

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes April 4, 2022

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, April 4, 2022.

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

Patty Harris, designee for Governor
Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Board of County Commissioners
Neal Schafers, Designee for Downtown Development Authority
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group
Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Rep. Appointed by Miami-Dade County
John Michael Cornell, Designee for Luis Garcia
Tom Kimen, Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami
Nilo Cuervo, designee for ST Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Phil Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Sign in sheets available upon request.

D) Chair's Report

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

MRC Chairman Aguirre provided the following report:

I had a very effective trip to Tallahassee this legislative session, and I'm happy to announce that the renewal of the MRC's \$150,000, for which the details were distributed last month, are currently included in the Florida Legislature's final adopted Fiscal Year '22-'23 Budget. I would like to thank our bill sponsors, Senator Ileana Garcia and Representative Nick Duran. In addition, I thank Commissioner Higgins and the County Commission for including this item in the County's Legislative requests. I thank the over 30 Miami River neighborhood associations, condominium associations, businesses, etc. which recently wrote letters to Governor DeSantis in support of the funding.

I would like to publicly thank MRC board member Mike Simpson, Sightseeing Tours Management for graciously providing the hard working Miami River Maintenance employee's a complimentary 2 hour cruise aboard the Island Queen, including open bar. Needless to say, the workers felt like royalty, and have repeatedly expressed their sincere appreciation for their memorable enjoyable evening.

II) Presentation Regarding Proposed Development at 99 SW 7 ST

Ms. Iris Escarra, Greenberg Traurig, and Harvey Hernandez, Newgard Group, presented the provided and distributed plans, letter of intent, and voluntary covenant for a proposed riverfront development at 99 SW 7 ST, featuring 782 residential units and 791 parking spaces, known as “One Brickell Riverfront”. The proposal is consistent with the current zoning, land use, and the public Riverwalk will comply with the code requirements of Section 3.11, Appendix B, and the Baywalk Riverwalk Design Standards and Guidelines, including the FPL easement area.

MRC Subcommittee Chairman Murley suggested the work with the City regarding transportation in the subject area which features a dead end street, etc. The applicants stated a traffic study is required by both the City and County.

The MRC unanimously recommended approval of the proposed development on partially vacant land located in the lower River at the intersection of the Public Riverwalk and the Underline with the following conditions:

- 1) Meet with County and Underline, and do not jeopardize Underline**
- 2) Consider Florida Friendly Landscape**
- 3) Provide seamless public Riverwalk connections to the east and west as required by code**
- 4) Bring potential Marine Operating Permit or vessel dockage back to MRC in future**

III) Discussion Regarding Idle No Wake Speed Zone, Illegal Charters, and Noise Ordinance Related to Vessels

MRC Chairman Aguirre stated a few months ago he had asked during a public MRC meeting for anyone to submit suggested future MRC agenda items. We received three replies, all of which asked for this important item to be considered again by the MRC.

A quick update on this important issue, before I recognize the various wonderful Federal, State, County and City Law Enforcement agencies whom thankfully accepted the MRC’s cordial invitation to participate in today’s public meeting, followed by public comments, questions and answers.

Since the last MRC meeting on this topic, the MRC thanks the City of Miami Commission for including in their FY 22-23 Budget an additional 5 City Marine Patrol officers, and the Board of County Commissioners for including in their FY 22-23 Budget an additional 4 County Marine Patrol officers. There is an important and lengthy process to filling budgeted police positions, and to date the City Marine Patrol has filled 2 of their additional budgeted 5 officers.

I thank Senator Ileana Garcia for sponsoring SB606, which was thankfully approved by the Florida Legislature and is helpful new legislation to assist with this important and difficult issue.

I thank the 6 City of Miami Police Rangers whom took time away from their Parks to get a multi-day training on how to enforce this tricky issue.

In addition, I thank MRC board member John Michael Cornell from Hurricane Cove marina which generously donated a valuable free boat slip which is now being used by Florida Fish and Wildlife.

