

**Miami River Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2019**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, March 4, 2019, 1407 NW 7 ST.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, MRC Chairman, Appointed by Governor Scott
Frank Balzebre, MRC Vice Chairman, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez
City of Miami Commissioner Wifredo “Willy” Gort
Patty Harris, designee for Governor
Maggie Fernandez, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Higgins
Neal Schafers, Downtown Development Authority
Philip Everingham, designee for the Marine Council
Sandy O’Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Bruce Brown, President, Miami River Marine Group
Sallye Jude, Appointed by Miami-Dade County
Duber Lizardo, designee for Sara Babun
Manny Prieguez, Member at Large Appointed by City of Miami
Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Please see attached sign in sheets.

I) Chair Report

The Miami River Commission (MRC) unanimously adopted the distributed February 4, 2019 public meeting minutes.

The 23rd Annual free Miami Riverday festival will be held April 6, 2019, Lummus Park, 1-6 PM, featuring free Miami River boat rides, live music, environmental education, paddleboard races, historic re-enactors, children activities, food, drinks and more. Everyone is invited to this free celebration of the mixed-use Miami River District, so please take the bilingual flyers and help us distribute them to your families and friends. The MRC sincerely appreciates all of the generous sponsors whom kindly make this free festival possible.

In addition, the MRC thanks all of the advertisers in the 16th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, which will be released at Miami Riverday.

Frank Balzebre, MRC Vice Chairman, provided the following Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) update:

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.

The MRC thanks the 30 volunteers from Lawton Childs School, whom on February 8 picked up garbage along the Sewell Park shoreline.

The MRC thanks the 10 volunteers from Hands on Miami. Whom on February 16 pulled weeds in the community vegetable and fruit garden, and picked up garbage along the public Riverwalk, here at 1407 NW 7 ST.

The MRC's next 2 coordinated and sponsored volunteer cleanup events are:

On March 16 - 40 volunteers will repaint the mural on the Miami River Greenway located beneath the Flagler Bridge on North River Drive

On March 30 - 10 volunteers from Hands on Miami will pull weeds in the community vegetable and fruit garden, and pick up garbage along the public Riverwalk, here at 1407 NW 7 ST

II. Presentation of the “Miami River Watershed Plan” from the Nature Conservancy – Sonia Succar Rodriguez

Ms. Sonia Succar Rodriguez, The Nature Conservancy, distributed and presented copies of “Cities Miami”. The main themes are:

- Transforming the City Landscape”
- Advancing Urban Water Solutions – Ms. Rodriguez stated she supports increased services from the Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel
- Create Tangible Projects
- Map Model and Plan

Ms. Rodriguez stated the Nature Conservancy's Plans are consistent with the Miami River Commission's adopted:

1. *Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan*
2. *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*
3. *Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Report*
4. *Miami River Walk the WBID*
5. *Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Walk the WBID*

Ms. Rodriguez stated The Nature Conservancy will soon advertise a request for proposals to construct the presented plan to improve the County owned public greenspace on Wagner Creek located at 1500 NW 12 Ave. MRC Director Bibeau distributed a copy of the MRC's “Miami's 21st Century Park – An Integrated System of Parks and Greenways along the Miami River”, featuring an over decade old picture of volunteers planting plants in this site's waterfront

greenspace after removing the chain link fence creating public access. Recently the site was used for staging during the successfully completed Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project, and will now thankfully be renovated and improved by the Nature Conservancy. In addition, Ms. Rodriguez' presentation included The Nature Conservancy's plan for a public greenspace featuring Greenways along both shores of a section of Wagner Creek located at Miami-Dade County owned 1395 NW 12 Ave and University of Miami Owned 1150 NW 14 ST. Attendees discussed the need to create a solution to any potential loss of existing parking spaces at 1150 NW 14 ST.

Ms. Rodriguez stated The Nature Conservancy is happy to sponsor Miami Riverday, where they will release a new App to take pictures of wildlife and post them.

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution that this partnership benefits the Miami River District, Miami River Commission, and The Nature Conservancy.

III. New Business

The meeting adjourned.

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 Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & E-MAIL</u>
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John C. Robbins	Miami Today	
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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & E-MAIL</u>
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SALLYE JUDZ	MRC	305667-3233
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