

Miami River Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2019

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, November 4, 2019, 1407 NW 7 ST.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, MRC Chairman, Appointed by Governor Scott

Frank Balzebre, MRC Vice-Chair, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez

Patty Harris, designee for Governor

County Commissioner Eileen Higgins

Maggie Fernandez, designee for County Commissioner Eileen Higgins

John Michael Cornell, designee for Member at Large Appointed by the Governor

Sallye Jude, Neighborhood Representative Appointed by the County Commission

Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council

Neal Schafers, Downtown Development Authority

Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group

Sandy O'Neil, designee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

Roselvic Noguera, designee for Sara Babun

Tom Kimen, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by City of Miami

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Please see attached sign in sheets.

I) Chair's Report – MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre

The 9th Annual Miami River Calendar for 2020 is in final design, and will be distributed next month. I thank all the advertisers for their strong support of the Miami River District.

The free 24th Annual Miami Riverday will be held April 4, 2020, featuring free Miami River boat rides, live music, environmental education, historic re-enactors, children activities, food, drinks, and more. Sponsorships are currently available.

In addition, advertisements are currently for sale in the 17th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, which is released at Miami Riverday.

MRC Vice Chairman Frank Balzebre provided the following Miami River Voluntary Improvement Plan (VIP) update:

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 thanks the 30 Hands on Miami

Volunteers, whom on October 12 planted over 200 new vegetable and fruit plants in the public Riverwalk's community vegetable and fruit garden. In addition, the volunteers picked up garbage along the Miami River's shoreline here at Robert King High. The next volunteer event maintaining the public Riverwalk's community vegetable and fruit garden, and picking up garbage along the shoreline, is scheduled on November 23.

II) Preliminary Informational Discussion Regarding the Future U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's "Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study"

Katie Hagemann, Miami-Dade County Department of Resilience, distributed and presented the following 2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers documents: 1. "Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study's Process, Key Decision & Product Milestones" 2. "Miami Dade County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study" summary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's participated via speaker phone.

The Army Corps of Engineers provided the full \$3 million to conduct this nearly 3-year study, which commenced in January 2019, and is estimated to be complete in September 2021. Miami Dade County is serving as the "Local Project Sponsor". Ms. Hagemann explained the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's "Miami Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study" is required to be complete in order for projects addressing Storm Surge to become eligible for a potential 2/3 federal cost share. The Study will include, "Management Measures for Consideration" designed to protect real estate and critical facilities in vulnerable communities from storm surge, in the following three categories:

1. Structural • Floodwall / Levees • Surge Barriers • Bulkheads • Deployable Floodwalls
2. Nonstructural • Higher Floodplain Standards • Enhanced Warning System
3. Natural and Nature Based • Wetland Restoration

The federal Government provided the majority of the funding for existing "floodwalls" and "surge barriers" in New Orleans and Norfolk Virginia. The study will identify, "Problems, Opportunities, Objectives, Constraints & Considerations", and includes a cost benefit analysis. Ms. Hagemann stated Miami-Dade County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants the involvement of the Miami River Commission and general public. The next milestone is the Integrated Feasibility Report, with a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Commissioner Higgins noted the distributed document depicts 2 options for the moveable "Surge Barrier" and "Floodwall". Option "4a" is located east of I-95, and located 4b is located along Brickell Ave. Commissioner Higgins suggested adding an option 4c, which would be located east of Brickell Ave in order to provide protection for the properties located east of Brickell Ave.

III. Miami River Commission Subcommittee Reports

A. Greenways Subcommittee

Since the City and County's adoption of the *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*, of the planned 10-mile public Miami River Greenway, 6.5 miles are complete. Currently the public Riverwalk is under construction at River Landing, Aston Martin, 1 ST Bridge, One River Point Gramps on the River, and Riverside Miami. The MRC thanks the FDOT for awarding \$2 million in 2 federal grants to the City of Miami to construct the next section of the public Miami River Greenway. The MRC is pursuing multiple public and private funding sources for the remaining funding needed to construct and help maintain the remaining sections of the public Riverwalk.

B. Stormwater Subcommittee

On Behalf of the MRC, Stormwater Subcommittee Chair Sallye Jude thanked Commissioner Higgins, Mayor Gimenez, and the entire Board of County Commissioners, whom recently approved \$140,000 in the County's current budget to renew the contract with the Miami River Commission for continued Scavenger Water Decontamination Vessel services, which are providing significant needed improvements to water quality in the Miami River.

III. New Business

The meeting adjourned.


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 1407 NW 7 ST
 Miami, FL

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & E-MAIL</u>
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