

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes July 15, 2024

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, July 15, 2024, 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, Appointed by the Governor
Jim Murley, Vice Chairman, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Cava
City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela
Eddie Marti Kring, designee for County Commissioner Eileen Higgins
Betty Hermida, designee for City of Miami Commissioner Gabela
Patty Harris, Appointed by the Governor
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor
Theodora Long, designee Neighborhood Representative appointed by Board of County Commissioners
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Richard Murphy, designee for the Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Sara Babun appointed by Miami-Dade County
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group
Philip Everingham, designee for the Marine Council
Spencer Crowley, Member at Large Appointed by City Commission
William Gonzalez, designee for Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report and Vice Chair's "Voluntary Improvement Plan" (VIP) Update

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted the June 3 public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Murley stated we have a very full and exciting agenda ahead today, so I will quickly turn it over to MRC Vice Chairman Murley to provide his brief Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) update before we start today's agenda items.

MRC Vice chairman Jim Murley presented 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 pays professional maintenance companies every day to remove litter, invasive plant species, graffiti and provide landscaping, pressure washing, vacuum truck, and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services along the Miami River. The MRC thanks the Hands on Miami volunteers for

picking up garbage along the Miami River in Curtis Park on June 23 and July 21 and in Sewell Park on June 2 and July 14 .

II. Presentation Regarding Draft Update to the Downtown Transportation Master Plan

Mr. Chris Rosenberg, Chief, Transportation Planning, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, presented the Draft Update to the Downtown Transportation Master Plan.

The MRC distributed and reviewed the MRC's following previous transportation related recommendations:

- Restore the 2 vehicular lanes removed from the Brickell Bridge
- Waterborne Transportation
- Miami River Bridge Action Items

III. Discussion Regarding Potential Expansion of Fern Isle Park

Pictures of the subject area were attached to the agenda notice and displayed on the large AV screen. Attendees discussed expanding the existing public Riverwalk in Fern Isle Park further west all the way to the dead end at 836 (into the area currently not publicly accessible behind a chain link fence). City received preliminary permission from FDOT and GSX. Doing so would nearly double the linear distance of the Parks existing public Riverwalk. The current shoreline is a code violation. **The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution recommending the City of Miami expand Fern Isle Park.**

IV. Discussion Regarding Potential Wagner Creek Linear Park

Pictures of the subject area were attached to the agenda notice and displayed on the large AV screen. The City of Miami owns the waterfront along Wagner Creek from NW 20 ST to NW 15. This area includes 2 street dead ends at NW 19 Terrace and NW 15 ST, and suffers from significant illegal dumping. The shoreline is unimproved and is eroding into Wagner Creek. Therefore, attendees discussed improving this public right of way by constructing a public Riverwalk, decorative lighting, landscaping, and a seawall. At a televised "Sunshine Meeting" in City Hall (not a City Commission meeting) Director Santana stated the City has funding to make waterfront street dead ends like these into mini-Parks. Tthe current shoreline is a code violation. **The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution recommending the City of Miami create the Wagner Creek Linear Park.**

V. Discussion Regarding Potential Improvements to Grove Circle Mini Park

Pictures of the subject area were attached to the agenda notice and displayed on the large AV screen. The City of Miami owns "Grove Circle Mini Park" which is currently an unimproved riverfront public greenspace located along NW 16 Ave from the Miami River's South Shore to NW South River Drive. This public Park space is part of a historic linear park through the Grove Park residential neighborhood, but the construction of 836 removed a large portion. Today the

other remaining portion of this historic site serves as a lovely park with a playground, shade structure, Parks rules sign, etc. On the other hand, today the riverfront portion remains unimproved, and is mowed by the Parks Department. The seawall is very low so this area including 16 Ave often floods. City of Miami Solid Waste has been unable to service a house on this street due to flooding. To the east many years ago the City Commission approved an upzoning with a restrictive covenant where the property owners were going to fund and construct a new seawall and public riverwalk at this City owned "Grove Circle Mini Park" location, but they are not moving forward with the development and the site currently has a posted for sale sign again. Currently the public greenspace is being abused on a regular basis by late night parties which leave behind cases of empty beer cans, liquor bottles, drug paraphernalia, used condoms, someone even shot the River Landing building across the River with a gun from this location. The current shoreline is a code violation. **The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution recommending the City of Miami make improvements to Grove Circle Mini Park.**

VI. Discussion Regarding Miami-Dade County Creating a New Boating Safety Committee

Mr. Andy Fernandez, Lucy Fernandez Foundation, told the tragic story of his teenage daughter Lucy Fernandez' fatality in a boating accident. **The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution recommending approval of Miami-Dade County's initiative to create a Boating Safety Task Force.**

VII. New Business

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission

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July 15, 2024 - 12:00 PM

101 W Flagler, Miami FL - Main Library Auditorium

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