The following Law Enforcement Agencies made presentations

1. James Head, United States Coast Guard
2. Capt. Shipp, Florida Fish and Wildlife
3. SGT Ravelo, Miami-Dade County Marine Patrol
4. LT Valdes, City of Miami Marine Patrol

Numerous Miami River residents and business owners stated the Miami River (and Biscayne Bay) are suffering from excessive violations of the idle no wake speed zone, which causes a serious hazard to navigation, public safety, the "Threatened" Manatees, and damages docks and vessels. In addition, there are illegal boat charters with more passengers than the vessels are designed to safely carry, playing very loud music well over the volume allowed in the City's noise ordinance.

City of Miami Police are broken into upland geographic districts. City of Miami Marine Patrol's area to patrol is physically larger than an upland police district, while the Marine Patrol has less officers than an upland police district, and the level of crime is greater for Marine Patrol than it is in many upland police districts. Last year the City Marine Patrol issued 2,000 tickets and made 200 arrests.

Mike Simpson suggested cross referencing Charter Vessel's Business Tax Receipts issued by the City to Marine, to Marine Operating Permits issued by County, and the City's Zoning and Land Use, to ensure the addresses provided for the BTR are legitimate with the appropriate approvals for this type of use.

Mike Simpson made a motion for the MRC to join with Miami River residents and businesses in immediately respectfully recommending the Honorable City and County Commissions take another necessary step forward on this issue by including another plus 5 City Marine Patrol Officers, and another plus 4 County Marine Patrol Officers, in their respective subsequent Fiscal Year '22 - '23 budgets. County Commissioner Higgins stated she wanted to communicate with the County Marine patrol before voting on the item. Therefore, MRC Chairman Aguirre asked for the item to be voted on at the subsequent MRC public hearing.

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission Public Meeting

April 4, 2022 - Noon

Miami-Dade Library, 101 W Flagler ST

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Richard Murphy	River Resident	786.525.5353	RMOGGI@nsw.com
Judith Gatt	River Owner	305-324-3694	jgatt@gmail.com
SEAN BAILEY	RMK MEMILL STEVENS	920-901-4646	SEANBAILEY2222@YAHOO.
Rick Hambley	Rmk Memill Stevens	954 709 1423	Rick@rmkms.com
Martin Fenton	One Miami Condo Board	786 374 6444	mxfenton@gmail.com
Fran Fenton	RIVER OWNER	786 262 4919	franfenton@gmail.com
Daniel Rodriguez	City of Miami PD	786-286-2024	5964@miami-police.org
MICHAEL BARRIOS	MIAMI-DADE P.D.	305-283-6680	4367752@mdpd.com
OSCAR J. RAVELO	MIAMI-DADE	305-301-7088	4304408@mdpd.com
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Daniel Silva	Code	71696-0231	dsilva@miamigov
Brian Dombrowski	GT	31579-0630	Dombrowski30.com
Nancy Jackson	BCC, DS	305-213-0118	jt12.com
JOHN R. LAWRENCE	RIVER RESIDENT	786-878-9574	JRLPHOTOS@HOTMAIL.COM
Mark Bailey	Miami River Marine Group	305-637-7027	markbailey@miamirivermarinegroup.org
Brett Bibeau	MRC	3056440544	brettbibeau@miamirivercommission.org

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Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Priscilla Greenfield-Mung	Spring Garden Civic Assoc	305 965-0763	Priscillaegm@bellsouth.net
Judith Paul	Spring Garden Civic Assoc.		jpaul703@bellsouth.net
Anna Brautigam	Breckell Kay Master arborist	305-495-1540	abrautigam@bkna.info
Megan Kelly	Attorney, City of Miami		meganekelly065@gmail.com
Mike Simpson John Cornell	Island Queen mrc		Mike@15thgreen.org
PATRICIA HARRIS	MRC		jmccornell@earthlink.net PATTYKAK@GMAIL.COM
Jim Murley	mrc		James.Murley@miamidade.gov

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Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Haracia Aguiar	MRC	—	—
Eileen Higgins	BCC		
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Phil Everingham	MRC/Marine Council	305 951-9096	peverm@d@hotmail.com
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