



MBNA MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, November 16, 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 A. Casanova, Jorge I. Acosta, Melinda Pearce, Deborah Lake, Esteban Porcelli and Charlotte Tomic.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/NpMvaD5HQVg>

- I. **Registration, Networking, Food & Cocktails:** Several individuals attended the meeting including MBNA active members, CMB Staff and local elected officials. Servpro, 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), Jorge Acosta (JA), Deborah Lake (DL) and Esteban Porcelli (EP).
- IV. **Approval of October Minutes:** DL made a motion to defer the Minutes to next meeting. MP seconded. All in favor; motion passed.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** MP updated the membership on the financials and also stated we now have 50 active members (37 condos/ 13 hotels). There are also 14 potential new members. Membership renewal notices will also be sent.
- VI. **Sponsorship Presentation:** ServPro representative spoke about the company and what services they offer for commercial and residential properties in cleaning and restoration work. They are also a Mid-Beach business.
- VII. **Better Bus Project - impact on MidBeach Transit Alliance:** A presentation was displayed which held a lot of data on our current transportation system in Miami Beach and Miami, including our Trolley system. A bus system redesign is a collaborative planning effort to decide where today's bus service should go (and how frequently), starting from a clean slate. The biggest outcome of the project will be a new bus network that's more useful for more people – concentrating frequent service, building better connections, and creating a stronger network. For more information please visit the website.
- VIII. **Old Business: Updates on current Mid-Beach Projects**
 - a. **Indian Creek Project: Roadway, Landscape & Seawall:** AFM voiced her concern on the way this project has been handled and the economic impact it has had on hotels and condos and all those who live here. AFM voiced some solutions which would resolve many of the concerns. Arriola committed to fight for this if there was no statutory issues or prohibitions.
 - b. **TPO Coastal Communities Feasibility Study:** The Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization and the City of Miami Beach are discussing mobility improvements along Collins. The feasibility study will evaluate north-south transportation needs and assess the feasibility of implementing transit options to improve mobility in the coastal communities along the A1A corridor.

- c. **Final phase of Boardwalk and requests for Beach Walk signage:** Commissioner Ricky Arriola stated the Beach Walk's Phase II would be starting soon. Completion date is expected in 2021. Elizabeth Wheaton also stated she would be the point of contact person to work with the Communication Department who is the one handling the signage. MBNA will be sending the membership and her office various pictures and ideas of other Cities so we can use as an example.
- d. **Holiday Lighting:** Commissioner Ricky Arriola stated that we were able to secure up to \$900k for our holiday lighting this year on 41st street. They have started this week to install holiday and lights which should be finalized by November 29th.
- e. **Future Indian Beach Park renovations:** Commissioner Ricky Arriola agreed with MBNA Board Members that have been working on upgrading nearby Indian Beach Park. He stated that one of his primary goals is to make all City Parks world-class. He feels parks also need to include security, landscaping, lighting, proper design and great equipment. Currently they have secured three bids and the funding has been approved. This will soon be voted on.
- f. **Special presentation on beach re-nourishment Elizabeth Wheaton, City of Miami Beach**
 - Wheaton also stated that the US Army of Engineers has launched a \$15.9M project which will bring sand to four sections of Miami Beach. Those sections are 64 Street, 53rd Street, 46th Street and 29th Street. This project has been 100% federally funded. The sand meets the same quality standards as the last time. The department understands this is just a temporary fix and not a long-term solution. However, they are looking into future beach re-nourishment solutions such as offshore structures. She explained the beach is a dynamic system and they continue to do studies to try to find better solutions.
 - Commissioner Ricky Arriola also mentioned he has been working with Wheaton's office and the University of Miami in an Artificial Reef System whose proof of concept has been approved and is now a small \$40k pilot program. They will be working to acquire funding from county, state and federal agencies. They believe this will attract eco-tourism, bring back marine life, protect our shores, enhance where we live and also align itself with the City's sustainability plans. The location has yet to be determined.
 - Elizabeth Wheaton introduced the new Plastic-Free Program which they just launched which has over 130 participating businesses already. They have been successful in banning plastic straws but have yet been able to band plastic bags. This program is voluntary but incentivizes businesses. At the moment they would like to spread the word and focus on promoting the program and encouraging participation. She also mentioned that her office has a few resources available for hotels to better educate businesses in smart plastic handling and savings.
 - Mangrove Project: Wheaton stated this was still in a planning, design and permitting phase and there is currently no timeline due to the uniqueness of this project.

IX. New Business

- City of Miami Beach Police (Safety): The education time for people to not ride their bicycles on the boardwalk has lapsed and this week the Police has been actively enforcing and issuing tickets. AFM voiced the concern of mid-beach residents stating we should have cameras and better signage.

- X. **Adjournment:** MP motioned to adjourn the meeting. JA second. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm. Next meeting to take place after the Holidays in January 2020.