

Miami River Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2014

Mr. Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman of the Miami River Commission (MRC), convened the public meeting at noon, December 1, 2014, 1407 NW 7 ST, Miami, FL.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman

Jay Carmichael, Vice-Chairman

Patricia Harris, designee for FL Governor

Gary Winston, designee for Miami-Dade ST Attorney

Sandy Batchelor, South Florida Water Management District

Marlene Avalo, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barreiro

Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Ernie Martin, Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami

Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County

Richard Dubin, designee for Miami River Marine Group

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Please see attached sign in sheets.

The MRC unanimously adopted their previously distributed November 3, 2014 public meeting minutes, with a few clarifications requested by MRC Vice Chairman Carmichael.

I. Chair Report – Horacio Stuart Aguirre

“Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the December 1st, 2014 regularly scheduled meeting of the Miami River Commission. It is now 12:10 PM and we are now in session.

My name is Horacio Stuart Aguirre and it is my privilege and pleasure to serve as your chairman.

With me, to my immediate right is the Vice-Chairman, Adm. Jay Carmichael and to his immediate right is Mr. Phil Everingham, President of Miami River Fund, Inc., the fiscal agent of the Miami River Commission. Both of these gentlemen produce very significant contributions to the commission and community, too much of which goes unsung but is well known to the powers in government and to this board.

To my immediate left is Mr. Brett Bibeau, the Managing Director of the Miami River Commission, who tirelessly toils to make things happen for the commission.

As a reminder, this is a Public Meeting and is thus being recorded and minutes will be published. There is an expectation of truthfulness and completeness in all presentations made before this body. Voting on all real estate matters will be taken by voice roll-call vote and the votes by individual voters is recorded.

The PowerPoint Presentation features pictures from two major Miami River Commission funded and coordinated volunteer beautification events in November on the Miami River Greenway. We thank all the volunteers from the Miami Marlins Ayudan and Hands on Miami who performed outstanding service on these two occasions. The volunteers painted a new mural, planted, harvested, and spread recycled mulch in the community vegetable and fruit garden and picked up litter along two sections of the public Miami River Greenway.

Once again, the Miami River Commission is very proud to publish and distribute the 4th Annual Miami River Calendar. Many, many thanks to all the generous Miami River advertisers. Please ask Brett Bibeau for copies of the calendar to distribute to your neighbors, friends and colleagues. This item is a year-long useful tool that promotes the vibrancy and diversity of the Miami River Corridor.

Along with Art Basel Week, we also have Annual Miami River Art Show, coordinated by Ms. Nina Torres starting this Thursday and continuing through this weekend. Brett has placed invitations to this event before you. This is a wonderful event, one of the “must to do’s” for this time of year and I strongly encourage you to join me and many civic leaders at this exhibition.

The 19th Annual Miami Riverday festival will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015, from 1 to 6 PM, at Lummus Park, located at 250 NW North River Drive. This event features free Miami River Boat Tours, fabulous live music, delicious food, invigorating beverages, environmental education, historic re-enactors, children activities and much more. Please contact Director Bibeau ASAP to become a sponsor or refer a possible sponsor.”

Miami River “Voluntary Improvement Plan”, Vice-Chairman Jay Carmichael

The following are examples of some of the Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) items addressed in November:

MRC reported 2 new small derelict vessels which recently appeared in Lummus Park. I thank DERM for Posting the vessels, which provides required 30 days notice / warning to the owners.

Last Miami River VIP report we discussed 5 South River Drive, which had been vacant for over 15 years and attracting trespassers and crime. We thank the new owners for demolishing the structure, and the new owners are working on plans to bring to the Miami River Commission. We continue to communicate with the City about their adjacent vacant 1 South River Drive, which is also suffering from trespassers and crime, and should be improved into a public greenspace or put out to bid for a new tenant. Ms. Sallye Jude made a motion for the MRC to recommend the vacant City riverfront site become a public greenspace. MRC Director Bibeau

noted several years ago the City of Miami drafted a Request for Letters of Interest (RFLI) for the site, but never advertised it, and the new adjacent owners of 5 S River Drive emailed an offer of assistance for the City's consideration. Director Bibeau noted this item was intended to be part of the Miami River VIP informational report, and was not intended to be voted on, therefore not specifically on the MRC's publicly noticed meeting agenda, therefore no additional background materials were provided, etc. The MRC asked for the item to be considered and placed on the MRC Greenways and Urban Infill subcommittee's December 10 public meeting agenda, and then be placed on the full MRC's 1/5/15 public meeting agenda.

The MRC thanks:

- Miami-Dade County for removing overgrown weeds and invasive plant species which had overtaken the shoreline at County owned vacant 1175 South River Drive.
- The MRC thanks FPL and the City of Miami for repairing several of the broken street lights along North and South River Drive. We continue to work with them to ensure all street lights are functional along the Miami River.
- The MRC thanks Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places for commencing Phase I repairs of the iconic colored rainbow lights on the Miami River Metro-Rail Bridge. Phase II of the repairs has been delayed to next fiscal year, starting October 1, 2015, if funds become available then.

II. Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics Informational Presentation

Per the MRC's voluntary invitation, Rhonda Sibilias, Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics, provided an informational presentation and answered questions. Copies of the following 2 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics documents were distributed, "Highlights of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code" and "Governing Above Board – Miami-Dade County Advisory Board Ethics Education Program". Ms. Sibilias presented the concepts of the Sunshine Law, Public Records, Conflict of Interest, etc. Ms. Sibilias noted considering the MRC was not created by the County, it is not required by law to abide by the County's Ethics Code, yet voluntarily chooses on its own accord to act ethically, operates under the sunshine law, etc. Phil Everingham, President of the Miami River Fund Inc (MRFI) which serves as the MRC's non-profit 501c3 financial arm, asked if the MRFI was required to operate under the sunshine law, and Ms Sibilias stated the MRFI is a private non-profit, therefore not subject to the Sunshine Law.

III. Miami River Commission Subcommittee Reports

A. Greenways Subcommittee - Chair Dr. Ernie Martin

Invitations were distributed to the next 2 MRC coordinated and funded volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events on December 4 and December 13, with volunteers from the Miami Marlins Ayudan and Hands on Miami.

The MRC Greenways subcommittee's next public meeting is a joint meeting with the Urban Infill subcommittee on December 10, 3 PM, 1407 NW 7 ST, featuring the proposed plans for the Related Group's "444 Brickell", where some of the tenants renting in the current low-rise buildings are Capital Grille and Customs.

B. Stormwater Subcommittee, Chair Sallye Jude

The Stormwater subcommittee's next public meeting is this Wednesday, 10 AM.

The City of Miami recently secured a \$22 million Clean Water Revolving Loan from the State of Florida for the fully permitted Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. The City is scheduled to release the RFP soon, and start dredging in early 2015.

The MRC meeting adjourned.

**Miami River Commission
Public Meeting**

Monday, December 1, 2014
Noon
1407 NW 7 ST
Miami, FL

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Jay Carmichael	MRC	305-376-6090
Richard Dubin	MRMG	786-344-5883
SANDY PATLHELOU	SFLDMD DESIGNER	305/534-5004 SPATLHELOU@CITYOFMIAMI.ORG
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Ernest Martin	MRC	305 325.8730
SALLYE JUDE	MRC	305 667 3233

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