

**Miami River Commission's
Economic Development and Commerce Subcommittee
July 17, 2019 Minutes**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) Economic Development and Commerce (EDC) Subcommittee conducted a public meeting on July 17, 2019, 10:30 AM, 1407 NW 7 Street. MRC EDC Chairman Philip Everingham ran the meeting. The attendance sign in sheet is enclosed.

**I) Informational Presentation Regarding RMK Merrill-Stevens,
881 NW 13 Ave (both shores of the Miami River west of 12
Ave Bridge)**

Mr. Don MacRae, Chief Operating Officer, RMK Merrill-Stevens presented an informational PowerPoint. Mr. MacRae noted Merrill Stevens was established in 1885, 135 years ago. Mr. Macrae stated they are conducting a \$35 million renovation and modernization of the boat yard, which will double their workforce in the next 12-24 months with lots of different types of skilled jobs such as electricians, engineers, estimators, service writers, quality control, etc. RMK Merrill Stevens is currently hiring and participated in the Miami Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) Summer STEM program. RMK Merrill Stevens is partnering with Miami-Dade County School Board, Broward School Board and MIASF on a apprentice program which is in the works. The modernization includes a new 2,700 ton, 72 meters long, Synchro Lift, capable of removing 235-foot world class mega yachts out of the Miami River for service on the "North Yard". Therefore, RMK Merrill Stevens will have the largest haul out capability south of Jacksonville Florida, and may fit 3-4 Mega Yachts a time out of the water on the "North Yard". In addition, the renovations include new seawalls and sheds, removed the top yard of dirt and replaced it with new clean dirt, and features an environmentally sensitive system for catching rain water, wash water, and water treatment. The South Yard has an additional 100 ton lift capable of removing vessels 80-100 feet. The renovations are estimated to be completed by April 2020.

Merrill Stevens Yachts is the exclusive South Florida dealer of Sealine Yachts, and is the Service and Warranty Center for Sealine, Fjord, and Maori Yachts. Arkup manufactured a floating boat house which has the ability to move and uses spuds as anchors. RMK Merrill Stevens sponsors "Fishing to Make a Difference" and the Miami River Commission.

Mr. MacRae stated within a 3-mile radius of RMK Merrill-Stevens there is:

- \$8.8 billion in consumer buying power
- 200,000 residents
- \$65,000 average annual income

Mr. MacRae stated the recreational boating industry in SE Florida produces \$4 billion in annual wages, 136,000 jobs, and \$23 million into the economy. Mr. Macrae stated a mega-yacht average stay in the boatyard is 3 months. Mr. MacRae stated the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show generates more than \$800 million in economic activity, which is more than the NFL Super Bowl.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

II) Informational Presentation Regarding Norseman Ship Building Corp., 437 NW South River Drive

Orin Black provided an informational presentation regarding Norseman Ship Building Corporation. Mr. Black stated Rick Herron sold the Norseman Building to the new owner / manager is Carlos "Marty" Martell, and they have a 20-year lease on the boatyard which is owned by Orin Black. Mr. Martell was out of town, but will join Mr. Black to present this informational item to the full MRC on September 9, 2019. Dr. Fran Bohnsack, MARAD, stated this boatyard received a \$225,000 Federal Small Shipyard Grant, and that program's available funding pool has grown to \$7 million. Dr Bohnsack stated over the past 3 years 5 Federal Small Shipyard Grants have been awarded to job generating marine industrial businesses operating along Port Miami River. Dr Bohnsack added the "Port Infrastructure Grants" annual cycle is focused on international trade with Coastal Ports therefore it has less competition and could possibly provide funding for a new needed seawall on the western portion of Antillean Shipping or P&L Towing. The site has been going through improvements such as a new boat lift which is 80 feet long, 28 feet wide, and capable of hauling out 90-foot boats, new paint, new lights, and new decking. Business is good.

Mr. Black stated in 2 weeks a new seawall will commence construction at his adjacent 5TH Street Marina, at the future "Gramps on the River" restaurant portion of the site, followed by construction of the restaurant featuring a section of the public Riverwalk. Mr. Black stated the 5th ST Marina's 630 linear feet of dockage is currently full, with a waiting list.

II. New Business

The meeting adjourned.

**Miami River Commission's
 Economic Development and Commerce Subcommittee
 Public Meeting**

Wednesday, July 17, 2019
 3:00 PM
 1407 NW 7 ST
 Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & E-MAIL</u>
Fran Bohnsack	USDOT/MARAD	Francis.Bohnsack @dot.gov
Orin T. Black	5TH STREET MARINA	ORIN@5THSTMARINA.COM
Bruce Brown	MRC/Miami River Marine Group	bruce402@bellsouth.net
Phil Everingham	MRC/MARINE COUNCIL	peemsdd@hotmail.com
Roselvic Noguera	MRC/Antillean Marine	vnuquera@antillean.com
Andrew MOELLER	FIRST BANK	Andrew.Moeller@ FirstbankFLA.com
David Oxias	NAI MIAMI	305-333-0055 305-775-2224 Doxias@NAIMiami.com
Brett Sibou	Miami River Commission	305 644 0544 MiamiRiver2@bellsouth.net
Don MacRae	RMK Merrill-Stevens	dcm@mkms.com 312-371-8037