

# **Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes September 9, 2024**

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, September 9, 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  
Eddie Marti Kring, designee for County Commissioner Eileen Higgins  
Betty Hermida, designee for City of Miami Commissioner Gabela  
Patty Harris, Appointed by the Governor  
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  
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 July 15 public meeting minutes.

MRC Vice Chairman Murley has graciously served the community his entire life. Jim is a Vietnam Veteran whom served his County in the U.S. Army. Jim was the Secretary of the State of Florida's Department of Community Affairs, and worked for numerous Universities. For the last several years Jim has been Miami-Dade County's Chief Resilience Officer, a critical position for our communities' long-term future. Before you is your cordial invitation to Jim's Miami-Dade County retirement party. Please note although the Miami River Commission/ Miami River Fund Inc has not provided any funding for the retirement party, MRC member John Michael Cornell, Hurricane Cove, Brett and I are more than happy to personally assist the County by co-sponsoring the event.

Thankfully Jim Murley has volunteered for the Miami River Commission since its 1<sup>st</sup> day in 1998. He enjoys his weekend bike rides along the public Miami River Greenway, and sending pictures to Brett of locations which he helps the MRC improve. It's the MRC's hope and understanding that Jim would like to continue volunteering for the MRC as a retiree, for which the MRC would be most grateful and honored by his continued active participation. **The MRC adopted a**

**unanimous resolution respectfully recommending Miami-Dade County Mayor Cava maintain Jim Murley as her MRC designee.**

MRC Vice Chairman Murley provided his Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) update to the MRC:

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. In addition, the MRC thanks the 25 employees from Kiki's on the River for volunteering to pick up garbage along the Miami River in Curtis Park on August 13, and the Hands-on-Miami volunteers for picking up garbage along the Miami River in Curtis Park on August 25 and in Sewell Park on August 11.

## **II. Update Regarding 444 Brickell Ave & 77-99 SE 5 ST**

Ms. Iris Escarra, Greenberg Traurig, stated in 2015 the MRC recommend approval of the subject Related Group Development located on the Miami River's south shore, west of Brickell Ave, and she was presenting an update. After demolition of the site's previous structure numerous 3,500-year-old artifacts were discovered on the site and saved by professional archeologists. Ms. Escarra presented plans and a PowerPoint highlighting how they would save, honor and educate about the amazing artifacts. The museum quality exhibit will include an indoor portion along the public riverwalk. Ms. Escarra noted this would be one of several historic sites along the public Riverwalk which maybe featured in the proposed larger "Tequesta Trail", for which Archeologist Bob Carr recently submitted a planning grant application to the State of Florida. Ms. Escarra stated the revised public Riverwalk remains consistent with Miami 21 Section 3.11, for example it still features a 16' wide unobstructed "circulation zone", etc. Ms. Escarra offered in the near future to provide these presented commitments "in writing", via a Letter of Intent. Ms. Escarra added they will return to the MRC in the future to present updates to the 2015 approved plans for Phase II.

**The MRC adopted a unanimous motion recommending approval of the updated plans to 444 Brickell Ave & 77-99 SE 5 ST.**

## **III. Miami River / C6 Basin Analysis: Central and South Florida Flood Control Resiliency**

Carolina Maran, South Florida Water Management District, and Tim Gysan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented the Miami River / C6 Basin Analysis: Central and South Florida Flood Control Resiliency. In order to address sea level rise, etc., the SFWMD is planning the following upgrades to their existing Salinity Dam Structure and Forward pump (S-25B and S-26) on the Miami River's western terminus at NW 36 ST:

- “Replacing the remaining three MWI pumps (+ one spare) in FY26 Dry Season
- Installing new Caterpillar C18 500kW generators by May 2025 (3 in each)”

Dr Maran and Mr. Gysan that they are currently planning and will return to the MRC with a presentation regarding:

1. Structure Hardening
2. Canal Embankments Resiliency
3. Canal Widening and Dredging Resiliency
4. New Storage Area(s)
5. Additional Potential CERP Storage
6. Inter Basin Transfer
7. Measures at the mouth of the Miami River (Downstream S-26)

## **VII. New Business**

The public meeting adjourned.

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101 W Flagler, Miami FL - Main Library Auditorium

Name

Organization

Telephone

Email

Lourdes Isalgue

self

786-597-8067

lourdesisalgue@gmail.com

Julio Tejeda

SFWMD

561-836-4261

Tejeda@SFWMD.gov  
furr.mitchell@gmail.com

Mitchell N. Furr

SELF/AHC

601-467-6462

Clayton Borden

AHC

727-450-9752

clayton.borden@gmail.com  
ad.lago@SFWMD.gov

Armando Vigilucci

SFWMD

305-336-0000

Andrés Vigilucci

Miami Herald

aviglucci@miamiherald.com

Jim Mulcahy

MDC/COR

786-719-9155

James.Mulcahy@miamiherald.com

Carlos Diaz

GreenbergTraurig  
MDC

305-579-0502

diazc@gtlaw.com

INS Escarra

GreenbergTraurig

305-579-0737

escarra@gtlaw.com

Theodora Long

MRC

305-401-4595

Will Gonzalez

Miami SFD

305-547-0100

williamgonzalez@miamisfd.com

PATRICIA HARRIS

MRC

305-262-3763

PATRIKAK@GMAIL.COM

BRUCE M. BROWN

MRC

305/788-2411

bruce402@bep.com

Mark Bailey Miami River Name Group

30562 217

markbailey@miamirivernamegroup.org

Neal Schafers

Miami DDA

305-379-6675

schafers@miamidda.com

Richard J. Murphy

Spring Garden - Designer

786.525.5353

Rmur1@bascott.net

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Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
JON R FIGUEROA	RELATED GROUP	305-460-9900	JFIGUEROA@RELATEDGROUP.COM
ROBERT CARR	ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL CONSERVATION	954 7929776	arch1gcl@bellsouth.net
Matthew Gorwitz	Related Group		mgorwitz@relatedgroup.com
ANNA CAMUTO	ARQUITECTONICA		ACAMUTO@ARQUITECTONICA.COM
Silvia Urbina	Arquitectonica		surbina@arquitectonica.com
IVANA BECKER	ENEA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE		i.becker@enea.ch
Horacio Stuart Aguirre	MRC		
Brett Bibeau	MRC	(305) 644 0544	brettbibeau@miamirivercommission.org
Alvaro Coronado	South Miami	305-606-3507	aconradin@southmiami.com

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Name	Organization	Telephone	Email
Eileen Brotan	MRC/SG	317 90-4084	<del>Eileen Brotan</del> bellsoath
Betty Hermida	MRC/Dist 1	786-853-0559	vmhermid@comcast.net
Edward Marti King	MDC/BCC/DS	305 972 4457	Eddie.MartiKing@miamidade.gov
Tim Gysan	USACE	904 738 8916	EARL.T.GYSAN@USACE.ARMY.MIL
Carolina Maran	SFWMD	561 682 6868	cmaran@sfwmd.gov
Nancy Anderson	DOOR (MDC)	786-797-1977	Nancy.Janderson@miamidade.gov
Christine Michaels	Riverfront Condos	305-218-9952	christine.michaels@yahoo.com <u>preservemiami</u> <u>history@gmail</u>