

**Miami River Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2021**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, February 1, 2021, Curtis Park Neighborhood Center's outdoor back porch, 1901 NW 24 Ave.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, MRC Chairman

Patty Harris, designee for Governor

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

County Commissioner Eileen Higgins

Maggie Fernandez, designee for Commissioner Higgins

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

Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Suarez

Jim Murley, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Cava

Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council

Neal Schafers, designee for Downtown Development Authority

Richard Dubin, designee for 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

Mike Simpson, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Ann McNeil, MCO Construction

Rick Veber, Spring Garden Resident

Steve Wernick, Wernick and Co.

Mark Bailey, Miami River Marine Group

Lourdes Isalgue, Miami River District Resident

I) Chair's Report

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

Just like the Miami River District strikes the balance between mixed-uses, the Miami River Commission will strike the critical balance between being as safe as possible during this deadly pandemic, while continuing to have public meetings and providing needed services in the Miami River District.

There are 2 proposed riverfront developments applying to the City of Miami for up-zonings in the historically designated Spring Garden neighborhood. The MRC notified the Spring Garden Civic Association on January 5 that the 2 items had been invited to present during today's public MRC meeting. After both items accepted the MRC's invitation to present today, the Spring Garden Civic Association asked them to defer their presentations to the MRC, and meet with the Spring Garden Civic Association first, and both applicants agreed. All parties have agreed to take these 2 items up at the MRC's next public meeting on April 5. The MRC will not host a public meeting in March, and will meet every other month until the Covid Pandemic is over. This will allow the applicants and residents from Spring Garden an additional 2 months (3 months total) to meet and communicate prior to the MRC considering the items during our April 5 public meeting. Therefore, there will be no reason to defer the items again, and the MRC will vote on the items during our next public meeting on April 5 at noon.

On behalf of the Miami River Commission, I extend our warm welcome to recently appointed new MRC volunteer board members Mayor Cava and her appointed designee Jim Murley, Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair of the Dade Delegation, and her appointed designee Senator Ileana Garcia. The MRC looks forward to working closely with our new members on continued improvements along the Miami River.

The free 24th Annual Miami Riverday will sadly but understandably not be held on April 3, 2021, due to Covid 19. Therefore, we look forward to hosting Miami Riverday on the first Saturday in April 2022, again featuring free Miami River boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic re-enactors, children's activities, food, drinks, and more.

In lieu of Miami Riverday in 2021, the Miami River Commission is reaching out to Riverday sponsors and any potential new supporters with the "Your Miami River" fundraising campaign, where 90% of all donations will be spent directly removing litter and invasive plant species, landscaping, and painting over graffiti along the Miami River.

In addition, advertisements are currently for sale in the 18th Annual Miami River Map and Guide.

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. In addition to the maintenance professionals the MRC pays to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping services along the Miami River, the MRC thanks the volunteers from Hands on Miami whom on February 6 will pick-up garbage along the shoreline in City owned Curtis Park, and on February 20 will pick up garbage along the Miami River's shoreline at the County owned affordable housing at 1407 NW 7 ST.

II) Consideration of Supporting Miami Dade County's Request to U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for time extension "Miami Dade Back Bay Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study"

Niklas Hallberg, P.E., Project Manager, Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented the distributed PowerPoint. (to view the US Army Corps Backbay presentation to the Miami DDA Board, the discussion begins at the 5:00 minute mark, and the actual presentation begins at the 11:15 minute mark: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/cmzKij0I7raANch6k9ggTcmI79hu3N7SXX-jTeNbnqkt7bhHAJRgKLzqOS8CGNkV.Z8aNMC64pogpBwRX> Access Passcode: %iPK#ev8

The Miami Dade County Letter to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers requesting a waiver to extend the project timeline was distributed. In addition, letters were distributed from U.S. Senator Rubio and Congresswoman Shalala in support of Miami-Dade County's request for a waiver to extend the project timeline.

Commissioner Higgins made a motion for the MRC to support the County's distributed request for the Army Corps of Engineers to provide a time extension for the "Miami Dade Back Bay Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study". The motion was seconded by Richard Dubin and unanimously adopted by the Miami River Commission.

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution supporting the bill pending in the current Florida legislative session which would include seawalls in the state's P.A.C.E. program.

III. Miami River Commission Subcommittee Reports

A. Greenways Subcommittee - MRC Director Bibeau distributed copies of the "Miami River Greenway Update – Aerials presented from East to West – 1/21/21". The document depicts the 6/75 miles of constructed public Miami River Greenway, and the remaining 3.25 miles which need to be constructed by the City, County, FDOT, and Miami Parking Authority. Currently 4 sections of the public Riverwalk are under construction at Aston Martin Residences (private sector), both sides of the 1 ST Bridge (FDOT), and Fern Isle Park (City of Miami). The MRC thanks the FDOT for awarding \$2 million in 2 federal grants to the City of Miami to construct the next section of the public Miami River Greenway. The MRC is pursuing multiple public and private funding sources for the remaining funding needed to construct and help maintain the remaining sections of the public Riverwalk.

B. Stormwater Subcommittee - The MRC is communicating with the City of Miami regarding stormwater drainage in the riverfront Durham Park neighborhood.

IV. New Business

The Miami River Commission's 2020 Annual Report was distributed.

The meeting adjourned.