

**Miami River Commission
Public Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2022**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, July 11, 2022, in the Downtown Main 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
Jim Murley, Vice Chairman, designee for County Mayor Danielle Levine Cava
Nancy Jackson, designee for County Commissioner Eileen Higgins
Patty Harris, designee for Governor
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group
Phil Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Sara Babun
John Michael Cornell, designee for Luis Garcia
Nilo Cuervo, designee for Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City Commission

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their June public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Aguirre provided the following report:

I congratulate the City of Miami for opening the wonderful brand new public pool along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park.

I thank the Miami-Dade County Marine Patrol for starting new enforcement details on the Miami River with funds recently appropriated under Operation Community Shield.

The good news is the Miami River is the most exciting waterway in the United States right now. In the recent past the MRC has heard numerous taxpaying residents along the Miami River complaining that their quality of life is being harmed by excessively loud music being played from boats navigating the Miami River 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I support boat owner's enjoyment of music on their vessels in their sphere of living. Before you is Florida Statute 316.3045 "Operation of radios or other mechanical soundmaking devices or instruments in vehicles". I have asked MRC Managing Director Bibeau to place this state law on the agendas of future MRC public subcommittee and full board meetings to consider recommending the City Commission adopt a similar ordinance pertaining to vessels navigating the Miami River.

MRC Vice Chairman Murley – Voluntary Improvement Program (VIP) Update

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 daily to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping and pressure washing services along the Miami River, the MRC thanks the volunteers from the Office of Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla, whom on June 15 picked up garbage along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park while the MRC paid for pressure washing of the public Riverwalk, and the artistic mural and sidewalks in front of the Park. In addition, we thank the Hands on Miami volunteers whom on June 11 and July 9 picked up garbage along the shoreline in Sewell Park.

Since our last meeting the MRC received and forwarded a report of a turbidity plume and oil sheen on the Miami River, and reported broken street lights along South River Drive which were thankfully repaired by FPL.

II) Consideration of Draft City of Miami Zoning Code Amendment

David Snow and Graham Jones, City of Miami Planning Department, distributed and presented an updated revised 2nd draft code amendment, and a PowerPoint. The draft amendment would allow:

- If a property owner owns a waterfront parcel zoned T5 or above and an upland parcel no more than a 1,000 foot walk from the waterfront site, than the upland site may transfer 50% of its residential density (number of units) to the waterfront site.
- The waterfront site may transfer its parking to the upland site, which must feature habitable liners.
- In return for the transfer of density additional resilience measures will be provided.

The item will be considered by the City Commission on July 28.

Melody Torrens, City of Miami Planning Advisory Board, stated they recommended denial of the item because the majority of the listed resilience measures are already required, and only 2 items were new in return for the transfer of density.

River Resident Shawn Beightol suggested the new resilience measures should be required on all properties, not only those doing a potential transfer of density.

Activist Elvis Cruz stated opposition to the item.

The MRC discussed the item.

The MRC adopted a unanimous motion supporting the City of Miami Planning Advisory Board's recommendation of denial and expressing a willingness in the future to consider a revised version of the proposed code amendment with City staff and the public.

III) Informational Presentation Updating City Parks Master Plan

The City of Miami Parks Department requested a deferral.

IV) Subcommittee Reports

a. Urban Infill and Greenways

Since the City and County's adoption of the *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*, 6.75 miles or 67.5% of the planned 10-mile public Miami River Greenway has been constructed.

Currently 3 sections of the public Riverwalk are under construction at Aston Martin, Miami River SAP, and a new restaurant in Little Havana.

The MRC, City and County continues working on numerous private and public sector potential funding opportunities to secure the remaining funding needed to finish construction of the public Riverwalk.

b. Stormwater Subcommittee

The subcommittee had a virtual workshop on Wednesday, June 1. The MRC submitted a grant application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for \$600,000 in grant funding from the State's FY 22-23's \$20 million for improving water quality in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, by increasing frequency of vacuum truck services in stormwater manholes along the Miami River, Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services, landside garbage pickups, and street sweeper truck services along the Miami River. These clearly needed services will directly remove contamination and sources of pollution which were identified in the County's helpful Miami River Water Quality Assessment, which was reviewed during the MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's recent virtual workshop.

V. New Business

Shawn Beightol stated on 7/8 he led a bike ride along the Miami River Greenway, and he is scheduled to meet with MRC Director Bibeau this week, followed by the Urban Infill and Greenways subcommittee's July public meeting.

Anthony Denito noted the Lummus Park public dock remains closed, and agreed to meet with MRC Director Bibeau on encouraging the City to reopen it.

The public meeting adjourned.