

# **Miami River Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **March 5, 2018**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, March 5, 2018, 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, MRC Vice Chairman, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Gimenez  
Patty Harris, designee for Governor Scott  
Bruno Barreiro, Miami Dade County Commissioner  
David Maer, designee for Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle  
Neal Schaffers, designee for Downtown Development Authority  
Philip Everingham, designee for the Marine Council  
Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by Miami-Dade County  
Roselvic Noguera, designee for Sara Babun  
John Michael Cornell, designee for Luis Garcia Appointed by Governor Scott  
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce  
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.

#### **I) Chair Report**

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted the MRC's distributed draft February 5, 2018 public meeting minutes.

Please note the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual free Miami Riverday festival will be held April 7, 2018, Lummus Park, 1-6 PM, featuring free Miami River boat rides, live music, paddleboard and kayak races, environmental education, historic re-enactors, children activities, food and drinks and more. Everyone is invited to this free celebration of the mixed-use historic Miami River District. We thank all of the generous sponsors shown on the distributed bi-lingual flyers, which makes the free public Miami Riverday possible.

In addition, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River Map and Guide will be released at Miami Riverday. We thank all of the generous advertisers in the Miami River Map and Guide.

MRC Vice Chairman Frank Balzebre presented the following update of the Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP):

The MRC coordinated and provided the necessary supplies for 12 volunteers from Hands on Miami, whom on February 24, 2018 pulled weeds in the public Riverwalk's community vegetable and fruit garden here at 1407 NW 7 ST, to prepare for a complete replant this month.

On March 10, 20 volunteers from Hands on Miami and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami Program refilled dirt in the community vegetable and fruit garden to prepare for the complete replanting this month.

I thank the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Miami Program for offering volunteers and funding on March 17, to plant 300 new vegetable and fruit plants in the public Riverwalk's community garden here at Robert King High.

On April 21, professional artist Jacqueline Roach will be leading 75 volunteers from Hands on Miami & Miami Marlins painting Phase II of a large mural of marine wildlife, located along the public Riverwalk beneath the 2 Ave Bridge south shore. Phase I of the 2 Ave Bridge Riverwalk murals was completed on the opposite side of the Bridge, thanks to a sponsorship and volunteers from the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

## **II. Informational Presentation Regarding City of Miami's Zoning Code, "Miami 21"**

City of Miami Planning Director Francisco Garcia, provided an informative presentation regarding City of Miami's Zoning Code, "Miami 21". Director Garcia stated the City of Miami's former zoning code ("11000") did not properly protect single family residential neighborhoods. Director Garcia stated in commercial developments the former code placed large surface parking lots next to the sidewalk, while the new zoning code has the building with useable spaces, often livable spaces and retail, connecting to the sidewalk. Director Garcia stated section 3.11 has the requirements for the public Riverwalk and waterfront building setbacks. Director Garcia stated the Zoning Code is consistent with the Miami River Greenway Action Plan and the Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan. Director Garcia stated there is no intent to eliminate "Port Miami River".

Sallye Jude, MRC, recommended increasing open green spaces.

Sandy O'Neil, MRC, recommended incorporating waterborne transportation.

Mark Bailey, Miami River Marine Group, stated marine industrial businesses are concerned about a loophole in the marine industrial zoning category D3, which is allowing restaurants. Director Garcia stated the City would consider removing restaurants as a potential use in D3 Marine Industrial zoning.

Rosy Noguera, MRC, stated a warrant is required for accessory uses in D3 marine industrial zoning, and asked who enforces the restrictions. Director Garcia replied the following 3 step process:

- 1) Planning Department sets forth clear conditions
- 2) Conditions are recorded, i.e. covenant and permits, with Planning and Building Departments
- 3) Certificate of Use and Certificate of Occupancy inspectors must be made aware of the recorded conditions and ensure compliance

### **III. Miami River Commission Subcommittee Reports**

#### **A. Greenways Subcommittee - Chair Dr. Ernie Martin**

Since the City and County's adoption of the *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*, of the planned 10-mile public Miami River Greenway, 6.5 miles are complete. Therefore, the MRC is continuing to advocate for funding to finish construction of the remaining 3.5 miles of the public Miami River Greenway from the following sources:

1. Voter approved "Miami Forever" City GO Bond Issue
2. State Sun Trail Grant (City submitted \$1 million application)
3. Rails to Trails Application for a \$2 million cost share Volkswagen Settlement Cost Share
4. Federal Highway Administration
5. State Economic Development Grant Application (MRC provided City completed grant application to submit to the State)
6. Fed TIGER Grant (asked City to apply)
7. County GOB Bond Issue (expend remaining "Miami River Greenway" line item balance due plus additional pledged \$1,000,000)
8. Expend \$1,000,000 2016 TAP grant awarded to the City of Miami
9. FIND 50/50 matching grants
10. Private sector developments

#### **B. Stormwater Subcommittee - Chair Sallye Jude**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) is appreciative that the City of Miami commenced the Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, Florida Inland Navigation District, and the State of Florida for funding the project which is improving the local economy and removing toxic sediments, including dioxin, from the most polluted waterway in the State of Florida. The project is currently on budget and schedule.

#### **C. Economic Development and Commerce Subcommittee – Chair Philip Everingham**

The MRC's Economic Development and Commerce subcommittee's public meeting minutes were distributed.

### **III. New Business**

The MRC again expressed a desire to have a voting seat on the City of Miami's Miami Forever Bond Issue.

The meeting adjourned.

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 Public Meeting**

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 Noon  
 1407 NW 7 ST  
 Miami, FL.

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