

# **Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, December 1, 2025, in the Downtown Library Auditorium, 101 W Flagler. Sign in sheets are attached.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman, Appointed by the Governor  
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Suarez  
Frank Castaneda, designee for City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela  
Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council  
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission  
Richard Murphy, designee for Eileen Broton  
Gary Gunness, Miami River Marine Group  
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the County Commission  
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor  
Neal Schafers, designee for Miami Downtown Development Authority  
William Gonzalez, designee for Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle

**MRC Staff:**

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

## **I) Chair's Report and "Voluntary Improvement Plan" (VIP) Update**

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their October public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Aguirre provided the following report:

The Miami River Commission's 2025 Annual Report was distributed.

The MRC appreciates the 15 advertisers in the Miami River 2026 Calendar which is before you and starting distribution.

The free 27th Annual Miami Riverday will be held April 11, 2026, 1-6 PM, Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive, featuring free boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic reenactors, children's activities, food and drinks. If you would like to sponsor Miami Riverday, or advertise in the MRC's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Miami River Map & Guide, please contact MRC Director Bibeau.

MRC Vice Chairman Jim Murley is unable to join us today, which is rare, therefore I will provide his 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 keep the Miami River District clean. The MRC pays professional

maintenance companies every day to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping, pressure washing, and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services along the Miami River.

The MRC thanks the Hands-on-Miami volunteers whom picked up garbage along the Miami River in Curtis Park on November 23.

**II) Presentation from Florida Department of Transportation Regarding Upcoming Repairs to the 27 Avenue Bridge**

Ron Sanchez, Maria Larrazabal, and Geidy Coello, presented a PowerPoint on behalf of FDOT regarding the following improvements to the 27 Ave Bridge: A new bridge electrical control system, new bridge deck with bicycle sensitive detailing, and rehabilitate a hydraulic piston. The following timeline was presented:

- Plans Summer 2026
- Construction Starts Fall 2027
- Duration 20 Months
- Construction Ends Summer 2029
- Cost \$9 million

They will be meeting with United States Coast Guard and Miami River marine industrial businesses west of 27 Ave Bridge regarding bridge openings during construction.

**III) City of Miami Presentation Regarding Planned Repairs to the Temporarily Closed Lummus Park Community Center, Historic Fort Dallas and Historic Wagner Homestead Buildings Located in Lummus Park**

Danny Lopez presented the following on behalf of the City of Miami Parks Department:

In partnership with the Dade Heritage Trust, the Wagner Homestead (pre-1858 - oldest standing home in Miami-Dade County) has an 80% complete roof replacement.

The Community center has termite and water damage found in the trusses during the 40-year certification process. Therefore, the City is considering partial demolition and partial rebuilding including new bathrooms, flooring, roof, windows and doors, while preserving some portions of the current structure. This project is being managed by the City of Miami's Department of Capital Improvement Projects and has an estimated cost of \$1.1 million.

Eileen Broton respectfully reminded the City to coordinate with the City of Miami's Historic and Environmental Preservation (HEP) Board.

**IV) Presentation from City of Miami Regarding Draft Amendments to the Zoning Code Regarding Vessels, Slips, Docks, etc.**

David Snow and Graham Jones, City of Miami Planning Department, presented their Department's proposed amendments to the City of Miami Zoning Code Regarding Vessels, Slips, Docks, etc. The proposal does not apply to sites zoned for Marine Industrial uses (D1, D2 and D3).

**The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution recommending approval of the presented ordinance with a condition to make a clarification that a wall, etc. is not required along the waterfront.**

**V) Presentation from Miami-Dade County Regarding Current Repairs to the 22 Avenue Bridge**

Ryan Shedd, Miami Dade County, presented a PowerPoint which stated in part:

“Remaining Work and Schedule

- Contractor fabricating structural steel repair components
  - Structural Steel repairs throughout the structure are not as wide spread as thought they may be, however they do need to be addressed to prevent stress on other members.
- Upon completion of Structural Repair
  - Expect Structural Repairs to occur through May 2026.
  - Painting and final close out through August 2026.
- Contractor may need to close bridge to traffic in the future to rehabilitate locking mechanism .
- DTPW is under design now for Machinery & Electrical replacement (major rehabilitation)
  - Evaluating options for riding surface decking replacement.”

**VI) Discussion Regarding Miami Dade County Owned 3795 NW South River Drive**

MRC Managing Director Bibeau provided the following report:

When the upper river's Metro-Rail Bridge was permitted to be built at only 40 feet tall vs Federal Registered required 75 feet tall over the Miami River's Federal Navigable Channel, because Miami-Dade County promised to use the large riverfront parcel acquired by eminent domain as a temporary construction easement

to be used in the future for marine industrial purposes. After the new Metro-Rail Bridge was constructed, Miami Dade County honored that commitment by renting the County's riverfront to Betty K when it was used as international shipping terminal for over a decade. The Betty K was recently sold and the new owners of the private parcel located east of the County parcels indicated they no longer want to rent the County's land. Therefore, the County's valuable riverfront land is currently vacant and fenced. MRC Vice Chairman and Director Bibeau met with Miami Dade County about this issue, and the County indicated when they are prepared they will present their plans for the site to the MRC.

**VII) New Business**

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission

Public Meeting

December 1, 2025 - 12:00 PM

101 W Flagler, Miami FL - Main Library Auditorium

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