

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes May 1, 2023

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, May 1, 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
Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Miami-Dade County Commission
Eddie Marti Kring, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins
Mercedes Librada Rodriguez, designee for City of Miami Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla
Patty Harris, designee for Governor
T. Spencer Crowley, III, Member at Large Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Theodora Long, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Board of County Commissioners
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Gus Barrera, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor
Neal Schafers, designee for Downtown Development Authority
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Sara Babun appointed by Miami-Dade County

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre welcomed 2 new MRC Board members, Eileen Broton was appointed by the City Commission as a Neighborhood Representative replacing the late Ernie Martin, and Theodora Long was appointed by the Miami-Dade County Commission as a Neighborhood Representative replacing the late Sallye Jude.

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their March 6 public meeting minutes.

Rotating pictures were presented on the large AV screen from the free 24th Annual Miami Riverday which was successfully held on April 1, 2023, 1-6 PM, Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive, featuring free boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic reenactors, children's activities, food and drinks. Chairman Aguirre presented plaques of appreciation to the generous sponsors whom made it possible for the public to enjoy all the activities for free.

In addition, at Miami Riverday the MRC released the 20th Annual Miami River Map and Guide which is being distributed. On behalf of the MRC, I thank the record high 59 generous advertisers whom contributed towards our work improving the Miami River District.

MRC Vice Chairman Jim Murley provided the following update of 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. In addition to the maintenance professionals the MRC pays daily to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping and pressure washing services along the Miami River, the MRC thanks the total 20 volunteers from Hands on Miami for picking up garbage along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park on March 26 and in Sewell Park on March 19.

II) Review Status of Creating “Seamless” Public Riverwalk Connections Between:

Jim Murley and Neal Schafers commended MRC Director Bibeau for his good work on the public Riverwalk.

a. Aston Martin Residences and One Miami

Carlos Lago, Greenberg Traurig, distributed a picture of current conditions, and plans for the seamless riverwalk connection between Aston Martin Residences (under construction), and One Miami.

b. Latitude on the River and 2 Ave Bridge

Latitude on the River, has applied for an Army Corps of Engineer’s permit, and are about to submit responses to the Army Corps of Engineers questions.

c. Miami River SAP and Jose Marti Park

Excerpts from the City of Miami Commission adopted Miami River SAP and its Development Agreement, which are now part of the Zoning Code were distributed. SAP sites require a minimum of 9 acres, and this private site was less than 9 acres therefore the developer Chetrit Group partnered with the City of Miami whom provided additional acreage from Jose Marti Park etc. to meet the 9-acre requirement in a joint SAP application. The distributed City Commission approved SAP renditions depict 2 bicycles using the public Riverwalk in Jose Marti Park beneath I-95, and the Development Agreement states, “Public Riverwalk, Seawall and Bulkhead Improvements – Developer will construct a connected Riverwalk beginning at SW 3 Ave and continuing through Jose Marti Park in compliance with the Miami River Greenway Action Plan, Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan, and Miami 21, \$3,167,370”. The Raymond Jungles design approved in the City’s SAP went through years of public hearings and input. After the SAP was adopted, a different plan was made for Jose Marti Park (yet to be presented to the City Commission), and the connecting public Riverwalk area approved in the SAP by the City Commission in Jose Marti Park beneath I-95 was proposed to be replaced with a living shoreline which doesn’t provide a directly connecting Riverwalk as required by code and the adopted SAP. The SAP is currently well along in construction; therefore, this has become time sensitive.

d. Casa Neos and Flagler Bridge

The MRC's May 2, 2022 public meeting minutes were distributed, featuring Ben Fernandez and Guillaume Vidallet presenting plans and a draft covenant for the public Riverwalk to seamlessly connect into the adjacent City owned public riverfront greenspace (located between the private parcel and Flagler Bridge) as required by code. Mr. Neal Schafers, DDA, stated the DDA appropriated a \$25,000 cost share to improve the public Riverwalk on the subject City owned riverfront site, and for years the DDA and MRC have been recommending the City apply to a FIND grant. A May 1, 2023 email from City of Miami DREAM Director Andrew Frey was distributed stating, "My department is leading the process of procuring consultants for a small street-end park and seawall for this parcel, in collaboration with other City departments. Hopefully that will be done soon, and we will move forward quickly with design and engineering."

III. Informational Presentation Regarding Antillean Marine Shipping Corporation in Operation on the Miami River for Over 50 Years

Robert Taylor, Antillean Marine, provided a general overview of Antillean Marine Shipping Corporation. Antillean is an international shipping terminal that started doing business on the Miami River in 1963. Antillean has facilities and operations in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Antillean sends 4 weekly shipping vessels to Rio Haina, Puerto Plata, Port Au Prince and Cap Haiten.

IV. Subcommittees

The Urban infill and Greenways Subcommittee's April 24 public meeting minutes were distributed.

The Miami River Holiday Boat Parade's March 13 and April 24 public meeting minutes were distributed.

V. New Business

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins stated the 17 Ave Bridge repairs will be completed and the bridge will reopen to vehicular traffic in the 1st week of June. Commissioner Higgins stated the 17 Ave bridge Replacement PD&E has commenced and the County secured \$45 for the project.

The public meeting adjourned.

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Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
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