

**Miami River Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2015**

Mr. Jay Carmichael, Vice-Chairman of the Miami River Commission (MRC), convened the public meeting at noon, October 5, 2015, 1407 NW 7 ST, Miami, FL.

**Miami River Commission (MRC) Policy Committee Members and/or Designees attending:**

Jay Carmichael, Member at Large Appointed by the Governor  
Patricia Harris, designee for FL Governor  
Sandy Batchelor, South Florida Water Management District  
Bruno Barreiro, Miami-Dade County Commissioner  
Marlene Avalo, designee for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro  
Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce  
Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County  
Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group  
Ernie Martin, Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami  
Philip Everingham, designee for Marine Council Chairman  
Manny Prieguez, Member at Large appointed by the City of Miami

**MRC Staff:**

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

**Others attending interested in the River:**

Please see attached sign in sheets.

**I) Chair Report – MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre**

The following was distributed:

“~~Memorandum~~”

**To:** Miami River Commission, October 5 Meeting Attendees

**From:** Horacio Stuart Aguirre, Chairman, Miami River Commission

**Date:** October 5, 2015

**Re:** Miami River Commission's October 5 Public Meeting

---

Per the request of the City of Miami, I am currently participating in a conference regarding the oversight of municipal police departments and unable to attend today's meeting. I'm grateful to the Miami River Commission Vice Chairman Jay Carmichael for sitting as Chairman at today's meeting.

Please note that based on the previously distributed MRC subcommittee public meeting minutes, regarding the items on today's MRC agenda, I am in agreement with the noted recommendations of the MRC's respective subcommittee Chairs.

I'm looking forward to joining you again at the MRC's November 2 public meeting. Until then, your participation today and support for the Miami River District is sincerely appreciated."

Vice Chairman Carmichael noted reported John Charles Robbins attendance, and thanked the Miami Today for the frequent coverage of the Miami River District. Please note the distributed Miami Herald recent incredible article and editorial, regarding the increasingly popular mixed-use Miami River District. The press acknowledged the Miami River Commission's accomplishments, and on behalf of the MRC I want to thank all of our wonderful volunteer board members and partners in the public and private sectors, which worked together as a team since 1998 to bring these significant improvements to the natural environment and economy to fruition.

The following is a sample of some of the items recently addressed in the Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP):

The MRC forwarded resident emails to City of Miami Homeless Assistance Director Torres about homeless camps beneath and adjacent to the Flagler Bridge on South River Drive, 2 Ave Bridge south shore, and Brickell Bridge south shore. There should now be available homeless beds to offer under the recently enacted new agreements executed between the City, County, Homeless Trust, Camillus House, DDA, etc.

The MRC reported Miami Parking Authority's public paid parking lot on the Miami River near Garcia's, Casablanca and Seaspice needs the storm drains cleared with a vacuum truck because they are not draining and the lot floods in rain.

Per one of the remaining Wagner Creek & Seybold Canal Walk the WBID recommended Action Items, the MRC found and scheduled the City of Miami's Chicken Catchers Team to remove free roaming Chickens which produce feces, a source of contamination in the water quality.

MRC conducted a site visit with FDOT and is following up on following needed items:

- 1) Repairing broken Lights on Flagler Bridge
- 2) Repairing broken Lights on 1 ST Bridge
- 3) Repairing broken lights on the Tequesta statute on the Brickell Bridge
- 3) Needed increase in removing re-occurring feces and garbage beneath FDOT Bridges
- 4) Removing broken fence at 1 St Bridge
- 5) Repairing fence at Flagler Bridge
- 6) etc

MRC continues to encourage City of Miami to provide needed landscaping and garbage removal services on following areas which the City is responsible for:

- South shore from 27 Ave to NW 20 ST
- 12 Ave Bridge
- 5 ST Bridge

MRC is willing and able to continue providing some maintenance service in these areas to assist the City towards providing a reasonable level of service, but the MRC crew has been the only maintenance of these areas the last few times service was provided, and we need the City to continue doing their part as well.

