, and what kinds of projects and plans are being worked on. Urban Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of long-term stresses and short-term shocks they experience, as defined by the Resilient Cities Network.
- b. On Miami Beach, we tend to focus on this as infrastructure projects which are there to protect people; projects address sea level rise, storms, flooding, etc.
- c. Resilience work requires involvement of multiple departments: Planning, Building, Environment + Sustainability, Public Works, Capital Improvement Projects, Facilities + Fleet Management, Communications, Fire Department Division of Emergency Management, and City Manager's Office. The City is committed to using the best available science and engineering to implement plans/policies for both public and private property. Resilience projects go beyond traditional City investments; holistic neighborhood improvement projects and innovative strategies help protect the City.
- d. Overview was given on past, current, and future projects, plans, policies, and programs. MBRisingAbove.com website link (<https://bit.ly/3WUU5g1>) for the Committee with resources, studies, and plans shared so members can explore topics discussed.

**5. COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

- a. Curt Dyer has lived on 59<sup>th</sup> and Alton Road since 1998 and has experienced extreme flooding since then. Former Commissioner John Aleman along with the City Commission installed a bioswale outside his property which helped alleviate flooding. He would like to see projects like this implemented across the City.
- b. Ronald Starkman is a retired corporate financial executive; he was a corporate treasurer for a couple Fortune 500 companies, and has been active in the community for over 10 years serving as President on the Board of the South 5<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Association, Chairman of the Budget Advisory Committee, member of the Miami Beach Audit Committee, member of the Board of Miami Beach United, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, and currently on the Charter Review Committee.
- c. Alon Alexander is a resident of Mid Beach and owns property on Flamingo Drive and Alton. He is interested in flood mitigation, installing pump stations, and mangrove restoration.
- d. Spencer Hennings is an attorney for the State of Florida. He is the Condominium Ombudsman for Florida and was appointed by the governor. This is his second term on the Committee, and he is very passionate about resiliency as a Miami Beach native. As a State liaison to condo owners, he is interested in communicating with condo associations in relation to resiliency.
- e. Galen Treuer is a Miami-Dade County employee where he leads climate tech and economic innovation helping to implement the county's climate strategies with the private sector. He previously worked in the Office of Resilience in the County where he helped with strategic planning; he is a resident expert on sea level rise and flooding and looks forward to cooperating with the Committee on addressing resident concerns/experiences.
- f. Clare McCord is a returning member of the committee and has worked for many years on Neighborhood Associations, Condo Associations, and serving on boards, and working as a resident advocate/liaison on issues of quality of life, infrastructure, and zoning. She is a former President of the South 5<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Association and is now on the Board of Miami Beach United; her field of expertise is organizational communication and behavior and hopes to be able to help improve processes and engaging people.
- g. Jason Koslowe is a returning member of the committee and is also an attorney focusing on complex commercial litigation, but he has also done work on advising specialties on the legal effects of sea level rise. He was previously on the Sustainability Committee and has also been nominated for the G.O. Bond Committee. He hopes to form a bridge between residents and staff on important projects.

**6. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

- a. The Committee commenced voting for Chair and Vice Chair. Clare McCord was nominated as Chair by Ronald Starkman, seconded by Curt Dyer. Galen Treuer was

nominated as Vice Chair by Curt Dyer and seconded by Jason Koslowe. Vote was unanimous for both Chair and Vice Chair positions.

## 7. AGENDA TOPICS

- a. C. McCord discusses interest in wanting to provide a timeline that could be transmitted to people and/or posted on websites to keep residents informed about upcoming projects (based on LTC from last year)
  - i. April LTC has referral from CC with potential agenda topics for discussion in upcoming meetings (i.e. community's ability to communicate with Public Information Officer on projects - 1<sup>st</sup> ST & West Ave)
- b. J. Koslowe recommends using Padlet tool for members to share topics of interest, as used by Sustainability Committee. Members send email to G. Gonzalez with potential topics/ideas, Padlet poll is shared and members vote on topics they're interested in; topics with most votes will be considered for future agendas.
- c. Item: R. Starkman references First Street pump station and Planning Department's process: project goes to Planning department, analysis is done by professional urban planners on how residents and other city amenities may be affected, then it goes to a planning board and they decide whether the project is compatible. With the First Street project, only the City Engineering and Capital Projects Departments were involved and the solution was determined based on affordability from an engineering standpoint; neighborhoods were not involved in process and were upset due to proposed location, and lack of collaboration. R. Starkman proposes to have Planning Department come in and speak on their urban planning expertise and overall resident impact for future projects.
  - i. G. Treuer asks for clarification of purpose; Process for engagement with Engineers, Planning, and Community so that Committee can be more efficient and share goals that have been established for each community. C. McCord asks for Planning Department's priorities to align with residents' priorities. G. Treuer shares nationwide struggle of residents' difficulty with engaging in planning process and desire for communities to change this. J. Koslowe adds that this lack of clear procedure can be taxing on staff, residents, and this item would be a good way to establish better procedures. Planning department to speak at next meeting.
- d. Item: C. Dyer shares interest in Alton Rd reconstruction time frame. R. Starkman addresses road raising and tree removal concerns. C. Dyer mentions Heritage Tree Project and whether trees on North Bay Road have been protected by barriers as part of this; no formal notice. A. Knowles clarifies that the road elevation standards proposed by Jacobs Engineering are not necessarily what the FDOT is meeting; road elevation is not a one-size-fits-all based on harmonization requirements. C. McCord asks if an update on Alton Road Projects is something the group would be interested in for an update. A. Knowles asks for clarification on whether FDOT or City's Transportation department would be preferred for presentation. J. Gomez will provide FDOT contact

information to give brief presentation; joint project with Public Works involving drainage.

**8. CLOSING REMARKS AND MOTION TO ADJOURN**

- a. Upcoming meetings were set for *February 23, March 23, April 27, and May 25*. Future meetings will be set in the upcoming months. There were no public comments. Motion to adjourn made by S. Hennings, seconded by C. Dyer and C. McCord. Meeting was adjourned.