

Miami River Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

The Miami River Commission (MRC) public meeting convened at noon, July 12, 2021, Main Library Auditorium, 101 W. Flagler.

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

Horacio Stuart Aguirre, MRC Chairman

Patty Harris, designee for Governor

David Maer, designee for Miami-Dade ST Attorney Fernandez-Rundle

Jim Murley, designee for Miami-Dade County Mayor Cava

Philip Everingham, designee for Miami Marine Council

Neal Schafers, designee for Downtown Development Authority

Bruce Brown, Miami River Marine Group

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

Mike Simpson, designee for Neighborhood Representative appointed by Miami-Dade County

John Michael Cornell, Designee for Luis Garcia

Rosy Noguera, designee for Sara Babun

MRC Staff:

Brett Bibeau, Managing Director

Others attending interested in the River:

Sign in sheets available upon request.

I) Chair's Report

MRC Chairman Horacio Stuart Aguirre provided the following report:

In lieu of Miami Riverday in 2021, the Miami River Commission reached out to Riverday sponsors and new supporters with the "Your Miami River Cleanup Campaign", where 90% of all donations are being spent directly removing litter and invasive plant species, landscaping, painting over graffiti and pressure washing the public Miami River Greenway. Please note this distributed thank you for our generous sponsors whom kindly donated \$23,775 to clean the Miami River.

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 services along the Miami River, the MRC thanks the volunteers from Kiki's River

and Hands on Miami whom on June 22 picked up garbage along the shoreline in City owned Curtis Park, which received very positive TV coverage by Louis Aguirre on Local 10 News, and WSVN.

I thank the City Commission which last Thursday adopted converting the currently one way SW 3 Ave from SW 7 to SW 6 Streets, as recommended in the MRC's adopted *Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan*. The timing was perfect as the previously approved Miami River SAP development in this area is moving forward towards groundbreaking.

The MRC unanimously adopted their distributed June 7, 2021 public meeting minutes.

I. Discussion of Enforcing the Miami River's Idle No Wake Speed Zone, Illegal Charters, etc.

The Miami River Commission thanked the City of Miami for recently shutting down 4 locations on the Miami River and Seybold Canal, where illegal boat charters were picking up and dropping off passengers in single family neighborhoods, and were leaving behind garbage, urinating in front yards, making noise late at night, etc. In addition to the problems of illegal charters, residents, business owners, Law Enforcement, and the MRC discussed the growing problem of violations of the idle no wake speed zone which endangers Manatees, damages shorelines, boats, docks, etc.

MRC Chairman Aguirre thanked everyone for meeting to work on this difficult issue as we always do, together as a unified team and force. The following law enforcement agencies provided reports:

1. City of Miami Marine Patrol – City Police Chief Acevedo pledged to increase the quantity of City of Miami Marine Patrol Police Officers from 7 to 12.
2. City of Miami Code Compliance – Issued violations on sites zoned single family residential which are illegally picking up and dropping off customers
3. Miami-Dade County Marine Patrol – Nancy Jackson stated County Commissioner Higgins requested an additional County Marine Patrol Officer be funded in the County's FY 21-22 budget.
4. United States Coast Guard - Jamie Head, Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service, Miami Field Office, stated he will be coordinating with a multi-agency Task Force to fight illegal charters on the Miami River.
5. Florida Wildlife Commission – Invited but not present.

The MRC adopted a unanimous resolution to continue urgently recommending and communicating that all of the various law enforcement agencies provide a needed increase in law enforcement on the Miami River and its tributaries.

III. Miami River Commission Subcommittee Reports

The MRC deferred their subcommittee reports.

IV. New Business

Tracy Slavens, Holland and Knight, stated prior to the next public MRC meeting, the Board of County Commissioners will be voting on a 1 block street closure of NW 24 ST Road from NW 33 Ave to NW 34 Ave. The subject street is located in the middle of 2 blocks entirely owned by the applicant, which is making a logistics center consistent with current zoning and land use. Ms Slavens displayed a rendition of the logistics center, featuring 2 blocks of the planned on-road Miami River Greenway (wide mesa-beige sidewalk, trees and bushes) along NW 33 Ave from South River Drive to NW 21 ST.

The MRC unanimously recommended the proposed project include the on-road Miami River Greenway along NW 33 Ave as presented, and for the County to allocate an appropriate percentage of the new income they will receive from this development, including taxes on the former public right of way, impact fees, and \$160,000 to purchase the public right of way, for needed maintenance of the County owned public rights of way in this subject emerging and growing Palmer Lake District, including picking up garbage, landscaping, and painting over graffiti.

The meeting adjourned.