The Riverfront Condominium Master Association and MRC continues to communicate with the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs regarding the planned repairs of the iconic multi-colored lights over the Miami River on the Metro-Rail Bridge, known as the “Miami Line”. The County emailed the project which used to have 2 Phases, is now broken into three geographic phases, and Phase 1 is now estimated to commence repairs in the middle of October. Mr. Carmichael stated this item will remain on the monthly Miami River VIP reports made during the monthly public MRC meetings until complete.

The MRC reported a dangerous pot-hole in the Jose Marti Park children basketball court, and thanks City Parks Director Kevin Kirwin for quickly having it repaired

Hummingbird has conducted a Native American ceremony at the ancient Miami Circle every Tuesday at 6 PM since it was discovered in 1998. Hummingbird called MRC Director Bibeau and asked for a site visit so she could show a list of recommended and needed improvements to the site. The MRC continues to work with the site’s owner which is the State of Florida, and supportive local stakeholders including Rep Jose Felix Diaz, Spencer Crowley, FIND, District City Commissioner Sarnoff, District County Commissioner Barreiro, DDA, MPA, City Homeless Assistance Department, etc. to make the Miami Circle Park, a designated National Historic Landmark, the best it can possibly be. For example, the MRC’s paid cleanup crew picks up the sites garbage every Thursday and pressure washes the Riverwalk annually. Mr. Carmichael stated this item will remain on the monthly Miami River VIP reports made during the monthly public MRC meetings until complete.

**II. Consideration of City of Miami’s Plans to Sell Riverfront 444 SW 2 Ave (City Office Building) and Adjacent Riverfront 460 SW 2 Ave (Public Park with Riverwalk and 3 Boat Slips)** – Robert Weinreb, Office of the City Manager, presented the item on behalf of the City of Miami. Mr. Weinreb stated land along the Miami River has become very valuable, and “the building is too small for a growing city and we do need more space”. Therefore the City of Miami is working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) to “swap” their existing office building for a new custom building designed and constructed to meet the needs of the City of Miami administration and its various visitors. Mr. Weinreb stated if there is a difference in value after the building swap, the difference would be paid to the City of Miami, and the deal would have to be approved at referendum by the voters of the City of Miami.

Print outs from the Miami-Dade County Tax Appraiser Website were distributed for the following 2 subject City owned parcels.

444 SW 2 Ave - Currently the City of Miami's 10-story office building features ample parking in the site's 4-story parking garage (and adjacent public parking lots beneath I-95).

460 SW 2 Ave is a publicly accessible 1.3 acre riverfront public open green park space, featuring the public Riverwalk and 3 boat slips.

The following documents were distributed:

- The City of Miami's adopted "Miami Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan" (Comp. Plan) states, "Policy CI-1.2.3:Acceptable Level of Service Standards for public facilities in the City of Miami are: a) Recreation and Open Space – 1.3 acres of public park space per 1,000 residents (see parks, Recreation and Open Space Policy PR-1.1.4.)." There are thousands of additional residents which will live in new residential units planned in this "Lower" section of the Miami River.
- The City of Miami's adopted Parks Master Plan states, "Goal: Enhance and ensure Public access to water"
- The *Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan* page 90 states, "Provide additional Greenspace where feasible within the Urban Infill Boundary."
- The MRC Urban Infill Subcommittee's September 23, 2015 public meeting minutes, "MRC Urban Infill Chairman Murley suggested the Miami River Commission recommend the City of Miami maintain ownership of 460 SW 2 Ave, or provide covenants and guarantees that any future owner will maintain its current use which serves as an undeveloped public park with a public Riverwalk and three valuable waterfront slips which could generate re-occurring revenue source to fund maintenance of the public park and public Riverwalk. Chairman Murley suggested the MRC further recommend the City of Miami increase its riverfront public park space, do not lose riverfront public greenspace, and host a public planning process of how the reserved park space might be better integrated into the public Miami River Greenway."

