

**Miami River Commission's  
Urban Infill & Greenways Subcommittee  
Public Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2024**

The Miami River Commission (MRC) Urban Infill & Greenways Subcommittee's public meeting convened December 13, 2024, 10 AM, 1407 NW 7 ST. The attendance sheet is attached.

**1) Discussion Regarding Fort Dallas Park**

**a. Future Use of the Restored Flagler Workers House**

Attendees discussed potential future uses of the Historic Flagler Workers House after it is restored in 2025, including the Dade Heritage Trust Plan originally submitted to the City in 2017, and the Roman Jones Unsolicited Proposal and \$25,000 fee submitted to the City in 2023. Christine Rupp, Executive Director of the Dade Heritage Trust and Vinnie Betancourt, on behalf of Roman Jones, expressed continued interest in providing the future use.

**b. Design of the Fort Dallas Park space**

Attendees reviewed and discussed a rendition of the improved Fort Dallas Public Park space, and the need to complete the Park renovations design, fund and construct the project in order to reopen the currently closed Fort Dallas Park space. Attendees noted the site's current public Riverwalk was constructed over 30 years ago, therefore is in disrepair and in need of replacement. It was constructed in the same design and time as the adjacent public Riverwalk at Clarion and Hyatt hotels. Considering the Hyatt Riverwalk is funded for replacement in the "Riverbridge" development, the adjacent connecting section at Fort Dallas Park should be replaced in a matching / seamless style as part of the same project. In the interim, attendees discussed the potential for the City to collect a fee from a food truck which may quickly operate and activate the space.

**c. Needed Funding**

Hector Badia, City of Miami Capital Improvements Department, stated the City is working towards securing the needed funding, including exploring grant opportunities.

**d. Dock Repair and Future Use**

Attendees discussed the needed repairs to the Fort Dallas Park dock damaged in Hurricane Irma, and the potential for the City of Miami to apply for a FIND grant for half of the needed funding.

City of Miami Commissioner Damina Pardo, whose district includes Fort Dallas Park, stated he and the City of Miami are committed to restoring the historically designated Flagler Workers House, repairing the Fort Dallas Park dock, improving and reopening Fort Dallas Park to the public.

## **II) Discussion Regarding Lummus Park**

### **a. Increased Activations of the Historic Wagner Homestead and Fort Dallas Buildings**

Hector Badia, City of Miami Capital Improvements Department, stated the City of Miami is working towards conducting needed repairs of the 1856 Wagner Homestead (the oldest home in Miami-Dade County) which needs a new roof and wooded beam repairs due to termite damage, the 1844 Fort Dallas which has a crack in the wall with the fireplace, and the Community Center Buildings. Christine Rupp stated Dade Heritage Trust received a \$20,000 grant along with a \$20,000 match which they have been offering the City of Miami to hire a General Contractor experienced with historic renovations to construct the needed repairs of the Wagner Homestead.

Christine Rupp stated during the school year the Dade Heritage Trust provides 2-3 field trips per week in the 1856 Wagner Homestead which is the oldest home in Miami-Dade County and the 1844 Fort Dallas Buildings. MRC Director Bibeau stated during the MRC's December 2 public meeting Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre expressed support for increased activations in the special historic buildings, i.e. increased funding to DHT for more field trips, and or supervised public access. MRC Director Bibeau noted considering Lummus Park's beautiful public Riverwalk and adjacent world-renowned restaurants Garcias, Casablanca, Seaspace, Kiki's and Habibi, the "Lummus Park Historic District" is ripe to become an increasingly popular world class destination for residents and tourists alike, similar to historic waterfront areas in other cities around the world.

### **b. Needed repairs to the lights along the Lummus Park Riverwalk**

Barbie Hernandez, City of Miami Assistant Manager, and Lazaro Garcia, City of Miami Chief of Parks Operations, stated they would work on having the broken lights repaired or replaced along the public Riverwalk in the portion of Lummus Park which is open and publicly accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **c. Needed Maintenance of the Lummus Park Dock**

MRC Director Bibeau stated the bolts along the Lummus Park public Dock are in need of tightening which the MRC is willing to provide from a vessel at no charge to the City, and Ms. Hernandez and Mr. Garcia kindly accepted.

### **d. MDC Reopening Adjacent Public Parking Lot**

MRC Director Bibeau thanked County Commissioner Higgins and the County's Internal Services Department for agreeing to reopen the public paid parking lot and removing the ugly fence adjacent to Lummus Park.

**III) New Business** - The public meeting adjourned.

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**Public Meeting**

December 13, 2024 – 1:30 PM

1407 NW 7 ST, Miami, FL

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