

# **Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes November 7, 2022**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, November 7, 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, Miami River Commission  
Jim Murley, Vice Chairman, designee for County Mayor Danielle Levine Cava  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins  
Mercedes Librada Rodriguez, designee for City of Miami Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla  
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez  
T. Spencer Crowley, III, Member at Large Appointed by City of Miami Commission  
Patty Harris, designee for Governor  
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group  
Neal Schafers, designee for Downtown Development Authority  
Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City Commission  
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor  
Mike Simpson, designee for Sallye Jude

**MRC Staff:**

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

## **I) Chair's Report**

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their October 3 public meeting minutes.

Director Bibeau distributed printed copies of FDOT / MRC contract ASP28-R1 - Fin# 445054-2-78-01 and its renewal letter. **The MRC unanimously adopted the following resolution as requested by FDOT in order to renew the 5<sup>th</sup> annual year of a contract to pickup garbage beneath FDOT bridges once a week, and provide landscape services once every 3 weeks:**

**The Miami River Commission authorizes its Managing Director (Mr. Brett Bibeau) to execute the attached contract (ASP28-R1 - Fin# 445054-2-78-01, hereinafter the "Contract") on behalf of the Miami River Commission;**

**The Miami River Commission designates Miami River Fund Inc., a Florida Not For Profit Corporation, as its fiscal agent; and**

**The Miami River Commission assigns all payments to be made pursuant to the Contract to Miami River Fund, Inc, as the fiscal agent of the Miami River Commission, and therefore directs the Florida Department of Transportation to make all Contract payments to the Miami River Fund, Inc."**

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

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 30 volunteers from University of Miami's Gandhi Day, Kiki's on the River and Hands on Miami for picking up garbage along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park on October 1, October 20 and October 30.

The MRC thanks all the advertisers whom have renewed their support in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami River 2023 Calendar which will be distributed next month.

## **II) Presentation Regarding Application to Amend Zoning and Land Use at 1250 NW 22 Ave**

Mr. Javier Fernandez, SM & GQ Law, and Jacek Schindler, Schindler Architects, presented and distributed plans and a letter of intent for the "Polonia's Cultural Business Residential Center – The Future Home of: The Polish American Club of Miami, the American Institute of Polish Culture, the Chopin Foundation of the United States, the Polish American Chamber of Commerce of Florida and the Americas, Inc and The Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland." The planned development on the vacant site along the north shore of the Miami River's South Fork tributary, features the public Riverwalk as required by City Code section 3.11, Appendix B and the Baywalk Riverwalk Design Standards and Guidelines. The application is seeking a Land Use Amendment from "Medium Density Restricted Commercial" to "Restricted Commercial" and a Zoning Amendment from T5-L (currently allows 5 stories) to T6-8-O (would allow 8 stories). In addition, the applicants presented a revised draft Restrictive Covenant. Mr. Fernandez said the plan is subject to change and they are yet to select the developer. Mr. Fernandez added the economics of the potential development are not feasible under the existing land use and zoning, and the code doesn't allow a subsequent zoning amendment application for at least 18 months, and they are considering voluntarily agreeing to extending that to 36 months.

The MRC considered this item during their October 3 public meeting. Since then, Mr. Fernandez has met with the Durham Park Homeowners Association. The revised restrictive covenant now provides some "Workforce Housing" and "Limits the height of any portion of a future structure or building fronting 22 Ave to not more than 5 stories (or a max of 81') for the first 50' of the property located West of 22 Ave." Commissioner Higgins stated she supports the item because it has needed workforce housing.

**The MRC adopted a motion (11-1) respectfully recommending approval of the item subject to extending the time for a potential 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive increase in land use and zoning density for 36 months, and that the developer present the site plan when ready to the MRC Urban Infill and Greenways subcommittee.**

**III) Discussion Regarding Miami River Rapids Park and the adjacent NW South River Drive from 27 Ave to 20 ST**

Brett Bibeau, MRC Managing Director, presented pictures of 3 large riverfront sink holes on City owned NW South River Drive from NW 27 Ave to 20 ST, illegal dumping along the Miami River and in Miami River Rapids Park, where there is crime and homelessness. The previously filled Miami Bridge building owned by the City of Miami appears to have been vacant for over a year based on numerous site visits and a conversation with a Miami Bridge employee.

**The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution supporting the MRC's \$25,000 grant application to the Villagers Inc to clean up the Miami River Rapids area, and respectfully recommending the City of Miami apply to a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) \$1 million grant to re-construct NW South River Drive from NW 27 Ave to NW 20 ST featuring the public Riverwalk, new seawall, landscaping, decorative lights, etc.**

**IV) New Business**

County Commissioner Eileen Higgins stated FDOT commenced landscaping the public green space adjacent the 1 ST Bridge. In addition, she stated the public Riverwalk at County's 1407 NW 7 ST will proceed west and include a new public park space beneath I-836. Commissioner Higgins thanked the National Association of Counties for taking an informative Miami River Boat tour.

Spencer Crowley asked for an informational presentation at a future public MRC meeting regarding the City's planned improvements to Sewell Park.

The public meeting adjourned.

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November 7, 2022 - Noon

Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Yohermo Echeverria	City of Miami Parks and Rec	786-553-6826	yecheverria@miamigov.us
Lourdes Isalque	self	786-597-8067	lourdesisalque@gmail.com
MEGAN KELLY	City of Miami Mayor		mkelly064@gmail.com
Eileen Higgins	BCE		district5@miamidade.gov
JAMES MURLEY	MDC-CCR		JAMES.MURLEY@miamidade.gov
NEAL SCHAFERS	MIAMI DDA	305-379-6675	schaferns@miamidda.com
Maria L Rodriguez	District 1	786-365-2929	MARIA0101@gmail.com
BRUCE BROWN	MRMG	305-788-6411	BRUCE402@PE/SOUTH.NET
Mark Bailey	MRMG	305-637-7777	markbailey@miamirivermarinegroup.org
ALEX MARTINEZ	Miami Firefighters Benevolent	954-699-4650	president@mffba.org
- Kim Martin	One Sub by In Hl Realty	786-251-5168	kimmartin@htrn.com

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Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Brett Bibeau	MRC	305 6440544	brettbibeau@ miamirivercommission.org
JACOB SUTINDER	SUTINDER ARCHITECT	(305) 510 6323	JWS@SUTINDERARCHITECTS.COM
PETER PARTUM	PAGOM	786 910 3091	PIOTR.PARTUM@GMAIL.COM
Merci Rodriguez	District 1 City of Miami	786-367-2929	MERCIO121@GMAIL.COM
PATRICIA HARRIS	MRC	305.262.3763	PATTYKAR@GMAIL.COM
Tom Kimer	MRC	305.992.4590	TKimer3@aol.com
John Cornell	MRC	(580) 214-1475	johncornell@zerbyinterests.com
Spencer Crowley	FIND/MRC	305 519-2822	spencer.crowley@akerman.com
Javier Fernandez	SUGG Law	(305) 377-1100	jfernandez@sugglaw.com
Alex Cimio	UNHCR		acimio@sugglaw.com
Orin Bines	5TH STREET MARKET	305 388 4214	orin@5thstreetmarket.com
-Donny Wolfe	City of Miami	3/282-3547	d.wolfe@miamigo.com
Andres R Lopez	Lopez Law Firm	3/444 6146	Andres@LopezGovLaw.com
- Charles Alfaro	City of Miami RPLW	3/416.1047	carfaro@miamigo.com