



MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Attendance: Board Members – Anamarie Ferreira de Melo (absent), Alicia A. Casanova, Justin Jacobs, Esteban Porcelli, Deborah Lake, Oscar Vazquez, Michelle Redlich, and Jose Flores.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVmxpkTIFOA> & https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciUgDV3R__g

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by MBNA Vice-President, Deborah Lake (DL), at 6:00 pm.
2. **Meeting Minutes: Oscar Vazquez** made a motion to approve the June 1, 2022 meeting Minutes as presented. Michelle Redlich seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
3. **Treasurer's Report & Membership Update:** Justin Jacobs reported banking balance as of September and the monthly reoccurring debits and pending credits of the Association. At the moment the MBNA continues with 63 members which consists of 44 condominiums and 19 hotels.
4. **Old Business:**
 - **City 2023 Proposed Budget:** Alicia Casanova stated that the 2023 proposed Budget is on the MBNA website homepage. This is being monitored to ensure there is appropriate and equitable funding for mid-beach projects. As a reminder, links to all **Commissioner Meetings** and different community events is also located on the website.
 - **Beach & Water Quality:** Oscar Vazquez, Chair of the Beach & water Quality Working Group, provided an update as follows:
 - **Beachside concessions:** All members that have concessions on the beach or have an interest in having concessions on the beach, should go to the MBNA website and review the current rules and regulations and forms regarding Beachside concessions. The City is currently in the process of revising those forms, rules & regulations, etc. They will share them with the MBNA once the drafts are completed so that members have an opportunity to provide comments and input.
 - **Sargassum:** The summer of 2022 was likely the worst we have ever seen in accumulated sargassum. This indicates that we should expect this trend to continue to worsen. MBNA has initiated a call to action and will be having a meeting on October 19th. We hope to have State, City and County join in this initiative in order to create a more cohesive and stronger action plan.
 - **Collins Ave. (41-63) Project Study:** FDOT representative from District 6 Sereni is the Project Manager for the Collins Avenue Project Study. The Study is in the first phase of the process. This is a high-level study where all possibilities and options are looked at to re-configure Collins Ave. between 41st and 63rd streets. No option has officially been selected yet, however, after due process and strong input from the community, they have a strongly recommended alternative to move to the next phase. Alicia stated that all photos, videos, the different options and actions regarding this Study are posted on the MBNA website.
 - **Traffic Congestion on Collins Avenue/Indian Creek & 41st St area:** Alicia stated that we just learned that the CMB Commissioners approved Resolution #2020-32294 during their September Commission meeting. This Resolution describes the traffic concerns in this area and asks for FDOT to implement dual southbound right turns on Collins and 41st street into their upcoming project. It also urges the FDOT to conduct a Traffic Study in order to determine best options to alleviate traffic. Although it was agreed that two lanes are necessary for southbound traffic to flow better on 41st going westbound, a few members expressed their opposition regarding the possibility of eliminating the westbound turn on 41st from northbound traffic. City Staff agreed that different alternatives need to be considered in the Study before any decisions are made. Justin Jacobs has done extensive research on this matter and had a few interesting proposed alternatives.

- **Beachwalk:**
 - **CMB Police & Safety:** Police Lieutenant Gonzalez provided a report regarding crime/violations on the Beachwalk. He stated CMB Police are specifically working to address the Beachwalk surveillance during overnight hours. CMB Police and the Neighborhood & Homeless Research Officers are also working on finding more permanent solutions regarding the homeless situation. He added that there has been an increase in the number of citations issued in the last 90 days and an overall reduction in crime especially as it relates to auto related crimes by 15% within the last 30 days as well. Officer Hazzi also added some insight on littering and the proactive approach to train and educate groups and people on safety and the rules.
 - **Encroachments:** Alicia also added the importance of ensuring that all properties are keeping their landscape trimmed and not encroaching onto the Beachwalk, especially the 15” concrete borders on each side since those extra 30” are very valuable in the narrow sections of the Beachwalk.
 - **Property signage.** Alicia reminded members that they are required by law to install code-compliant property address signs facing the Beachwalk. Information on how to purchase these signs is available on the [MBNA website](#). We urge all properties to maintain their landscape and ensure that all properties are complying.
- **Indian Creek:** Esteban Porcelli, Chair of the Indian Creek Drive Working Group, provided a quick update on the ongoing construction project. They are currently working on the seawall, and it's expected to finish within six months, hopefully by March, 2023.

5. New Business:

- **EV Charges:** Esteban Porcelli, MBNA Board Member, is the MBNA representative on this matter. Esteban reported that several residents have asked if they purchase EV vehicles where can they charge the batteries. Esteban added that in the MidBeach area from 24th to 63rd there is no public stations to charge EVs. There are a few parking lots located on 27th, 35th, 46th and 53rd streets. Some of these parking lots have restrooms, playgrounds, coffee shops, restaurants, and beach and public transportation access. For this reason, at the last meeting at the City Committee Esteban proposed to have public car charge stations installed in these parking lots. Our goal is to have Miami Beach be an EV-friendly City. Monica Beltran added that the power grids need to be upgraded in order to supply the charging stations. They are currently working with a Company called Blink to establish the network and infrastructure. They are also working with FPL and other experts as this is happening quickly. They are working on a level two charge and a universal charge source for the moment and soon will look into upgrading to level three for a more direct charge. There is an upcoming FPL meeting the following week to explore options in a working group.
- **Miami Beach Drive:** Miami Beach Drive is a Promenade that goes from 24th through 29th Street east of Collins Avenue and parallel to the Beachwalk. Alicia shared her screen to show photos of this Drive that are on the MBD page. Oscar Vasquez, MBNA Board Member, reported on this issue. This area is one that has taken a lot of abuse over the years, especially during the period of time when the Beachwalk was under construction and this drive was used by the City as a construction staging area. An area of safety concern is where the pavers meet the concrete. Flooding and construction vehicles have caused the pavers to dip in many areas. This is creating a dangerous “ledge” that has caused a couple of injuries. MBNA members understands the property owners are responsible for landscape maintenance, but the City needs to allocate funds to repair and renovate this Drive. The MBNA will be advocating for the City to repair and renovate Miami Beach Drive so that it can be a beautiful and useful Midbeach Promenade.
- **Arts & Cultural Facilities:** Alicia showed the members the Arts & Cultural facilities section on the MBNA website. These are being funded by GO Bonds and it's important for residents to get involved. The proposition is \$159 million dollars to improve facilities for Arts and Cultural institutions throughout the city of Miami Beach.

6. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.