

# **Miami River Commission's Economic Development and Commerce Subcommittee October 6, 2015 Minutes**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) Economic Development and Commerce (EDC) Subcommittee conducted a public meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 2 PM, 1407 NW 7 Street. MRC EDC Chairman Philip Everingham ran the meeting. The attendance sign in sheet is enclosed.

## **I) Presentation by Carlos Castro, FDOT Freight Logistics Coordinator**

Mr. Carlos Castro, FDOT Freight Logistics Coordinator, presented a Powerpoint presentation. Consistent with MRC advocacy and the Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, the Miami River is now in FDOT's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) plan. Therefore the area is now eligible for SIS funding, starting with \$300,000 to create the "Miami River Freight Improvement Plan", which will make a business case to get further SIS funding to implement the plan of improvements to the Port of Miami River. The plan will "Develop and implement strategies to improve freight mobility and viable options to improve intermodal freight movement and potential of Short Sea Shipping along the Port of Miami River. FDOT will advertise for bids in March 2016, contract the awarded bidder in September 2016, and invited the MRC to serve on the selection committee. The Plan is estimated to be completed in June 2017. Mr. Castro stated since 2011 FDOT spent \$850 million on Sea Ports in Florida.

Mr. Castro noted the MPO recently appropriated \$100,000 to study replacing the Brickell Bridge with a downtown Miami River tunnel.

## **II) Discussion of a New Palm Oil / Shipping Terminal in the Upper River**

On March 3, 2015 the County Commission adopted a \$90,000 sales tax rebate for this proposed new business. MRC Director Bibeau stated the out of town business owner, Eugene Talford, stated due to the Hurricane in his hometown in South Carolina, he was unable to attend and asked for the item to be deferred until the subcommittee's December public meeting.

## **III) Status of Creating the "Miami River Property & Business Database"**

MRC Director Bibeau distributed the following summary:

### **Phase I – "Miami River Property & Business Database"**

- Print every riverfront (including tributaries) parcel from Miami-Dade County Tax Appraiser website at [www.miamidade.gov](http://www.miamidade.gov) (includes square footage, market assessed value, etc.). Provide all printouts geographically (east to west) and insert data into an excel spreadsheet.
- Categorize all parcels based on use and listed geographically from east to west, i.e. residential, parks, restaurants, hotels, marinas, boatyards, shipping terminals, commercial fishing, etc.

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

- For each use, add total assessed taxes in most recent year.
- For all parcels provide total assessed taxes in most recent year.
- Contact all marinas to determine:
  - a. How many total boat slips per Marina?
  - b. How many currently available boat slips per Marina?
  - c. How many total boat slips?
  - d. How many currently available slips?

Director Bibeau noted for each address that has a high-rise development, each unit within the development has its own folio, tax assessed value, market assessed value, etc. MRC Director Bibeau thanked Miami-Dade County Tax Appraiser Pedro Garcia and his Department for their willingness to assist in gathering and providing their available public information from the County Tax Appraiser's website.

EDC Chairman Everingham asked if the Miami River Marine Group (MRMG) had further considered the potential of being retained for no more than \$2,000 to assist in the efforts to create the "Miami River Property & Business Database" and MRMG President Brown and Executive Director Bailey stated they would place the item on the MRMG's next meeting agenda for consideration.

Phase II of this effort would be hiring an economist to analyze what the economic impact on the Port of Miami River would be if President Obama's proposed changes allowing free trade with Cuba are implemented.

EDC Chairman Everingham stated the Miami River Fund Inc. recently amended its current FY 15-'16 budget to include \$10,000 for these efforts, per the following estimates:

- "Miami River Property & Business Database" = \$2,500
- Miami River Marine Group Assistance = \$2,000
- Economist's Analysis of what the economic impact on the Port of Miami River would be if President Obama's proposed changes allowing free trade with Cuba are implemented = \$6,500
- Total = \$10,000

#### **IV) New Business**

The meeting adjourned.

**Miami River Commission's  
Economic Development and Commerce Subcommittee  
Public Meeting**

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

2 PM

1407 NW 7 ST

Miami, FL

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