Sandy Batchelor stated she supported MRC Urban Infill Chairman Jim Murley's recommendation as stated in the minutes because "It's in the best interest of the public".

Sallye Jude stated the City of Miami has amongst the least park space of any large City in the Country, therefore needs more park space, not less.

Commissioner Barreiro stated if the City sold both parcels, the MRC could recommend an equal amount of public open riverfront greenspace be retained within any development, but allow the flexibility of shifting that space if needed within the larger of foot print of the 2 combined parcels.

Manny Prieguez stated it was too early too early to vote on the matter and recommended the MRC defer the item, "I urge a wait and see attitude."

**Sallye Jude made a motion for the MRC to recommend the City of Miami retain ownership of 460 SW 2 Ave, and maintain its use as a public park featuring the public Riverwalk and 3 boat slips. The MRC adopted the motion 8-2.**

### **III) Consideration of City of Miami Planning Department Zoning Amendment for Riverfront 109 SW South River Drive and the Miami River Inn (part of a larger City of Miami Zoning amendment application for certain properties in Little Havana)**

Manny Prieguez stated he owns 109 SW South River Drive, therefore recused himself from participating in this item. MRC meeting quorum is 10 members, and with Mr. Prieguez recusing himself for this item, there became only 9 MRC members participating, which is 1 less than quorum. Therefore this item will be placed on the MRC's November 2, 2015 public meeting agenda for consideration.

### **IV) Consideration of City of Miami's Transportation Trust Fund**

MRC Managing Director Bibeau distributed copies of the City of Miami's Transportation Trust Fund which was approved at 1<sup>st</sup> reading, which dedicates funding for transportation improvements. Director Bibeau noted one improvement to the item is being recommended by MRC Board Member and City Commissioner Frank Carollo to create a new Transportation Impact Fee to be assessed on new developments, of which funding would be placed into the Transportation Trust.

**Sandy O'Neil mad a motion for the full MRC to endorse MRC Urban Infill Chairman Jim Murley's suggestion for the MRC recommend approval of the concept of a Transportation Trust, which maybe improved before 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, which would include a new Transportation Impact Fee, and recommends the Trust only fund new capital Transportation expenses including but not limited to the public Riverwalk, Miami River Bridge improvements like smart signage etc., and Waterborne Transportation, as potential eligible transportation related capital expenses. The MRC unanimously adopted the resolution.**

## **V. MRC Subcommittee Reports**

### **A. Greenways Subcommittee - Chair Dr. Ernie Martin**

Dr Martin recommended the City of Miami apply for 2 available Federal \$1 million grants for the public Miami River Greenway on both shores, proceeding west from 17 Ave.

Dr Martin recommended Miami-Dade County utilize the remaining funding in their "Miami River Greenway" line item within the 2003 GOB Bond Issue to improve the public Riverwalk at County owned Robert King High, including a new needed seawall, decorative lights,

landscaping, etc. Commissioner Barreiro stated under a contract with Miami-Dade County Related Urban will be constructing new affordable housing on the County owned riverfront housing site in estimated 6 months, so the City Code will require a new public Riverwalk be constructed at that site as part of that development. Therefore Commissioner Barreiro stated he prefers using the County's remaining Miami River Greenway line item funding for a different section of the public Riverwalk, which does not have any other potential funding sources.

Dr. Martin referred to the MRC Urban Infill and Greenways subcommittee's September 23, 2015 distributed public meeting minutes agenda item, "Consideration of Submitted Bid to City of Miami Request for Proposals (RFP) to Lease City Owned 236-298 NW North River Drive". Dr Martin stated the submitted Bid is consistent with the long desired "Fisherman's Wharf" for this portion of the Miami River, as required in the City of Miami's adopted Comp. Plan and recommended in the Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan. Therefore Dr Martin stated he didn't want to see this item delayed.

