

# **Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, January 9, 2023, in the Downtown 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 Miami-Dade County Mayor Cava  
Eileen Higgins, Commissioner Miami-Dade County  
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez  
Eddie Marti Kring, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins  
Patty Harris, designee for Governor  
T. Spencer Crowley, III, Member at Large Appointed by City of Miami Commission  
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group  
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce  
Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City Commission  
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor  
Philip Everingham, designee for Marine Council  
Neal Schafers, Downtown Development Authority  
Mike Simpson, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County

## **MRC Staff:**

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

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

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their December 5 public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre stated he and MRC Director Bibeau attended Sallye Jude's recent funeral. Sallye Jude was a wonderful volunteer Miami River Commission board member for 24 years. She served as the Chair of the Stormwater Subcommittee, which works on improving water quality. A recent news article described her as the "Queen of the Miami River". She championed historic preservation, public greenspaces, community vegetable and fruit gardens, flowering trees, reducing waste, and much, much more.

The free 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Miami Riverday will be held April 1, 2023, 1-6 PM, Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive, featuring free oat rides, live music, environmental education, historic reenactors, children's activities, food and drinks.

## **II) Informational Presentation Regarding Antillean Marine Shipping Corporation in Operation on the Miami River For Over 50 Years**

MRC Managing Director stated the presenter contracted Covid, and therefore asked for a deferral.

## **III) Informational Presentation Regarding Future Improvement Plans for Sewell Park**

Hector Badia, Assistant Director of the City of Miami Capital Improvements Department, and Chris Evans, Interim Director of the City of Miami Parks Department, presented 3 potential improvement plans for Sewell Park. The plans all featured:

- Public Riverwalk consistent with Miami 21 Section 3.11 and the Baywalk, Riverwalk Design Standards and Guidelines.
- Elevating the entire lower riverfront portion of the park to stop the dry day flooding which bubbles up through the very low ground's limerock
- Opening and improving the currently fenced off large natural mangrove portion of the park to the public, while removing the invasive plant species.
- Marine Patrol dockage and small office to be shared with Parks staffer
- All dockage will be setback 10 feet from the federal navigable channel line

Mr. Badia estimated the project will cost \$7 million, the City appreciates FIND's awarded grant cost share, and potential sources for the City's needed cost share are the City's Parks Impact Fees and the City's current Bond issue.

MRC Director Bibeau thanked the City of Miami for planning improvements to Sewell Park, and circulated a related Florida Wildlife Commission grant opportunity for the City to consider applying.

Attendees noted NW South River Drive in the area of Sewell Park has no sidewalk, therefore it is in need of the City's standard

Spencer Crowley noted the Seawall elevation is currently planned at 6', which would require a floating dock type transition or ramp like in Lummus Park. On the Miami River the City Code requires a minimum 4' elevation of new seawalls. Mr. Badia replied the City would continue working on the design of the desired limited boat dockage.

## **IV) Preliminary Discussion Regarding Potential Winterfest Holiday Boat Parade on the Miami River**

This item was requested by MRC member Mercedes Librada Rodriguez whom is not feeling well today, and therefore asked for the discussion to be deferred.

## **V) New Business**

The public meeting adjourned.

## Miami River Commission Public Meeting

January 9, 2023 - Noon

Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Sandy O'Neil	GMCC	(305) 773-4535	oneilgarwick@gmail.com
Tom Kimer	MRC	305 992-4590	TKimer3@aol.com
PATRICIA HARRIS	MRC	305-262-3763	PATYRAK@GMAIL.COM
Mike Simpson	MRC	786-402-2964	mike@ishd.com
BRUCE BROWN	MRC	305/788-6411	brock@ishd.com
Neal Schufers	Miami DDA	305-379-6675	schufers@miamidda.com
Megan Kelly	for City of Miami Mayor Suarez	786-556-5620	
PHIL EVERINGHAM	MCC/MARINE COUNCIL	305 951-9096	pbemsltd@hotmail.com
Jim Murley	MDC/OOR	786-719-9155	James.Murley@miamidade.gov
Eddie Mark King	BCC/OS	305 213 0118	Dist 5 @ Miami Dade .org
Elleen Heggins	BCC/AS	"	"
Horacio Stuart Aguirre			
Brett Bibear			

**Miami River Commission Public Meeting**

January 9, 2023 - Noon

Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Yohermo Echeverria	City of Miami Parks & Rec.	786-553-6826	yecheverria@miamigov.com
Janae Pizarro	<del>Pineira@miamidade.com</del> Miami DDA	786-252-4794	Pineira@miamidade.com
Latoya Osborne	City of Miami Parks	305-416-1325	LTOSborne@miamigov.com
CHRIS EVANS	CITY OF MIAMI PARKS	305-416-1300	CEVANS@miamigov.com
ANN BOSWELL	<del>CITY OF MIAMI PARKS</del> PORT OF MIAMI	305-588-4214	annboswell@portofmiami.com
MARLO MARTINEZ	CITY OF MIAMI OCI	305-416-1219	mmartinez@miamigov.com
Hector Badia	CITY OF MIAMI OCI	305-416-1236	HBADIA@miamigov.com
Nanny Jackson	ODR / Miami Dade County	786-747-1977	nanny.jackson@miamidade.gov
Wardes Isalgue	citizen	597-8067	wardesisalgue@gmail.com
Mark Bailey	Miami River Main Group	305-377-7397	markbailey@miamirivermainingroup.org