

**Miami River Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2015**

Mr. Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman of the Miami River Commission (MRC), convened the public meeting at noon, June 1, 2015, 1407 NW 7 ST, Miami, FL.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman

Patricia Harris, designee for FL Governor

Sandy Batchelor, South Florida Water Management District

Gary Winston, designee for Miami-Dade ST Attorney Fernandez-Rundle

Frank Balzebre, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Gimenez

Marlene Avalo, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro

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

Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County

Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group

Ernie Martin, Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami

Javier Betancourt, designee for Downtown Development Authority Director

Philip Everingham, designee for Marine Council Chairman

Manny Prieguez, Member at Large appointed by the City of Miami

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Please see attached sign in sheets.

I) Chair Report – MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre

This is a publicly noticed meeting, conducted under the rule of the Florida Government in the Sunshine statute and regulations.

There is the expectation that all comments by presents or speakers will be truthful and complete so as to be truthful.

All speakers on an item, other than members of the Miami River Commission shall please state their name and business affiliation.

All members of the commission who may have a conflict of interest with respect to any item being discussed shall disclose the conflict as soon as the item is introduced for discussion.

The MRC unanimously revised and adopted the MRC's May 4, 2015 public meeting minutes.

As you recall, the Miami River Commission's adopted 2001 Miami River Greenway Action Plan, the 2002 Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan, and the 2007 Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan all recommend waterborne transportation. In other words, taxi cabs or bus service on the river.

As the Miami River District's population, density, and attractions continue to grow, the need for waterborne transportation is greater than ever. We have agreed that waterborne transportation reduces vehicular congestion on the streets, gasoline consumption, and carbon emissions, therefore improving traffic and air quality.

Therefore I'm pleased to report that last Thursday the City Commission adopted a resolution supporting Waterborne Transportation (distributed item before you) which will thankfully bring yet another Miami River Commission long standing recommendation to fruition, and in doing so generate new jobs while significantly improving the Miami River District.

Please note this proposal remains consistent with the current strong Manatee Protection Plan. All vessels on the Miami River must abide by the idle no wake speed zone. At present, all the proposed public waterborne transportation locations to temporarily drop off and pick up passengers are located east of the NW 5 ST Bridge.

As you may recall, the MRC previously formally endorsed Nina Torres' Annual Miami River Art Fair, held Art Basel Week. I thank City of Miami Commissioner Keon Hardemon for sponsoring the distributed City of Miami Resolution which is scheduled to be on the City Commission's June 25 public meeting. The City Resolution accepts MS Torres long standing offer to donate "monumental sculptures" with installation to be located along City of Miami owned sections of the public Riverwalk. If approved, the MRC would continue coordinating further details with MS Torres and the City of Miami, such as the precise locations, selecting which available sculptures, etc.

City of Miami Homeless Coordinator Officer Bernat provided the MRC an update on the City of Miami's Homeless Shelter Program. Officer Bernat stated since the Pottinger Settlement Agreement was amended, the Police are still not making arrests of homeless; rather want to continue offering them shelter. For example a recent visit to the public riverwalk beneath the State of Florida's 12 Ave Bridge found 5 homeless people camping beneath the ST owned bridge, which is in violation of a ST Law prohibiting camping beneath ST owned bridges. Although it was an arrestable offense, the officers did not make any arrests, rather offered all entrance into the Miami Shelter Program, 2 accepted shelter and 3 refused the offer and left the area. Without the Miami Shelter program, the officers would not have had an option to offer shelter. Officer Bernat stated there is a 200 person wait list for homeless beds. Therefore it is a 30-60 day wait for homeless person to be provided a "bed". The entire County brings homeless individuals to the Civic Center area for release from various jails throughout Miami-Dade County. The City of Miami Shelter Program will expire soon if Miami-Dade County does not provide funding to continue the successful Miami Shelter Program. Dr Ernie Martin, Chair of the MRC's Greenways subcommittee, stated homelessness is negatively impacting the public Riverwalk. Officer Bernat compliment MRC Director Bibeau's efforts to clean the public

riverwalk. The Board of County Commissioners June 2, 2015 agenda item 11A2 was distributed, “to require the County Mayor to consult with the City of Miami and the Miami Downtown Development Authority (in addition to the Homeless Trust Board) to identify additional placement opportunities for individuals transitioning out of homelessness”. **Sandy O’Neil moved a resolution in support of this distributed County agenda item, the resolution was seconded by Javier Betancourt and unanimously adopted by the Miami River Commission.**

I) Update and Consideration of Plans to Replace the 1 ST Bridge

Michael Sileno, Hardesty Hanover, presented a 38 page PowerPoint, “SW 1 ST Bridge Replacement”. Mr. Sileno stated construction is estimated to be commenced starting in 2018 through 2021. Mr. Sileno highlighted the following improvements since the last presentation to the full MRC:

- Current 1 ST Bridge built in 1929
- PDE completed 2013
- \$5 million was added to the project to include a 10-13 foot wide unobstructed public riverwalk (City code requires minimum 25-foot wide public riverwalk featuring a minimum 15-foot wide unobstructed pathway) on both sides of the bridge beneath the 1 ST Bridge, behind the structure and directly along both shorelines
- Structures and fenders removed from the waterway to provide maximum navigational width, and a 150-foot wide water channel
- Increasing Vertical clearance from 12’ to 16.6’
- Large art murals – Mark Bailey suggested the image reflect the “Working River” i.e. a vessels
- Reconstructs existing catwalks connecting to Historic Miami River Hotel
- Inserting Bike Lane
- Removing 1 vehicular lane (4 lanes becomes 3 lanes on this one-way street)

MS Sandy O’Neil stated it’s important for this section of the public riverwalk to include the Miami River Greenway signage as required by City Code.

Dr Martin stated the proposed public riverwalk is too narrow and therefore inconsistent with Miami River Greenway standards required in the City Code. Dr. Martin recommended the proposed riverwalk be widened in order to become consistent with the City codes required Miami River Greenway Design Standards and Guidelines. Dr Martin suggested perhaps the public riverwalk could be made wider in part by adding on a foot wide cantilever over the water. Mr. Sileno stated he would ask the Army Corps of Engineers and FDOT.

Javier Betancourt stated the materials used for the proposed artwork should include porcelain enamel which is easier to maintain and remove graffiti without damaging the artwork.

The MRC passed a resolution (12-1) recommending the proposed public riverwalk at the 30% planed new 1 ST Bridge become consistent with the City Code (Miami 21 Section 3.11, Appendix B, the Miami River Greenway Design Standards and Guidelines and the City

Charter) by widening the public riverwalk, adding the required Miami River Greenway signage, and use porcelain enamel and other materials on its artwork to assist with future maintenance.

The meeting adjourned.

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Horacio Stuart Gurrea		James Bernat
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