The MRC coordinated and funded 2 major volunteer Miami River Greenway Beautification events the last 2 Saturdays. The MRC thanks the 50 volunteers from FIU whom planted 120 plants, spread 300 bags of recycled mulch, painted, and removed litter along the Miami River Greenway's south shore from Jose Marti Park to NW 1 ST. In addition the MRC thanks the 50 volunteers from UM whom last Saturday planted 300 plants, spread 300 bags of recycled mulch, painted, and removed litter along the Miami River Greenway's north shore from I-95 to NW 5 ST Bridge. The next MRC funded Miami River Greenway volunteer event is Saturday, October 17, 9-11 AM, Hands on Miami volunteers will be here working in the community vegetable and fruit garden and removing garbage along the public riverwalk's shoreline here at 1407 NW 7 ST.

The next Greenways and Urban Infill Subcommittee public meeting is October 21, here, at 3 PM.

**B. Stormwater Subcommittee, Chair Sallve Jude**

The Stormwater subcommittee's September public meeting minutes have been distributed. I thank the agencies for scheduling the "Walk the WBID" to search for sources of contamination along the Miami River, and then make an action plan to eliminate any identified contamination sources. As you may recall, this is the same process used for the Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Walk the WBID.

**C. Economic Development and Commerce, Chair Phil Everingham**

The MRC Economic Development and Commerce subcommittee's September public meeting minutes have been distributed. As noted in the minutes, the MRC has begun working towards creating a Miami River Property and Business Database, and the subcommittee is working with the Bayside Foundation, Miami River Marine Group and the Miami-Dade School Board on creating a new marine industrial vocational curriculum.

The EDC's next public meeting minute is tomorrow, October 6, here at 2 PM.

The meeting adjourned.

**Miami River Commission  
Public Meeting**

Monday, October 5, 2015  
Noon  
1407 NW 7 ST  
Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE / FAX / E-MAIL</u>
Manny Prieguez	MRC	31345-9070
Sandy O'Neil	Gmcc	oneils@bellsouth.net
Brett Bibeau	MRC	305 644 0544
Jay Carmichael	MRC	Miamiriver1@bellsouth.net
PHIL EVERINGHAM	MRC/Marine Council	305-376-6090; j.carmichael@quester.ca
BRUCE L. BROWN	MRMA	305 951-9096; pbemsdd@hotmail.com
SANDY BATCHELOR	MRC/SFWMD DESIGNER	305-788-6411; bruce402@bellsouth.net
Bruno Burreiro	MDC	305/534-5004 SBATL@EDUC.SFWMD.GOV
PATRICIA A. HARRIS	MRC	305-643-8525
Ernest Martin	MRC	305 373-1000 PATTIKAK@GMAIL.COM
SALLYE JUDE	MRC	305 325-8730
		305667-3233

**Miami River Commission  
Public Meeting**

Monday, October 5, 2015  
Noon  
1407 NW 7 ST  
Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE / FAX / E-MAIL</u>
STANLEY RIGAUD	The BEACON Council	(305) 496-1496
Robert Weimreb	City of Miami	Srigaud@beaconcouncil.com
Mark Bailey	Miami River Marine Group	305 406-1209 rweimreb@miamiriver.com
JOHN CORNELL	HC/T-555	305-637-7977
Thais Asper	LSN Partners	(580) 214-1475
Francine Madra	Miami River Inn	305-673-2585
DAVID RESTAINER	DOUGLAS ELLIMAN COMMERCIAL	tasper@lsnpartners.com
MELODY TORRENS	TRUMP INT'L REALTY	305 632 8837
DAVID KURZ	Douglas Elliman One River Point	305 - 695 - 6300
		305-905-1217
		786-299-2532



**Miami River Commission  
Public Meeting**

Monday, October 5, 2015  
Noon  
1407 NW 7 ST  
Miami, FL

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE / FAX / E-MAIL</u>
John C Robbins	Miami Today	
FAYAN DE LA ESPINELLA	MIAMI DDA	305-579-6675
Marlene Avalo	BCC DS	305 643-8525
RICHARD VEBER	SGCA	305 324-2155
Lourdes Barrelli	DERM	305-372-6595 barrel@miamidade.gov