

**Miami River Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2017**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, November 6, 2017, 1407 NW 7 ST.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Civic Organization Representative Appointed by Governor Scott
Patty Harris, designee for Governor Scott
Frank Carollo, City of Miami-Commissioner
Frank Balzebre, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Gimenez
David Maer, designee for Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle
Neal Schafers, designee for Downtown Development Authority Director Robertson
Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami
Roselvic Noguera, designee for Sara Babun
John Michael Cornell, designee for Luis Garcia Appointed by Governor Scott
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group
Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County
Manny Prieguez, Member-at-Large 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 MRC unanimously adopted the MRC's October 2, 2017 public meeting minutes.

Commissioner Frank Carollo stated he has enjoyed being a volunteer MRC board member for the past 8 years, and will term out of his City Commission elected position in November. The MRC thanked Commissioner Carollo for his 8 years of service and support for the Miami River District as a volunteer MRC board member.

I welcome Miami River resident and homeowner Mr. Tom Kimen to today's meeting. As you may recall, years ago Dr. Ernie Martin appointed Mr. Kimen to serve as his MRC designee, but Ernie's attendance was very consistent therefore Tom's attendance wasn't necessary. Ernie's not feeling well enough to attend today, therefore the MRC appreciates Tom's time and participation as his designee.

MRC Chairman Aguirre noted per the MRC's enabling legislation, the Chair of the Miami-Dade's State Legislative Delegation serves as a MRC board member. Considering the former excellent Dade Delegation Chairman Jose Felix Diaz had been appointed by the MRC to serve as the MRC's Vice Chairman as well, as noted on today's public MRC meeting agenda, the MRC needs to appoint a new MRC Vice Chairman. Therefore, MRC Chairman Aguirre asked for anyone interested in being considered to become the MRC's Vice Chair to raise their hand, or for any MRC board member to nominate another MRC board member to become the MRC Vice Chairman. Frank Balzebre, MRC designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, raised his hand and nominated himself to become the MRC's Vice Chairman. Sandy O'Neil then nominated Frank Balzebre to become the MRC's Vice-Chairman, because he has been a positive board member for several years and is the designee for the Miami-Dade Mayor. No other nominations were made and the MRC unanimously accepted Frank Balzebre to become the MRC's Vice-Chairman.

The MRC has submitted all necessary written forms to renew the moderate request for \$150,000 from the State's FY 18-19 budget. I recently flew to Tallahassee in support of the MRC's funding request, and met with Kevin Reilly, Governor Scott's Director of Legislative Affairs, and the Office of Representative Trujillo. On behalf of the MRC, I thank Senator Rene Garcia and Representative Nicholas Duran for sponsoring the MRC's funding request. In addition, I thank Diana Arteaga, Esq, City of Miami's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, for her support and guidance regarding the MRC's funding request, and her participation in the recent meetings in Tallahassee.

Please note the following 2 items distributed before you:

- MRC's 2018 Public Meeting Calendar
- Invitations to the fabulous free Annual Miami River Art Fair the week of Art Basel, Monday Dec 4, 5 & 6 at the riverfront James L Knight Convention Center.

Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP)

MRC Managing Director Bibeau stated 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 after Hurricane Irma, using both a paid professional company and volunteers.

On behalf of the MRC Director Bibeau thanked:

- 12 volunteers from Marlins Ayudan whom on Oct. 4 cleaned up a section of the public Riverwalk
- 35 volunteers from the University of Miami whom on Oct. 28 cleaned up a section of the public Riverwalk

The MRC reported a derelict vessel, which was removed.

II. Discussion with Captain Maza, Florida Fish and Wildlife

Captain Maza, Florida Fish and Wildlife (FFW), provided an overview of their services along the Miami River including enforcement of the idle no wake boat speed limit and vessel dockage laws (33 CFR 165.726b2), relocation of alligators, etc. Capt. Maza stated they only have 21 boats in the entire County, and although FFW does provide services along the Miami River, for example they recently made 2 arrests on the River, they often get tied up providing law enforcement services at the large sandbar parties in Biscayne Bay. Captain Maza stated although the FFW may enforce the Fed. Law regarding mooring, they prefer the United States Coast Guard take the lead in enforcement. Captain Maza stated FFW will try to relocate the Alligator recently reported at various locations along the Miami River. Captain Maza noted the increased population of iguanas along the Miami River, which are an invasive species. Captain Maza stated their telephone hotline is *FWC. Captain Maza stated FFW is working with the Unified Command to remove derelicts in Miami Dade County created by Hurricane Irma.

Roselvic Noguera, Antillean Marine and Mark Bailey, Miami River Marine Group, noted the concerning problems of increased recreational vessels violating the idle no wake speed limit, boating under the influence of alcohol, and illegally docking in the federal navigable channel, causing hazards to navigation for the shipping vessels under tow in Port Miami River. Ms Noguera stated Antillean designed the distributed “Miami River Boater’s Tips – Promoting Safety and Security”, which the MRC printed 250 copies and are distributing them to Miami River restaurants, marinas, and boatyards. Captain Maza stated FFW will continue to work on enforcement of these important laws, and in addition will provide a boating safety book and additional signage.

The MRC passed a unanimous advisory recommendation to increase resources for the Florida Fish and Wildlife, and City of Miami Marine Patrol, for increased enforcement of public safety and security laws along the Miami River, considering the increase in vessel traffic on the Miami River with new riverfront restaurants, etc.

III. New Business

Sandy O’Neil stated if the “Miami Forever General Obligation Bond” issue is approved by the public at referendum on November 7, she recommends the MRC have a voting seat on the Bond Oversight Board which would be created. The MRC concurred and noted the proposed Bond issue includes significant funding to address Sea Level Rise, construct the public Riverwalk with needed seawalls, etc.

The meeting adjourned.

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 Noon
 1407 NW 7 ST
 Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE / FAX / E-MAIL</u>
Sandy O'Neil	GMCC	oneils@bellsouth.net
ALBERTO MAZA	FWC	ALBERTO.MAZA@MYFWC.COM
Neal Schufers	Miami DDA	schufers@miamidda.com
FRANK Botzler	Office of Mayor Ginner	FRANCESCO MURMIDOLLO ✓
JOHN MICHAEL CORNELL	HC/TSS	(590) 214-1475
DAVID MAER	SAO	DAVIDMAER@MIAMISA.COM
Manny Priquez		Manny@PriquezSolutions.com
FRANK CAROLLO	MIAMI	
RoseLvie Noguera	MRC- Designee Sara Babson	roselvie@infomac.com noguera@antillean.com
Saeed Jude	MRC	305 447-3233
TOM KIMEN	MRC. ERIC MARTIN ATTORNEY	305-992-4590
PATTY HARAS	MRC	PATTYKAK@GMAIL.COM
BRUCE L. BROWN	MRC/MRMS	305/788-6711
Horacio Stuart Aguirre	MRC	horacio@hsaguirre.com

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE / FAX / E-MAIL</u>
Wayne Tillman	CITY OF MIAMI POLICE	(786) 226-6089 / w.tillman@miamigov.com
Lourey Barrelli	MDC-DEEM	305-372-6575 / barrelli@miami-dade.gov
Mark Bailey	Miami River Marine Group	markbailey@miamirivermarinegroup.org
John C. Robbins	Miami Today	
Michael Dubas	River Front Master Association	manager@riverfrontmaster.com 786-897-6472
Daniel Diaz	City of Miami	DDiaz@miamigov.com
Abigail Mahony	City of Miami DA	amahony@miamigov.com
Guillermo DeNacimiento	City of Miami	gdenacimiento@miamigov.com