

**Miami River Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2020**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, January 6, 2020, 1407 NW 7 ST.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, MRC Chairman, Appointed by Governor Scott

Patty Harris, designee for Governor

John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor

David Maer, designee for Miami-Dade ST Attorney Fernandez-Rundle (left early for trial)

Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council

Neal Schafers, Downtown Development Authority

Richard Dubin, designee for the Miami River Marine Group

Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Roselvic Noguera, designee for Sara Babun

Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Please see attached sign in sheets.

I) Chair's Report – MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre

The Miami River Commission's 2019 Annual Report has been distributed. I thank all of the players whom helped our team have another successful year improving the revitalized Miami River District.

The free 24th Annual Miami Riverday will be held April 4, 2020, featuring free Miami River boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic re-enactors, children activities, food, drinks, and more. Sponsorships are currently available.

In addition, advertisements are currently for sale in the 17th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, which is released at Miami Riverday.

On behalf of MRC Vice Chairman Frank Balzebre, MRC Director Bibeau provided the following update on the Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP):

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.

The MRC thanks the 12 Hands on Miami Volunteers, whom on December 20 maintained the public Riverwalk's community vegetable and fruit garden, and picked up garbage along the Miami River's shoreline here at Robert King High.

I thank the estimated 40 volunteers from "Off the Hook" whom on Saturday, January 11, will be picking up garbage along the shoreline in Sewell Park.

I thank the estimated 40 volunteers from Carrolton School whom on Thursday, January 30, will be picking up garbage along the shoreline along Curtis Park's public Riverwalk.

II. City of Miami Informational Presentation Regarding Corrective Action Zoning Amendment at 1535, 1545 1583 NW 24 Ave

Sue Trone, City of Miami Planning Department, presented the City of Miami's application for a corrective action zoning amendment at 1535, 1545, 1583 NW 24 Ave. Ms. Trone distributed the City of Miami Planning Department's "Analysis for Rezone". Ms. Trone stated consistent with the current Port Miami River Land Use and court cases, the majority of the site should be zoned D3, Marine Industrial, which the City is correcting and designating at this time. Doing so will allow the processing of permit applications for uses consistent with the Marine Industrial D3 zoning and Port Miami River Land Use.

Andrew Dickman Esq stated he is representing Antillean Marine and the Miami River Marine Group. Mr. Dickman stated they are preparing for a conference call with the City to further review and discuss this issue prior to its consideration by the City Commission at 2nd reading. Mr. Dickman stated they generally have no objections, and want to confirm the item will have no negative impacts on the Port Miami River Category A (more restrictive) land use and consent decrees. Mr. Dickman stated, "The city and the industry are working well together after years of litigation. We don't disagree with the compromise."

Mr. Jorge Navarro, Greenberg Traurig, stated the property owner supports the City of Miami's application for this corrective action zoning amendment.

MRC Chairman Aguirre stated the MRC will issue an updated letter based on this presentation.

III. Informational Update Regarding Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel Services

Ms. Sophie Mastriano distributed and presented a report summarizing the Scavenger Vessel's accomplishments in 2019 including:

- Removed 9,073 cubic feet / 336 cubic yards / 201 tons of trash

- Decontaminated 1.2 billion gallons of water (600,000 gallons per hour)
- Injected 293 million liters of oxygen into the water, (150,000 liters per hour)

The report noted Water Management Technologies Inc donated 357 hours of services, with a value of \$71,400. The services destroy fecal coliform, cyanobacteria, bacteria, neutralizes viruses, balances phosphates and nitrates, reduces turbidity, improves water quality, eliminates odors, destroys algae growth, increases dissolved oxygen, and removes surface debris including some hazards to navigation including dock planks, 55-gallon oil drums, and large tires.

Ms. Mastriano stated the vessels contract renewals will be considered by the City and County in January, and thanked the MRC for their continued support. Mr. Luis Fernandez, DERM, stated he is the County's contract manager and the County is very pleased with the provided successful services. MRC Managing Director Bibeau thanked Commissioner Higgins, Mayor Gimenez, and Board of County Commissioners, and the City of Miami Commission whom recently approved funding in the County's and City's current budgets to renew their respective contracts for the continued Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services, which are providing significant needed improvements.

IV. Update Regarding Shoreline Cleanups

MRC Director Bibeau stated per the code the individual property owners are legally responsible for the maintenance of their riverfront areas. Director Bibeau noted although the MRC doesn't own any property, they hire a professional company to pick up garbage, remove invasive plant species, weed whack, trim bushes, paint over graffiti and pressure wash along the Miami River. An average day features 4 workers using 2 pickup trucks. In 2019 this effort resulted in the removal of 196,800 pounds of garbage, and in FY 2019 the Miami River Fund Inc budgeted over \$150,000 for this continued effort.

V. Miami River Commission Subcommittee Reports

A. Greenways Subcommittee

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. Currently 7 sections of the public Riverwalk are under construction at River Landing, Miami River Walk, Aston Martin, 1 ST Bridge, One River Point, Gramps by the Bay, and Riverside Miami. The MRC thanks the FDOT for awarding \$2 million in 2 federal grants to the City of Miami to construct the next section of the public Miami River Greenway. The MRC is pursuing multiple public and private funding sources for the remaining funding needed to construct and help maintain the remaining sections of the public Riverwalk.

B. Stormwater Subcommittee

The MRC Stormwater subcommittee's December 4 public meeting minutes were distributed. The MRC is making progress with agency partners on the MRC's recommendation to conduct needed maintenance dredging in the Tamiami Canal. More to come in the near future.

VI. New Business

MRC Director Bibeau distributed updated lists of all “new” residential developments (since 2000) along the Miami River, totaling 9,410 residential units completed or under construction, and an additional 6,667 residential units previously approved or undergoing permitting.

In addition, MRC Director Bibeau distributed updated lists of the restaurants along the Miami River Greenway (both Riverwalk and on-road Greenway), totaling 23 open restaurants, 10 restaurants under construction, 8 available restaurants and 13 planned restaurants to be constructed.

The meeting adjourned.

**Miami River Commission
 Public Meeting**

Monday, January 6, 2020
 Noon
 1407 NW 7 ST
 Miami, FL

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Sue Trose	City of Miami	
Britany Zerns	Citizens for a Better South FL	Britany@abettersouthflorida.org
Martina Barrientos	" "	Martina@abettersouthflorida.org

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & E-MAIL</u>
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