

Miami River Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2019

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, February 4, 2019, 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 Scott
Frank Balzebre, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez
Eileen Higgins, Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Maggie Fernandez, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Higgins
David Maer, designee for Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle
Federico Fernandez, Chair of the South Florida Water Management District
Neal Schafers, Downtown Development Authority
Philip Everingham, designee for the Marine Council
John Michael Cornell, designee for Luis Garcia Appointed by Governor Scott
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Bruce Brown, President, Miami River Marine Group
Sallye Jude, Appointed by Miami-Dade County
Maria Gallon, designee for Sara Babun

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Please see attached sign in sheets.

I) Chair Report

The Miami River Commission's draft January 7, 2019 public meeting minutes, were previously sent to you via e-mail. Is there a motion?

The 23rd Annual free Miami Riverday festival will be held April 6, 2019, Lummus Park, 1-6 PM, featuring free Miami River boat rides, live music, environmental education, paddleboard races, historic re-enactors, children activities, food, drinks and more. Everyone is invited to this free celebration of the mixed-use Miami River District, and sponsorships are available.

In addition, advertisements are available in the 16th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, which is released at Miami Riverday.

Frank Balzebre, MRC Vice Chairman, provided the following Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (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.

The MRC thanks the 30 volunteers from Carrollton School, whom on January 31, picked up garbage along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park

In addition, the MRC thanks the 30 volunteers from Lawton Childs School whom on February 1 pulled weeds in the community vegetable and fruit garden and picked up garbage along the public Riverwalk here at 1407 NW 7 ST

The MRC's next 2 coordinated and sponsored volunteer cleanup events are:

February 8, 11-1, picking up garbage along the Sewell Park shoreline, with 30 volunteers from Lawton Childs School.

February 16, 9-11, pulling weeds in the community vegetable and fruit garden, and picking up garbage along the public Riverwalk, here at 1407 NW 7 ST with 10 volunteers from Hands on Miami.

II. Review of the “Biscayne Bay Restoration Task Force” and the “Biscayne Bay Restoration Partnership”

Brett Bibeau, MRC Managing Director, distributed copies of the Miami-Dade County Commission's approved “Biscayne Bay Restoration Task Force” where 9 appointed members will study and recommend to the County the best ways to restore Biscayne Bay for 220 days, and then deliver a report with their recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners within 180 days.

Spencer Crowley, Miami Dade County Commissioner to the Florida Inland Navigation District, distributed and presented a “Biscayne Bay Restoration Initiative” PowerPoint, and related draft “Biscayne Bay Restoration Partnership” Resolution. Mr. Crowley cited the successes of the “Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative”, which is a partnership of funding agencies which has completed 50 projects for \$80 million to improve water quality in the Lake Worth Lagoon, including sediment traps, baffle boxes, and removing septic tanks. Mr. Crowley stated his distributed revised draft resolution to create a similar partnership was created with direct input from Pamela Sweeney DERM, County Commissioner Levine Cava, and Federico Fernandez, Chairman of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Mr. Crowley distributed resolutions from FIND and the SFWMD, supporting the draft “Biscayne Bay Restoration Partnership”. Mr. Crowley stated Chairman Fernandez and he supports the County's creation of the “Biscayne Bay Task Force, which the proposed “Biscayne Bay Restoration Partnership” compliments.

Attendees noted the Miami River and its tributaries are part of the regulated Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve. The Miami River has 150 storm water outfalls, which are the Miami River's leading source of pollution from the densely populated Miami River District. The Miami River is a contamination source in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.

Commissioner Eileen Higgins stated she is co-sponsoring and supporting Commissioner Sosa's "Biscayne Bay Task Force" item before the County Commission. Commissioner Higgins stated the "Biscayne Bay Restoration Partnership" is a potential outcome of the upcoming "Biscayne Bay Task Force".

The MRC Economic Development and Commerce subcommittee's January 22, 2019 public meeting minutes were distributed a week prior to the meeting, stating in part, "MRC EDC Chairman Everingham recommended the MRC support the County's recently adopted "Biscayne Bay Restoration Task Force", and suggested the new "Task Force" strongly consider recommending the County Commission adopt the revised draft "Biscayne Bay Restoration Partnership" Resolution. **The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution supporting the County's recently adopted "Biscayne Bay Restoration Task Force", and suggested the new "Task Force" strongly consider recommending the County Commission adopt the "Biscayne Bay Restoration Partnership" Resolution.**

III. Consider City of Miami's Application to Amend Miami 21 Zoning Code to Allow Freeboard to Address Sea Level Rise

Ryan Shedd, City of Miami Planning Department, distributed and presented the City of Miami's previously distributed zoning code amendment application to incorporate "freeboard in the floodplain and clarify language for raising structures (zoned T3, single family residential) within the floodplain". Additional requested 5 items of backup materials and data were provided a week prior to the meeting, and printed copies were distributed. In part the distributed ordinance, which was adopted by the City Commission at the 1st of 2 readings, creates a new definition, "Freeboard: The additional height above the Base Flood Elevation at which the lowest finished floor is built". Currently the code requires 1 foot of freeboard, and this would create the option for up to 5 feet of freeboard. The proposal allows the raising of infrastructure, and the option for up to a 5' increase in the current the height of ground floor retail, from 25' to 30'. This item only applies to new construction, and the City of Miami's Planning Zoning and Appeals Board unanimously recommended approval with a note that the drafted "optional" 5 feet of freeboard be revised to become "mandatory". Mr. Shedd, stated increased free board reduces insurance costs.

The MRC's Urban Infill and Greenways subcommittee's December 12, 2018 public meeting minutes were distributed, which state in part, "MRC Urban Infill Subcommittee Chairman suggested the MRC recommend approval of the item and that the City encourage future eligible applicants to exercise their new option to include up to 5 feet of freeboard." **Sandy O'Neil made a motion for the MRC to recommend approval of the subject City Ordinance, and that the City encourage future eligible applicants to exercise their new option to include up to 5 feet of freeboard. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eileen Higgins and adopted by the MRC 12-1.**

IV. Update Report on Miami-Dade County Owned 1407 NW 7 ST – County Commissioner Eileen Higgins

Commissioner Higgins stated in a public / private partnership with Urban Related Group, Miami-Dade County is redeveloping their large riverfront affordable housing site with an increased quantity of affordable housing units, and market rate residential, retail, and the public Riverwalk featuring a new seawall. The Phase I construction recently completed with the replacement of the former Martin Fine Villas with a new building facing NW 7 ST. Commissioner Higgins stated Phase III will be closest to the Miami River, and will include the public Riverwalk featuring a new seawall. Commissioner Higgins stated when the plans are ready, they will be presented to the MRC, in estimated 2-3 months. Commissioner Higgins stated she thinks the MRC will be pleased with the plans increase in activated greenspace and increased affordable housing.

V. New Business

The meeting adjourned.

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 1407 NW 7 ST
 Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & E-MAIL</u>
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Ryan Shedd	City of Miami; Planning	305-416-1315, rshedd@miamigov.com

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & E-MAIL</u>
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BRUCE L. BROAD	Miami River Marine Group MRC	305-788-6411 broad403@bellsouth.net
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