

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes January 5, 2026

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, January 5, 2026, 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

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

The Miami River Commission's December 1 public meeting minutes were emailed in advance of today's meeting. **The MRC unanimously adopted the December 1, 2025 public meeting minutes.**

On behalf of the Miami River Commission, we would like to thank the Florida Fish and Wildlife for removing the largest derelict vessel ever from the Miami River. The "Borocho" is now an artificial reef benefitting the environment in Martin County.

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 23rd Annual Miami River Map & Guide, please contact MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau.

MRC Vice Chairman Jim Murley provided the following update of the MRC's Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP):

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 Sewell Park on December 7 and in Curtis Park on December 21.

II) City of Miami Presentation Regarding Proposed Amendments To Miami 21 (City of Miami Zoning Code) Regarding Outdoor Dining

Mawusi Khadija Watson, Chief of Land Development, City of Miami presented a detailed informational PowerPoint, and the City administration's proposed track changed amendments to the Zoning Code "Article 6: Supplemental Regulations 6.3.2.2 Outdoor Dining". Ms. Watson stated none of the proposed amendments apply to, nor impact, any currently operational outdoor dining businesses.

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution recommending approval of the City's proposed amendments to the City Code regarding outdoor dining with the following 3 revisions:

- 1) Do not allow outdoor dining tables and chairs on the public riverwalk required in Zoning Code Section 3.11**
- 2) Allow outdoor dining in all zoning categories / definitions which currently allow restaurants**
- 3) Maintain Current Requirement of Warrant for Outdoor Dining in Marine Industrial D3 Zoning, and do not allow as of right**

III) City of Miami Presentation Regarding Draft New / Updated Bicycle Master Plan

Adrian Dabkowski, Kimley-Horn and Associates, presented the Draft New / Updated Bicycle Master Plan on behalf of the City of Miami. The City contracted Kimley-Horn in 2022 to create the completed plan, and now the City is authoring an addendum to accompany the Plan when considered by the City Commission. Mr. Dabkowski stated after the draft was presented to the MRC Greenways Subcommittee in December, they amended the Miami River Greenway maps depicted in the plan to be consistent with the route in the 22nd Annual Miami River Map & Guide. will be corrected in the upcoming addendum. Attendees noted the importance of finishing the 70% complete public Miami River Greenway, and eliminate all dead-ends and missing sections.

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution recommending approval of the City's draft Bicycle Master Plan with the following 2 revisions:

- 1) Correct the map depicting the route of the Miami River Greenway to be consistent with the route depicted in the 22nd Annual Miami River Map & Guide**
- 2) Provide further future consideration of the upcoming addendum, scoring, and include the Miami River Greenway in the upcoming list of top 10 priorities**

IV) Informational Presentation Regarding "LUMINSEA"

John Ruiz, Esq, presented an informational PowerPoint and video regarding LUMINSEA featuring new high-tech channel markers featuring:

- Improved lighting which improves boating safety
- Video cameras
- Internet / AI connectivity
- Captures boat speeds and types
- Advertising opportunities on phone app for waterfront businesses etc.

MRC Chairman Aguirre stated he recommended use of the improved channel markers presented by LUMINSEA.

V) New Business

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission

Public Meeting

January 5, 2026 - 12:00 PM

101 W Flagler, Miami FL - Main Library Auditorium

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