



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Ecology Board** met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at: 7:10 p.m.

The following were present: Chairman Martin Crossland
Ann Trina Aguila
Carl Malek

Absent: Vice Chair Wendy Anderson-Booher

Also present: Board Secretary Elora R. Sakal

2) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 22, 2012 were approved as written.

Board member Malek moved to approve the minutes. Board member Aguila seconded the motion which was carried unanimously on voice vote.

3) Old Business:

a) C.U.T.E. Project

Board member Malek commented that he has done research regarding the C.U.T.E. Project and realized that it is going to entail more work than he anticipated. He explained that the C.U.T.E. Project is a program designed to clean up a community and keep it clean. It is meant to be an ongoing project and the goal is to clean the City of trash and garbage on the streets, sidewalks, bike/walk paths, parks and anywhere else it is necessary. The benefits to the C.U.T.E. Project are keeping the community clean, possibly increasing property value, pride in the City, and people getting fresh air and exercise.

Board member Malek continued stating that organizing, bringing together clubs and individuals, and assessing the main areas to clean would help to begin the process of the project. He commented that funds will need to be received through grants or donations to purchase supplies such as trash bags, gloves, sun block, and water. His main target areas to clean are the Downtown Miami Springs Business District, the Circle, the Golf Course parking lot, schools, parks and bike/walking paths. He suggested advertising in the Gazette to recruit residents to help in the C.U.T.E. Project.

Board member Aguila noted that one of the rooms at the Community Center could possibly be reserved in advance as a meeting place for the C.U.T.E. Project. She said that she liked Board member Malek's summary and that it gave a clear explanation of the project.

Board member Aguila commented that she had emailed a plan from a city in California regarding the C.U.T.E. Project. She stated that she would bring it to the next meeting to show the Board members.

Board member Malek asked if there was a meeting next month and Board Secretary Elora Sakal explained that Advisory Boards do not meet during the month of July for the summer break and they resume in August.

Chairman Crossland was worried about the liability that can occur with the C.U.T.E. Project.

Board member Aguila commented that in the documents that she found, it explained that all people who worked in the C.U.T.E. Project had to sign a refusal to sue statement.

Chairman Crossland stated that the participants would have to wear some type of reflective vest as a precaution. He was pleased with the information that Board member Malek brought.

Discussion ensued regarding the different areas that need cleaning up as previously mentioned by Board member Malek.

Chairman Crossland suggested that during the summer break each board member should be assigned with an area in the City to look at and see if there is a lot of trash in that area.

Chairman Crossland asked what areas Public Works cleans and Board member Malek responded that he believes that Public Works cleans everything.

Board member Aguila said that there are swales that are not City property such as the BellSouth building.

Chairman Crossland suggested looking into the idea of residents assisting and volunteering their time to pick up trash with Public Works.

Board member Aguila said that she will look at all of the parks in Miami Springs over the summer break to look for trash.

Chairman Crossland offered to look at the bike/walk paths during the summer break to look for trash.

Board member Malek said that he will look at all of the schools during the summer break for trash.

Chairman Crossland stated that the Downtown area could be assigned to Vice Chair Anderson-Booher.

Board member Aguila suggested that the board members should take photos of the trash at their designated area.

Board member Malek replied that the pictures could be placed in the Gazette.

b) Recycling at Fourth of July Event

Board member Aguila stated that she spoke with City Manager Ron K. Gorland and he was very enthusiastic about the idea of recycling at the Fourth of July event. She commented that she believes that there were recycling containers at the Curtiss Mansion Opening and hopes to see them at the Fourth of July event as well.

c) Sunshine Law Video

Board members watched the Sunshine Law video.

Board Secretary Sakal clarified to the Board members that board members can only email their Board Secretary with information or any questions and the Board Secretary can pass on the message to all the Board members.

d) Environmental Solutions for Communities Grant

Chairman Crossland explained that there are no grants anymore.

4) New Business:

a) Report on Meeting With Grants/Public Information Specialist Carol Foster

Chairman Crossland explained that he had a meeting with Carol Foster and she would like him to help her with Ecology tips for the newspaper and tweets. He noted that he was able to come up with a tweet to give to Ms. Foster which states that recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours. He mentioned that there are no grants that Ms. Foster is aware of at this moment. If the Board members would like to know of any grants for things such as the C.U.T.E. Project, they can email Ms. Foster and she will find out for the board.

6) Adjournment

There was no further business to be discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Elora R. Sakal
Board Secretary

Approved as written during meeting of: 09-05-2012

Words ~~-stricken through-~~ have been deleted. Underscored words represent changes. All other words remain unchanged.

“The comments, discussions, recommendations and proposed actions of City Citizen Advisory Boards do not constitute the policy, position, or prospective action of the City, which may only be established and authorized by an appropriate vote or other action of the City Council”.
