

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, March 6, 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
Megan Kelly, designee for City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez
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
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City Commission
John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor
Neal Schafers, Downtown Development Authority
Mike Simpson, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Sara Babun appointed by Miami-Dade County

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report

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

The free 24th Annual Miami Riverday will be held 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. I thank our record high 47 generous sponsors whom made it possible for the public to enjoy all the activities for free. The 30 bilingual Miami Riverday posters have been installed in the Riverwalk's kiosks, 7,500 bilingual flyers are being distributed, City of Miami TV is airing a PSA, electronic bus bench ads are flashing citywide, and ads will be running soon in 3 radio stations, Miami Herald, Nuevo Herald, Diario de las Americas and New Times.

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

On behalf of the entire MRC, I would like to welcome the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's new MRC designee Gus Barrera. Thankfully this is not goodbye to Sandy O'Neil, as she will remain a volunteer advisor and supporter of the MRC, which we sincerely appreciate.

Due to Miami Riverday, the MRC will not meet in April, and our next public meeting will be May 1, noon, 101 W Flagler.

II) Discussion Regarding City of Miami's Fully Funded and Partially Planned Section of the Public Miami River Greenway on The North Shore From Curtis Park to NW 18 Ave

Hector Badia, City of Miami Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), presented, and attendees reviewed and discussed the distributed City of Miami summary regarding "Miami River Greenway Project and Roadway Improvements at Gerry Curtis Park".

The City of Miami received a \$1 million grant from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) annual grant cycle for the Miami River Greenway from NW 24 Ave to NW 22 Ave. The construction plans for this section are 60% complete. In addition, the City of Miami received a second \$1 million grant from the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) annual grant cycle for the Miami River Greenway from NW 22 Ave to NW 18 Ave, for which construction engineering documents are further behind than the other section. Currently the subject area has no sidewalks, and the 2 new projects will feature a new Riverwalk in Curtis Park, and a new North River Drive with the on-road Miami River Greenway, sidewalks, decorative lighting, landscaping, wayfinding signage, benches, and decorative trash cans.

The MRC passed a unanimous resolution applauding the City of Miami's efforts to construct these 2 funded sections of the public Miami River Greenway, and encouraging the City to commence construction engineering documents on the section from NW 22 Ave to NW 18 Ave.

III) Review FDOT to Repair Miami River Shoreline and Outfall on NW South River Drive West of 27 Ave Bridge

Jacquelyn DeAngelo, Cynthia Turcios and Kylie Shivers, FDOT, and Angela Baron-Ruiz, CHA Consulting, distributed and presented FDOT's 100% complete construction engineering documents to repair the FDOT outfall and collapsed Miami River shoreline on NW South River Drive just west of the 27 Ave Bridge. The new outfall will feature a tidal valve and manatee grate. Since the project will include reconstructing a small portion of City owned South River Drive, FDOT will be asking the City of Miami for a cost share.

Brett Bibeau, MRC Managing Director, distributed a picture of one of 2 additional large shoreline collapses immediately west of the subject site, located along City of Miami owned NW South

River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave. Attendees noted this riverfront stretch of NW South River Drive does not have sidewalks on either side of the street. The area includes a new residential development site, Miami River Rapids Park, and the Fire Benevolent Association. Attendees noted this project is needed for public safety, the environment, and public riverfront access.

Spencer Crowley asked if the project will include components designed to improve water quality, and FDOT answered the current outfall doesn't have such components, therefore the planned version does not.

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution asking DERM if they will require or recommend this project to incorporate features designed to improve water quality, i.e. a baffle box, and encouraging the City of Miami to apply for a TAP grant or seek a State / Federal cost share / earmark to repair the additional 2 adjacent shoreline collapses, while constructing a public Riverwalk and new stretch of this riverfront portion of South River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave, featuring landscaping, decorative lighting, etc.

IV) Discussion Regarding Potential Holiday Boat Parade on the Miami River

Mercedes Rodriguez stated the Holiday Boat Parade subcommittee's February 22 public meeting minutes have been distributed, and the next public meeting will be March 13, 1 PM in Curtis Park. The upcoming public meeting will be focused on potentially required permits; therefore, all related regulatory agencies have been invited.

V) New Business

Miami River resident Tom Kimen applauded Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) whom he witnessed with 2 law enforcement vessels on the Miami River recently writing 12 tickets to speeding vessels.

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission

March 6, 2023

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact</u>
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