

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes December 5, 2022

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, December 5, 2022, in the Downtown Library Auditorium, 101 W Flagler. Sign in sheets are attached.

Miami River Commission (MRC) Policy Committee Members and/or Designees attending:

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman, Miami River Commission
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez
Eddie Marti Kring, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins
Mercedes Librada Rodriguez, designee for City of Miami Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla
Patty Harris, designee for Governor
T. Spencer Crowley, III, Member at Large Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City Commission
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Sara Babun
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor
Philip Everingham, designee for Marine Council

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their November 7 public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

The Miami River Commission applauds the Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Ileana Garcia, the Florida Legislature, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, for awarding \$600,000 in a competitive grant program to improve water quality in the Miami River portion of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve. The funding will be used for the following:

1. The Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel removes floating debris while significantly improving water quality via decontaminating 600,000 gallons of water per hour and injecting 150,000 liters of oxygen per hour into the Miami River (\$35,000)
2. Contracting private sector vacuum trucks to provide supplemental maintenance of the State, County and City's stormwater systems (\$300,000)
3. Manual labor picking up garbage along the drains, curbs and gutters, just before it enters the Miami River's stormwater system (\$165,000)
4. Street Sweeper Truck Services (\$100,000)

“Miami” is a Tequesta word meaning “sweet water”, which historically emanated from the Miami River. Thanks to this strongly appreciated assistance from the State of Florida, together with our other public and private sector partners, we will make the Miami River “sweet water” once again.

The Miami River Commission has been actively assisting the efforts of the City, County, State, and private sector to clean up the Miami River District. In addition to the maintenance professionals the MRC pays daily to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping and pressure washing services along the Miami River, the MRC thanks the volunteers from Hands on Miami for picking up garbage along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park on November 20.

I thank all the advertisers whom renewed their support in the 12th Annual Miami River 2023 Calendar which has been distributed.

In addition, before you is the Miami River Commission’s 2022 Annual Report.

The free 24th Annual Miami Riverday will be held April 1, 2023, 1-6 PM, Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive, featuring free oat rides, live music, environmental education, historic reenactors, children’s activities, food and drinks.

The next public MRC meeting is January 9, 2023, noon, 101 W Flagler.

II) City of Miami Planning Department Presentation of Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to Address the “Peril of Flood” Requirements From Florida Statute

Sue Trone and Ryan Shedd, City of Miami Planning Department, presented the City of Miami’s proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as required by the 2015 Florida Legislature’s adopted “Peril of Flood” Amendment. MRC Subcommittee Chairman Murley applauded the City of Miami’s excellent efforts. Chairman Murley stated after completing the Water Resource Action Plan (WRAP) the County will consider working with the City to create an Adaptive Action Area (AAA) Plan for the Miami River District.

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution noting the proposed new Objective “LU 6.2 The City will adopt one resilient neighborhood every two years to decrease vulnerabilities to seas level rise and climate change through sustainable land use planning and infrastructure development” and recommended approval of the entire presented item while encouraging the Miami River District neighborhoods be adopted as resilient neighborhoods (i.e. Durham Park, Grove Park, Little Havana, Allapattah, Overtown, Downtown, Spring Garden, etc.), and allowing public expenditures of Marine Infrastructure.

III) Long Term Update Regarding 17 and 22 Ave Bridges

The MRC Urban Infill Subcommittee's distributed November 30, 2022 public meeting minutes state: "MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau stated several MRC board members, Miami River residents and business owners have been asking for more information and a public discussion regarding the 17 Ave and 22 Ave Bridges. Mr. Bibeau distributed Miami-Dade County's fact sheet for the 17 Ave bridge repair project, which is estimated to be completed between March and June 2023. Mr. Bibeau noted Miami-Dade County contracted for a PD&E study is required to be completed before replacing the 17 Ave Bridge. Currently there is significant traffic on 22 Ave, therefore Mr. Bibeau suggested the County consider conducting a traffic analysis of 22 Ave while 17 Ave Bridge is still closed, and then implement the traffic analysis recommendations prior to commencing the upcoming replacement of the 17 Ave Bridge. In addition, Mr. Bibeau stated it is his understanding that the County's aging 22 Ave Bridge will need to be replaced, and considering the entire process from start to finish can take 10 years, perhaps it was time to start that conversation as well, while we first stay focused on the 17 Ave Bridge, both of which should have a majority Federal / State cost share. Mr. Bibeau extended a cordial invitation for Miami-Dade County to present the item during the MRC's December 5 public meeting."

Ryan Fisher, Miami Dade County Public Works, stated he agreed with MRC Director Bibeau's suggestion for the County to conduct a traffic analysis of 22 Ave ASAP, while 17 Ave Bridge is still closed, and then implement the traffic analysis recommendations prior to commencing the upcoming replacement of the 17 Ave Bridge. Mr. Fisher stated the County will try to expedite the 17 Ave PD&E which usually takes over 3 years to complete, and the estimated cost to replace the bridge is \$100 million.

IV) New Business

The public meeting adjourned.

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Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

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