

Miami River Commission Meeting Minutes February 3, 2020

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, February 3, 2020, 1407 NW 7 ST.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, MRC Chairman, Appointed by Governor Scott

Frank Balzebre, Vice Chair, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez

Patty Harris, designee for Governor

John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor

David Maer, designee for Miami-Dade ST Attorney Fernandez-Rundle

County Commissioner Eileen Higgins

Maggie Fernandez, designee for County Commissioner Higgins

Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council

Neal Schafers, Downtown Development Authority

Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County

Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group

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

Roselvic Noguera, designee for Sara Babun

Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Please see attached sign in sheets.

I) Chair's Report – MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre

The free 24th Annual Miami Riverday will be held April 4, 2020, featuring free Miami River boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic re-enactors, children activities, food, drinks, and more. Last call for sponsorships so we may enter final design and printing of marketing materials with all the sponsor logos.

In addition, last call for advertisements which are currently for sale in the 17th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, which is released at Miami Riverday.

We have distributed the upcoming U.S. Coast Guard approved temporary additional Brickell bridge opening restrictions necessary to conduct the needed maintenance of the Bridge. Please note these temporary additional restrictions are in addition to the Federal law's current Brickell bridge opening restrictions.

In addition, we have distributed the February 9 Miami Marathon Traffic Advisory, which creates temporary closures to both vessels and cars in portions of the Miami River District.

MRC Vice Chairman Frank Balzebre, MRC Director Bibeau provided the following update on the Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP):

The Miami River Commission has been actively assisting the efforts of the City, County, State, and private sector to clean up the Miami River District.

The MRC thanks the 12 Hands on Miami Volunteers, whom on January 25 maintained the public Riverwalk's community vegetable and fruit garden, and picked up garbage along the Miami River's shoreline here at Robert King High.

I thank the 40 volunteers from Carrolton School whom on Thursday, January 30, picked up garbage on the shore along Curtis Park's public Riverwalk.

II. Miami Dade County Public Housing and Community Development Presentation Regarding "River Parc" Development at 1407 NW 7 ST

Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) Director Michael Liu and Albert Milo Jr, Related Urban, distributed copies of the "River Parc Master Plan (1.06.2020)".

PHCD Director Liu stated the proposal will provide needed affordable housing, in partnership with the private sector development partner. Director Liu stated the 1st building is complete and the 2nd building is currently under construction. Mr. Milo stated numerous previous public meetings were held regarding the proposal, which per the distributed plans feature:

- 1) Public Riverwalk and waterfront building setbacks consistent with the City of Miami Zoning Code Section 3.11 and Appendix B, connecting to the east with NW 13 Ave and to the west under I-836, and featuring security as supported by the residents
- 2) Art in Public Places
- 3) Multi-Purpose Room
- 4) Gym
- 5) Courtyards
- 6) Paseos
- 7) River Plaza (x2)
- 8) "Triangle Park"
- 9) "Waterfront Park"
- 10) "Linear Park
- 11) Restaurant / Commercial Space (details TBD)

PHCD Director Liu stated PHCD will submit an application in the current grant cycle to the Florida Inland Navigation District for a 50% cost share for the proposed new needed and code required seawall and public Riverwalk.

Mr. Milo and Mr. Kirk Lofgren stated the proposal is consistent with the existing land use, T6-8 zoning and Sections 3.15, 3.11, and Appendix B, and will include art in public places. Mr. Milo stated the project will not include a night club or generate loud noise that would disturb this site's elderly residents. The applicants stated the site will include 2,500 units, including 900 replacement units, and in the future, they would benefit from the concepts of waterborne transportation and a trolley route at the site. The total estimated phased construction timeline will take 5-7 years.

Mark Bailey, Miami River Marine Group, noted the City of Miami's comprehensive plan requires new developments to include a "Working River Disclosure".

The following email was distributed at the MRC's Feb. 12 public subcommittee meeting:

"My compliments to the development team! I wanted to make a couple of points regarding the site plan. I make these points not to hinder the process, but to let stakeholders know that the City will ensure that the following items will be independently confirmed phase by phase:

1. Setbacks: all structures are subject to 50' waterfront setbacks, specifically, there is 50' open to the air from the mean high water line.
 - a. Access: Within the setback, a publicly accessible Riverwalk will be included per City of Miami design guidelines.
 - b. Waiver of setback requirements may be granted by the City Commission via a Planning Department application.
2. Special uses: Additional Special permits specific to individual phases and structure will be required as development progresses, i.e. outdoor dining and affordable housing special benefits.

Hopefully, this assurance and requirements will allow the overall masterplan to proceed and allow the River Commission to focus on the items in their purview without being distracted by details which will be under separate future applications.

Best regards,
Jeremy Calleros Gauger
Deputy Director, Planning Department
City of Miami"

The presenters indicated they would incorporate new native trees, and save several of the existing native trees.

Commissioner Higgins stated she supported the project.

The MRC passed a unanimous resolution supporting the ongoing project "River Parc" project, and continuing to coordinate with all the appropriate agencies.

III. Update Regarding Waterborne Transportation

Irene Hegedus, Miami Dade County and Andrew Schimmel, City of Miami Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, distributed and presented a “Waterborne Transportation - Overview” presentation, County Commission resolution adopted Sept 4, 2019, and draft / pending City Commission resolution to authorize an agreement allowing the Poseidon Vessel to load and unload passengers from the James L Knight Convention Center. Ms. Hegedus and Mr. Schimmel stated Miami-Dade County has spearheaded the effort by reaching out to the City of Miami and City of Miami Beach to create a 2 stop dedicated water transportation route between a location on Miami Beach (TBD) and the City of Miami’s selected location, which is the City owned seawall along the public Riverwalk at the James L Knight Convention Center, which is adjacent to the “Riverwalk” Metro-Mover station and a large public parking lot. The vessel will not require openings of the Brickell Bridge. The County administrations proposed private sector vessel is climate controlled and holds 149 passengers. Mr. Schimmel and Ms. Hegedus stated the vessel will depart every 30 minutes, and will reduce vehicular traffic. Ms. Hegedus and Mr. Schimmel stated there is a potential for future expansions of waterborne transportation. Ms. Hegedus stated the County will market this waterborne transportation route, without using the “Poseidon” name of the private sector vessel. **The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution noting their various adopted strategic plans recommend increased waterborne transportation, therefore the MRC acknowledges and suggests approval of the City’s pending draft resolution, which assists in providing waterborne transportation.**

IV. Discuss the DDA Letter to USACE Re Their Back Bay Study

The following documents were distributed:

- DDA 11/8/19 Letter to USACE re their Back Bay Study
- USACE Back Bay Study Summary Presentation
- MRC’s 11/4/19 public meeting minutes featuring the USACE Back Bay Study

Commissioner Higgins stated the USACE will present their 1st draft Back Bay Study to Miami-Dade County in the near future, and she wanted to provide the MRC with the distributed DDA letter. Ms. O’Neil asked if there is anything the MRC should consider doing at this time, and Commissioner Higgins replied not at this juncture.

V. New Business

The meeting adjourned.

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 Public Meeting**

Monday, February 3, 2020
 Noon
 1407 NW 7 ST
 Miami, FL.

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