

MBNA MEETING MINUTES**Wednesday, June 12, 2019****5:30 to 7:30 p.m.****4779 Collins Avenue****Blue Diamond Condominium, Sapphire Room****MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: Board Members – Present: Anamarie Ferreira de Melo, Alicia Casanova, Jorge I. Acosta Melinda Pearce, and Deborah Lake. Absent: Charlotte Tomic & Esteban Porcelli.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/dLYpwDEeUaQ>

I. Registration, Networking, Snacks & Cocktails: Several individuals attended the meeting including MBNA active members, City departments, State and local elected officials, and Miami Beach businesses, residents, and other stakeholders. Flood Risk America, meeting sponsor, provided all refreshments and food.

II. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by MBNA president, Anamarie Ferreira de Melo (AFM), at 6:03 pm.

III. Welcome and Introductions: MBNA Board of Directors introduced themselves, AFM, Melinda Pearce (MP), Alicia Casanova (AC), Jorge Acosta (JA), Charlotte Tomic (CT) and Esteban Porcelli (EP). AFM informed the membership this is the last meeting for the summer, meanwhile members can be informed stay informed on all projects online and can join several committees or attend upcoming meetings on several projects and matters such as Parks, Indian Creek No Wake and Sargassum committees which will be meeting in the next few months.

IV. Deferral of Minutes: AFM made a motion to defer the Minutes to next meeting. DL seconded. All in favor-motion passed.

V. Treasurer's Report & Membership Update: MP read the [Treasurer's Report](#). Also Eden Rock & Cosmo Metropolitan Hotel were welcomed as new members.

VI. Sponsorship Presentation: [Flood Risk America](#) representative spoke about the company and what services they offer for commercial and residential properties with insurance claims after hurricanes.

VII. Old Business: MidBeach Projects

A. [Collins Ave Safety Planning Study:](#) MBNA was formed around this project a few years ago in opposition of the proposed FDOT project which was reducing ten crosswalks to five from 47th to 58th avenue. Now there was a new study ordered from South Point to Aventura and this is our opportunity to get involved in the process. Linda Weinstein from the Dept. of Transportation is our liaison on this project. The MBNA has been dealing heavily with various projects and matters regarding traffic, moving forward the MBNA will be brining those issues to the Miami Beach Transportation Committee. We invite members and residents to attend those meetings and get involved,

B. [G.O. Bond Update:](#) Robert Rabinowitz was unable to attend tonight due to a family emergency, but he has been active attending and advocating for us at meetings. AFM updated the membership that many of the MidBeach area proposed projects were cut by the Committee as they were prioritizing the projects based on available funding. We are hoping to find more funding in the future for the Mid Beach area. This is why is important that someone from

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the MidBeach sits and represents MidBeach in the Committee. Meanwhile, we continue to advocate for bollards and cameras on the Beachwalk from 24th to 63rd street.

C. City Finance Impacts on MBNA Members: The City has been facing tough financial times and has done many cuts and soon will be meeting to set budgets. Adrian Gonzalez's office representative Daniela provided some information to all the members. She recommended and urged Residents to attend these Commission meetings held from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. to speak to the Commission besides just sending emails. It is important for MidBeach residents to speak to get included in the budgets.

D. [Beach Walk Expansion Project/ Phase 2 Ribbon Cutting June 13th at 53rd](#): The ribbon cutting will take place tomorrow, June 13th at 5:30 p.m. and Residents are invited to attend. MBNA was very involved in this project and made an impact in the final project by advocating signage, designated lines, palm tree locations and other improvements.

E. [Indian Creek Roadway/Seawall/Landscaping](#): Our Board member and Engineer Esteban P. did a presentation to the Transportation Committee on the June 3rd meeting on how we can mitigate this problem on Indian Creek by having two lanes and removing some parking spots. This was well received by the Committee and Public Works also thought it was a feasible option for review. MBNA has been instrumental with this project and alleviating the impact of this project and also offering solutions. More information to come.

F. Mid-Beach Safety Concerns: AFM stated that we need bollards on the Beachwalk and hope to have cameras soon. Officer Hazzi provided a safety update for the membership. They have been to book people breaking the law for six months, which is an improvement as this acts as a deterrent since now, they have more jail time when before they would be released within 24-48 hours. We ask for community involvement to report any suspicious activity to the police.

G. Indian Creek No Wake Zone: AFM stated that Alexis Delgado, one of our MBNA members is leading this issue. Residents have expressed their concerns on speeding boats and yachts and no enforcement. This causes a safety concern for boaters. AFM stated that we would like to start a sub-committee on this topic, and any resident interested should join. This topic will be discussed again in November.

H. Mid-Beach Parks Update: Deborah Lake is the MBNA Board representative on this topic, and she provided an update to the membership. A few MBNA members met with the Committee to advocate for better parks in the MidBeach area. AFM suggested that our MBNA sub-committee on parks visit the park on 53rd street and provide a list of recommendations back to the City on how that park can be improved.

Deborah Lake made a motion for the MBNA to create a resolution to send to the Commission to replace the park equipment & awning and to possibly expand the park. Melinda seconded. All in favor- motion passed.

I. [Legislative Update Recap](#): Mr. Jordan assistant of Senator Greico provided an update to the membership and offered a flyer with all the bills that were passed and sponsored at the 2019 Legislative

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session on May 30, 2019 which Michael Grieco, Michael Gongora and Senator Jason Pizzos attended. This information is available online.

X. New Business

A. Beach Seaweed/Sargassum Presentation: AFM apologized to the members and was disappointed. She explained that Betsy Wheaton was scheduled to attend tonight but the City cancelled stating that there is an upcoming City meeting which members can attend to receive an update and ask questions. Michael Gongora volunteered to come and speak on the topic as a City official. This topic is on the Agenda of an upcoming Neighborhood Committee meeting on June 19th at 9 am and will be the first topic of the agenda. Gongora understands the concerns with this topic at our beaches including the smell. The County is responsible for cleaning of our beaches, and we, as the City will complement and supplement their efforts and involve County officials to finding a solution. State Senator Jason Pizzos also spoke on this topic and stated sargassum is causing an issue for various locations in Florida and they have been working with various government agencies including the Health department. Bezos promised he would obtain a signed letter from the Dept. Health & the Environmental Protection Agency making an assessment of what is going on, what is going to happen and who is going to do it. AFM raised some concerns and shared some photos of residents and children who have skin rashes as a result of this sargassum. Former Mayor, Alex Penelas also spoke about this topic and how he is also impacted by this sargassum as a Miami Beach resident and the negative impact it can have on the resident's lifestyle and health and tourism. He emphasized that organizations like the MBNA and City officials need to pressure the County to act quickly.

B. Other: AC stated that there are two open hotel seats on the Board. AC would like to nominate Michelle Redlich from the Fontainebleau Hotel who is also a Real Estate agent and owns other condos in Miami Beach to sit on the Board representing the Fontainebleau Hotel, one of the largest Hotels in MidBeach.

AC made a motion to nominate Michelle Redlich from Fontainebleau Hotel to fill one of the open Hotel seats on the MBNA Board, DL seconded. All in favor-motion passed.

The other open Hotel seat will be filled in the Fall.

XI. Adjournment: AFM motioned to adjourn the meeting. MP second. All if favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.