

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes June 6, 2022

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, June 6, 2022, in the Downtown Main 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 County Mayor Danielle Levine Cava
Nancy Jackson, designee for County Commissioner Eileen Higgins
Patty Harris, designee for Governor
Neal Schafers, Designee for Downtown Development Authority
Richard Dubin, designee for Miami River Marine Group
Mike Simpson, designee for Sallye Jude
Megan Kelly, designee for Mayor Francis Suarez
Phil Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Sara Babun
John Michael Cornell, designee for Luis Garcia

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report

The Miami River Commission unanimously adopted their May 2 public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Aguirre provided the following report:

The Miami River Commission's 19th Annual Miami River Map and Guide has been distributed. The MRC is grateful for the over 50 advertisers.

In addition, the MRC thanks the 34 sponsors of the 2nd Annual Your Miami River Cleanup Campaign, whose logos appear on the distributed thank you piece.

All proceeds from both the 19th Annual Miami River Map and Guide and the 2nd Annual Your Miami River Cleanup Campaign continue to directly improve the Miami River District.

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 volunteers from Waterway Advocates, whom on June 4 picked up garbage along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park and the volunteers from Hands o Miami whom will pickup garbage along the shorelines in Sewell Park on June 11 and Curtis Park on June 18.

II) Presentation Regarding Proposed Development at 400 SE 2 Ave

Ms. Iris Escarra, Greenberg Traurig, and Bernardo Fort-Brescia, Aruitectonica, distributed and presented plans and the attached letter of intent for a proposed riverfront development at 400 SE 2 Ave, on behalf of attendees Allen Matis and Phil Keb, Gencom. The subject location is currently the Hyatt Hotel and James L Knight Convention Center, and the land is owned by the City of Miami, immediately adjacent to the “Riverwalk” Metro-Mover station. The applicants are seeking the Miami River Commission’s advisory recommendation on the following upcoming City Commission agenda item, should the City of Miami place this site on the ballot for a public referendum to extend the current lease and generally allow for the presented development? Then, further in the future, if the City Commission votes to place this question on the ballot, and if the public votes to approve, then the applicants would create more detailed plans and present them at that time to the MRC.

Ms. Escarra and the letter of intent stated the proposal is consistent with the current zoning, land use, and the public Riverwalk will comply with the code requirements of Section 3.11, Appendix B, and the Baywalk Riverwalk Design Standards and Guidelines. The Hyatt currently has 612 hotel rooms, and the proposal is for 615 hotel rooms, plus an additional 1,500 residential unit, and 190,000 square feet of meeting space. Ms. Escarra stated the applicants were willing to fund improvements to the existing public Riverwalk beneath the Brickell Bridge, and the proposed public Riverwalk will connect with existing public Riverwalks to the east, west, and north. Ms. Escarra stated they would like to keep the Poseidon Ferry which picks up and drops off passengers at this location for service to and from Miami Beach.

The Miami River Commission (MRC) adopted a unanimous motion respectfully recommend that the City Commission send the City owned 400 SE 2 Ave to a public referendum to extend the current Hyatt lease and allow development generally consistent with the presented draft “Miami Riverbridge” mixed-use development plans featuring the public Riverwalk, while utilizing the project’s Parks Impact Fee as a potential funding source to reimburse the expedited improvements and reopening of the nearby FT Dallas Park, along with restoring its historically designated Flagler Workers House.

III) MRC Subcommittee Reports

A. Greenways Subcommittee

Since the City and County’s adoption of the *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*, 6.75 miles or 67.5% of the planned 10-mile public Miami River Greenway has been constructed.

Currently 3 sections of the public Riverwalk are under construction at Aston Martin, Miami River SAP, and a new restaurant in Little Havana.

The MRC, City and County continues working on numerous private and public sector potential funding opportunities to secure the remaining funding needed to finish construction of the public Riverwalk.

B.Stormwater Subcommittee - The subcommittee had a virtual workshop last Wednesday, June 1. The MRC will be applying to the State of Florida for \$600,000 in grant funding from the State's FY 22-23's \$20 million for improving water quality in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, by increasing frequency of vacuum truck services in stormwater manholes along the Miami River, landside garbage pickups, and street sweeper truck services along the Miami River. Both were identified as sources of pollution in the County's recent helpful Miami River Water Quality Assessment, which was reviewed during the MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's recent virtual workshop.

IV) New Business

The public meeting adjourned.

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Miami-Dade Library, 101 W Flagler ST

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Organization

Telephone

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