



**MBNA MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, June 3, 2020**  
**6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Virtually via Zoom**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance: Board Members – Present:** Anamarie Melo (AM), Alicia Casanova (AC), Melinda Pearce (MP), Deborah Lake (DL), Esteban Porcelli (EP), Charlotte Tomic (CT), Michelle Redlich (MR) and Jorge I. Acosta (JA) (*Absent*)

Video Link: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGXkUg-bTc4fPYS6Rbgd9LIAv4HNkyC\\_F](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGXkUg-bTc4fPYS6Rbgd9LIAv4HNkyC_F)

- I. **Registration and Zoom Instructions:** More than 45 participants logged into the virtual meeting including MBNA active members, city departments, state and local elected officials, and Miami Beach businesses and residents. AC meticulously vetted each person and requested they identify themselves.
- II. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by MBNA President, Anamarie Melo (AM), at 6:05 pm after verifying a Quorum of the Board of Directors. (We encountered some technical difficulties which required us to start late and notified people that the meeting is recorded.)
- III. **Welcome and Introductions:** AM acknowledged all MBNA Board of Directors being present: Anamarie Melo (AM), Deborah Lake (DL), Melinda Pearce (MP), Alicia Casanova (AC), and Esteban Porcelli (EP) and Charlotte Tomic (CT), Michelle Redlich and Jorge I. Acosta (Absent).
  1. AM welcomed Dr. Karp and said that he supports the candidates and thanked them for their dedication to education. Asked the questions, what parents should expect for the Summer and the school year. There is a task force which includes the medical professionals. Practices will be put in place to safeguard the staff and students. Michael Gongora has a special video for us and will be presented by Diana Fontani
  2. The presentation was briefly hacked, and AM stopped the meeting. AM/AC then vetted each person attending the meeting and allowed them to rejoin after being in the Zoom "Waiting Room."
- IV. **Approval of May Minutes:** DL made a motion to approve the May 6, 2020 minutes and Melinda seconded. All in favor; motion passed.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** MP updated the membership on the financials and stated we now have 52 active members (38 condos/ 14 hotels). Three new memberships since our last meeting –Vendome, Caribbean and Royal Embassy Condominium. 13 new membership renewals and are waiting for 14 more new ones – No new checks were written. Balance: \$5,048.53 Iberia Bank Statement: \$4,648.51 Bank Balance from last meeting: \$5,048.51
- VI. **Census:** AM spoke about the importance of Census 2020. She encouraged members to complete the Census during this time of staying at home. Ceci Velasco spoke about Ocean Drive and would like to have more support for the restaurants.
- VII. **Old Business: Updates on current Mid-Beach Projects:** Mina provided an update on Indian Creek and appreciated everyone's patience. AC mentioned that the project is going very smoothly and project progress on the website: [www.midbeach.net](http://www.midbeach.net). Robert Rabinowitz provided an update on the bollards in regard to the cameras for the beach walk. It is at our police dept sole discretion. AM thanked Robert Rabinowitz for his GO Bond support.

## VIII. **Sargassum**

1. **State Senator Jason Pizzo** stated he would facetime with **Dr. Chuanmin Hu** (Professor of Optical Oceanography at USF College of Marine Science), so that he can join our Zoom meeting and speak about Sargassum.
2. **Dr. Hu** spoke about sargassum. He informed members that he has controls over NASA satellites that track sargassum's spread daily. He expects that the Sargassum levels will be moderate this year compared to 2015.

## IX. **Beach Nourishment Project Updates and Beachwalk**

1. **Betsy Wheaton** – The US Army Corps of Engineers completed their beach re-nourishment project on 5/31/20. David Gomez stated he will replace the tree on 42<sup>nd</sup>. AM asked if there are any plans for additional sand re-nourishment for next year.
2. **David Gomez** stated the beachwalk project is progressing on schedule. AM talked about signage throughout the boardwalk to abide by certain behaviors and create mile markers, and condo name identifications. DG talked about getting permits. This project will be another year prior to completion. Mr. Gomez discussed this matter at the commissioner level.

## XIV. **41st Street improvements**

1. **Commissioner Steven Meiner** stated that will be going forward with the lighting even with COVID. The tree string lights are being manufactured. The lighting distributor will be making a presentation on June 25<sup>th</sup> to the 41<sup>st</sup> Blue Ribbon Committee.

## X. **New Business: School Board Forum**

**Ms. Marcela Gomez Bogomolni** – Her goal is to help face the mental challenges and drugs in the classroom and be more proactive with the mental and emotional well being of children.

**Lucia Baez Geller** – She was born in NJ and moved to MB. Currently lives in Normandy. She is running to allow the students to succeed through the countless teachers and efforts. She works at Miami Beach High – she is running for the students and learned in the last 15 years as a teacher, how school board policy affects me. The severe lack of mental health, over crowded, not paying teachers enough, and too much homework.

**Mr. Josh Levy** – passion for public education and he is involved in the school and has children in the public school. Created the law, sits on the board of Miami Beach chamber and banned e-cigarettes, in charge of subcommittee is going to deal with convention hotel money, limit standardized testing, see more mental health professionals, and have town hall meetings within school.

**Dr. Raquel Libbin**, education is very important, the only thing you can take away from you. The dream that I had, master's in education and psychology, the school, need mental health school board, we were missing mental health voice. She has a private practice, and their children. Worked with case management conferences, she can advocate for mental wellness of our students deserved.

**Mr. Russ Rywell** went to MIT, and ran a large business in Singapore. He's a beach resident and a lifelong educator. He taught geometry, critical thinking and deemphasizing testing.

AC stated she's impressed with the candidates and their credentials and thanked them for wanting what is best for children. She emphasized the need for lowering ratios and preventing corruption.

## XI. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.