

Miami River Commission's Greenways Subcommittee October 21, 2015 Minutes

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) Urban Infill Subcommittee conducted a public meeting on October 21, 2015, 3:00 PM, 1407 NW 7 Street. The attendance sign in sheet is enclosed. MRC Greenways Subcommittee Chairman Ernie Martin ran the meeting.

I) City of Miami Public Riverwalk Construction Updates

MRC Director Bibeau stated MRC Chairman Aguirre and he met with City Commissioner Gort, whom agreed the City of Miami will apply for Federal TEP Grants for \$2 million to construct the public Miami River Greenway along both sides of the Miami River, from 17 Ave proceeding west. Commissioner Gort asked for a follow up meeting with the City of Miami's CITP and Grants Department, and all attendees are confirmed to meet on October 26.

The City of Miami is currently constructing the public Miami River Greenway from the Miami Circle to the South Miami Ave Bridge, using the last of the previously awarded Federal TEP grants.

Repairs are needed on the lights along the City's public Riverwalk on the City owned 460 SW 2 Ave.

Miami-Dade County is giving the City of Miami nearly \$1 million to construct another section of the Miami River Greenway, and asked the City of Miami where they want to use it. The County indicated they did not want the City to use this funding for the originally proposed 1 block of on-road Miami River Greenway from 12 Ave bridge to 836, and are seeking a more park like section of the public Riverwalk. Attendees discussed needs for Riverwalk funding at County's 1407 NW 7 ST, a small County owned riverfront green space on the River's south shore, just east of 17 Ave Bridge, City of Miami's Fort Dallas Park (which is located adjacent to the County's "Riverwalk" Metro-Mover Station), light repairs along Riverwalk at 460 2 Ave, etc.

II) Miami-Dade County Public Riverwalk Construction Updates

Miami-Dade County is nearing completion of the new public Riverwalk sections beneath Metro-Rail on both shores of the Miami River.

MRC continues to recommend Miami-Dade County decide which section of the public Riverwalk to expend the remaining balance of the "Miami River Greenway" line item within the County's 2003 GOB Bond Issue. During the last MRC meeting Commissioner Barreiro indicated upcoming new public affordable housing developments at 1407 NW 7 ST would trigger the City Code's requirement to construct the adjacent new section of the public Riverwalk.

In addition the MRC continues to recommend Miami-Dade County apply for matching TEP and FIND grants for future sections of the public Riverwalk.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

III) Private Sector Public Riverwalk Construction Updates

Sushi-Samba, featuring a new section of public Riverwalk, is expected to commence construction soon.

Neo Vertika and Latitude on the River are making progress on bringing their sections of the public Riverwalk into compliance.

The MRC is communicating with FPL regarding their previous verbal commitments to repair the broken garbage cans, lights, benches, and increase landscaping and garbage removal along the FPL owned section of the public Riverwalk.

IV) Volunteer Miami River Greenway Beautification Events

The MRC coordinated and funded a volunteer Miami River Greenway cleanup on 10/17. The next MRC coordinated and funded volunteer Miami River Greenway cleanup will be held 10/24.

V) New Business

Per the request of MRC Chairman Aguirre and MRC Greenways subcommittee Chairman Martin, the following documents were distributed and reviewed regarding 1175 NW South River drive:

- Board of County Commissioner's Economic Prosperity Committee's Agenda Item 2(B), a \$1.5 million "Economic Development Fund" grant to fund a public Riverwalk and new seawall at the "Naeem Khan Project".
- Recent photos of 1175 NW South River Drive, featuring significant garbage along the shoreline, overgrown invasive plant species and weeds, and a homeless camp on the vacant and fenced "no-trespassing" lot
- City of Miami's adopted zoning code section 3.11 and Appendix B
- City of Miami's adopted zoning code, "Article 4, Table 3, Building Function: Uses"

Director Bibeau stated the distributed County Agenda item was approved at subcommittee and will be considered by the full Board of County Commissioners on 11/3/15. MRC Chairman Aguirre stated the County Commission passed a resolution requesting the MRC provide an advisory recommendation on all agenda items impacting the Miami River, therefore yesterday he decided to place this item on the MRC's 11/2/15 public meeting agenda. The "Naeem Khan Project" was invited to present at this subcommittee and the full MRC on Nov. 2, 11:30 AM, Lummus Park, 360 NW 3 ST.

Mark Bailey, Miami River Marine Group, noted 1175 NW South River Drive, leased by the Board of County Commissioners to Naheem Kahn for his proposed project, is zoned the most restrictive "D3" and the currently designated Land Use is "Port of Miami River". Therefore, Mr. Bailey questioned if the proposed project is consistent with the vacant site's existing land use and zoning, or would it require a land use & zoning amendment, "warrant" or "exception"?

Due to the development team being unavailable to present or provide the plans, and pending questions regarding zoning and land use, MRC Greenways subcommittee Chairman Martin did not create a recommendation for the MRC's consideration regarding the pending County grant and draft plans. **Dr Martin recommended if the "Naheem Khan Project" draft plans are not provided to the full MRC before their 11/2 public meeting with this item on the agenda, then the MRC should recommend the County Commission defer considering the \$1.5 million grant, until after the plans are presented to the MRC in order for the MRC to vote and create the advisory recommendation as requested by the County Commission. In addition, MRC Greenways Chairman Martin suggested the full MRC recommended Mr. Kahn start providing basic maintenance of 1175 South River Drive ASAP, such as garbage removal and landscaping, as is required under his lease with Miami-Dade County.**

The meeting adjourned.

**Miami River Commission's
Greenways Subcommittee Meeting**

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

3:00 PM

1407 NW 7 Street

Miami, FL

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