

Miami River Commission Public Meeting Minutes June 5, 2023

The Miami River Commission's (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, June 5, 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
Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Miami-Dade County Commission
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
Theodora Long, Neighborhood Representative appointed by Board of County Commissioners
Eileen Broton, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by City of Miami Commission
Gus Barrera, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Alvaro Coradin, designee for Sara Babun appointed by Miami-Dade County
Philip Everingham, designee for Marine Council
Orin Black, designee for Miami River Marine Group

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

I) Chair's Report

The MRC unanimously adopted their May 1 public meeting minutes.

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre thanked everyone for attending today's regularly scheduled 1st Monday of the month meeting. Please note the following minor adjustments to the MRC's public meeting schedule in the upcoming months:

- Due to the 4th of July Holiday the next public MRC meeting will be on July 10
- Similar to the City and County the MRC will not host a public meeting in August
- Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the MRC's September public meeting will be held on September 11
- Then the MRC will resume the regular 1st day of the month schedule on October 2

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre congratulated the recently expanded Norseman for being awarded a competitive federal grant for improvements to the full serviced boatyard located at 437 NW South River Drive.

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre stated MRC board member Patty Harris has been the only board member regularly attending the MRC Stormwater subcommittee's public meetings, therefore she will serve as that subcommittee's Chair.

MRC Vice Chairman Jim Murley provided the following update of the Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP):

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, pressure washing Vac truck, street sweeper and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services along the Miami River, the MRC thanks the 6 volunteers from Hands on Miami for picking up garbage along the public Riverwalk in Curtis Park on May 7.

II) Review Plans for 600 NW 7 Ave:

Franco Ramo and Patricio Hernandez Pons, Expanza LLC, distributed and presented the Temporary Use Permit (TUP) plans and a letter of intent for a Paddle Tennis Club featuring 9 courts and a small food and beverage clubhouse with “healthy” food, smoothies, beer and wine. The TUP is for 3 years, and 1-year extensions would have to be approved by the City of Miami Commission. The applicants stated they met with the City of Miami Zoning Department, and the City indicated because the subject Recreational facility is zoned D1, Miami 21 Section 3.11 does not apply, therefore no public Riverwalk is required. The applicants offered to improve the existing public on-road Greenway in the City owned public right of way along NW 7 Ave.

Emmett Moore stated his family lives directly across Seybold Canal from the subject site, and the Spring Garden has a wonderful tree canopy, and he is recommending the subject proposal increase the landscaping, featuring native plants and trees. Mr. Moore stated he is concerned about noise and lights. Mr. Ramo replied the club will be open 7 AM – 11 PM, and at night, when possible, they will use the courts further away from the homes.

Eileen Broton and Aldeme Burnett stated the Spring Garden Civic Association (located across Seybold Canal from the subject site) voted in opposition to the proposal because they feel it will negatively impact their resident’s quality of life by bringing noise, lights alcohol sales and is out of character with their quiet single family residential neighborhood.

MRC board members Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Mercedes Rodriguez and Theo Long expressed concern regarding the hours, noise, lights and alcohol sales. **The MRC unanimously deferred the item to their next public meeting on July 10, noon, 101 W Flagler.**

III. Update Regarding FDEP’s “Vacuum Truck, Street Sweepers, and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel” Grant Award

MRC Director Bibeau thanked FDEP for awarding the MRC’s submitted application 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 (\$300,000), landside garbage pickups (\$165,000), street sweeper truck (\$100,000) and Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services (\$35,000) along the Miami River. The stormwater system was identified as a source of pollution in the County's recent helpful Miami River Water Quality Assessment, which was reviewed during the MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's June 2022 public workshop. The full MRC board reviewed and discussed pictures from the 1st quarter's completed work.

IV. Subcommittees

The MRC Urban infill and Greenways Subcommittee's May 19 public meeting minutes were distributed.

The Miami River Holiday Boat Parade's May 15 public meeting minutes were distributed. MRC member Mercedes Librada Rodriguez cordially invited everyone to attend the City Commission public meeting on June 8 at 10:30 AM, when they will consider an agenda item to create the "City of Miami's 1st Annual Miami River Holiday Boat Parade" and provide an in-kind donation of all needed City services.

V. New Business

The public meeting adjourned.

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Miami-Dade County Library, 101 W Flagler ST

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