

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**  
**5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**4779 Collins Avenue**  
**Blue Diamond Condominium, Sapphire Room**  
**Complimentary Valet Parking**

## MEETING MINUTES

**Attendance: Board Members** – Present: Anamarie Ferreira de Melo, Alicia Casanova, Melinda Pearce, Deborah Lake, Esteban Porcelli, Michelle Redlich and Charlotte Tomic.

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

- I. **Registration, Networking, Food & 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. Hotwire Communication, 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 6:01 pm.
- III. **Welcome and Introductions:** MBNA Board of Directors introduced themselves, AFM, Melinda Pearce (MP), Alicia Casanova (AC), Deborah Lake (DL), Esteban Porcelli (EP), Michelle Redlich (MR) and Charlotte Tomic (CT). The MBNA also welcomed and introduced all candidates who were running for office within our City for Residents to meet and know their candidates.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** CT made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. DL seconded. All in favor; motion passed.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** MP updated the membership on the financials and also stated we now have 49 active members (36 condos/ 13 hotels). There are also 15 potential new members. 55% of our mid-beach area is now a member. Our social media followers have also increased and shows we continue to grow.
- VI. **MBNA Resolutions:** Director of Public Works for the City of Miami Beach provided an update the contract has been awarded and waiting for the Bond to be approved and hope in a few weeks we can get started. AFM stated they have advocated strongly regarding the impact of this project on the community, including opening a second lane to alleviate traffic especially on upcoming large events as this will create issues for our all. The next meeting on this project will take place on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and Commissioner Samullien welcomed people to go and offer suggestions and share feedback.

### **VII. Updates on State of Florida Legislation, Impacting MidBeach i.e. Sargassum, Sidewalk Spray Painting, Etc.**

- **Sargassum:** Senator Pizzo spoke on this topic. Sargassum is a natural event of the ocean and it is being monitored. According to Satellite images from Nasa, this year we are seeing a 25% reduction and other areas have a larger issue than what we have here on our beach. We understand the negative effects of this and the impact to our City and businesses, like hotels and tourism. AFM asked what residents and hotels can do meanwhile. State Rep. Grieco stated he would be meeting in two weeks with the Science Officer of the State and one of the topics will be this. We are trying to have an office locally, in the Frost museum to have studies conducted locally. It is important that we take facts and data of the negative effect it is having in our communities to Tallahassee so they can understand the situation and take action and fund to conduct studies. AMF stated that the MBNA can discuss what else we can do to mobilize our community and bring more attention around this subject.
- **Sidewalk Spray Painting:** MBNA explained the issues and concerns with the sidewalk painting that is becoming an issue with the City. They were told this is handled by the State. Comm. Higgins explains that there are existing laws that do not completely control the matter such as using fading paint, but it is not specific. Higgins recommended that

we rally and go to Tallahassee and explain that this construction spraying is out of control. It is important that we reach out to our State Representative and Speaker of the House and let them know what an issue this is.

### **VIII. Updates on State of Florida Legislation**

Grieco provided a re-cap on new updates and accomplishments. Sprinkler retrofit bill for older buildings is now stretched for another five years to allow more time.

### **IX. Miami-Dade County-District 5**

Higgins informed that they approved a budget to address some sargassum issues. They also approved a budget to add more beach cleaners which is needed after 2pm and during low season. Utility companies have been working carelessly. While it is legal, it is not right. We need to raise awareness for utility companies to take better care of our community while they work. Higgins will be advocating on this. As far as transportation, the City is placing many restrictions on transportation. They are asking for additional studies to be done and this can stretch three to five years.

**VII. Sponsorship Presentation Hotwire, Ryan Loftus 7:00** Hotwire Communications representative spoke about the company and what services they offer for businesses and residential properties.

### **XI. Old Business: Update on current Mid-Beach Projects**

**a. Parks and Public Space Workgroup Update:** DL provided an update. The MBNA has a call tomorrow with the Parks Department, and they are working together to bring this project forward. The park is being re-designed and expanding by 4,000 sq. ft. This park is between Mimososa Condo and Eden Rock Hotel.

**b. Indian Creek Project: Road, Greenway, & Seawall:** More information to come in next meeting in November.

**c. A1A TPO Planning Study:** AFM stated we will hear more on this study in November.

**d. Boardwalk Update and Signage:** City Official stated the project is moving along. MBNA members provided feedback and concerns on the shared use and bicycles in the Boardwalk. They insisted that proper signage and path lanes should be added. No update on signage. Environmental department will be reporting on that in November.

**f. G.O. Bond, 41<sup>st</sup> Street Update:** This was previously discussed.

### **XII. New Business**

**a. Smart City Master Plan for Lighting:** One of our Board members have been attending all the meetings. There is a survey out and we encourage for Residents and our MBNA members to get involved if this is something that interests you.

**b. Indian Creek Wake:** This was previously discussed.

**c. Holiday Lighting:** There is an existing contract with the current lighting company. This is the last year and MBNA will be actively working on this.

**XIII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.