



MEETING MINUTES

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Raqvd5hTx-g>

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by MBNA President, Anamarie Ferreira de Melo (AFM), at 6:00 pm.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** AFM provided all the members with some reminders and introduced various persons in attendance:
 - **Meetings:** MBNA meets on the first Wednesday of every month from January to June and then again from September to November. The links to the meetings can always be found on our website on the homepage, www.midbeach.net.
 - **Active Working Groups:** Beachwalk, Beach & Water Quality (meets the 3rd of every month at 4pm), Public Space, Collins North, Collins South (24th to 44th), and Indian Creek. You can see all these working groups and their progress on our website.
3. **No Gambling:** You can visit our MBNA website for specific details about this bill (Senate Bill 1054) that is being proposed. There are major concerns regarding this and how it would impact our community and change the character of the municipalities. Mayor Steven Miener stated that in the past this has been formally rejected by the commission, however as it is written now, we would not have a say or vote. There are concerns regarding public safety and the increase in traffic. This bill would allow a current license holder to relocate the license 30 miles to the Fontainebleau Hotel. Back in 2018, there was a vote in Florida to extend gambling which did not pass by 71% and in Miami Beach it also failed by almost 80%. So, the position seems to be clear. Meiner also added that Miami Beach would not need this as we are doing great economically with our current resort taxes. Senator Fabian Basabe stated that he is available to listen to the concerns and obtain direction to represent us in Tallahassee. Senator Jason Pizzo also added that he did not approve this Bill on two occasions before. He stated that most of the Senate is not in favor of this Bill, and they look forward to this Bill not passing. *For more information regarding this Bill, please visit our MBNA website which has all the information including how you can take action.*

Alicia Casanova made a motion to create a Resolution to submit to the neighborhood associations and the CMB legislators opposing the discussed bills at this meeting. Debra Lake seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **Collins Avenue construction project: Citywide Digital Kiosk:** These are being proposed and will be heard at an upcoming Historic Preservation Board meeting in March as well as the Design and Review Board. Meiner provided a quick update on this item, which he initially did not approve but it was approved by the commission. At the moment, they are adding some additional protection like if a neighborhood was to object to a proposed location. This will be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Board in the March meeting. Ralph Andrade represents the Contractor is handling the project and working with the city. He stated they would be happy to do a presentation at the next MBNA meeting before the March meeting with the Board. He stated that now they are planning to install only one kiosk in the Mid Beach area on 34th and Collins. They are limited to 15 kiosk city-wide. They will also work with the neighborhood officials on the positioning of these kiosks to not create any obstructions. There was also concern on what would be displayed or advertised, however the city will have the power to monitor to ensure

nothing placed is offensive. Commissioner Tanya Bhatt this project contract final approval is contingent on the final approval of the Historic Preservation Board and the Design Review Board. At the last commission meeting, I submitted and passed a requirement that all residents get notification of these meetings in advance for residents to be heard.

5. **Public Safety-Improvement:** Mayor Meiner is working on embedding two drug Miami Beach technicians in the county testing labs to assist us to prioritize any drug testing to be able to have these criminals charged. Currently we have an inability to prosecute any of our drug arrests because of the limitation of the drug labs. This is mainly for drug dealers not just drug consumer arrests. By doing this, we would be reducing crime in our neighborhoods.
6. **Indian Creek Waterway - Charter Boats:** Commissioner David Suarez discussed the matter of charter boats along Indian Creek and all the issues the City has faced. Suarez intends to shutdown all charter operations down Indian Creek Waterway because there is no capacity, it is creating other issues including affecting the docks and bridges and the noise level. Suarez intends to sunset all charter operations. Only three hotels are allowed to have a charter operation which are all located in Mid Beach Area (Fontainebleau, Eden Rock, and Miami Beach Resort) strictly for their guests. At the January 31st meeting, I will be proposing for all charter operations to cease after 9 o'clock and to ensure these services are exclusive only to hotel guests.
7. **FDOT Roadway Project:** The start of this project has now been postponed to February 15th. The hours of operations which will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. weekdays. Sunday to Thursday night times will be from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 a.m. This will assist with our traffic to ensure this is not happening during peak times. Jose Gonzalez provided a report. FDOT is delaying the project by a month due to some permit delays. *A new updated Fact Sheet will be posted on our MBNA website.*
8. **Indian Creek Landscaping Project:** MBNA has meet with the City's Managers office and City staff several times and have also provided recommendations. One of our Board members who has expertise on this matter and is also affected by this project has been instrumental in providing a virtual representation of what is being proposed and the impact of this project will block water views for several owners..
9. **Adjournment:** Our Annual Meeting will be in person on April 10th. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.