



**MEETING MINUTES  
MIDBEACH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Wednesday, October 7, 2020  
Meeting was held virtually via Zoom**

**Attendance:** The list of those who logged in is available upon request.

Video Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0R2XhSFnt\\_I&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0R2XhSFnt_I&feature=youtu.be)

**I. Call to Order:**

Anamarie Melo (AM), President verified the quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**II. Welcome and Introductions:**

A. AM welcomed everyone.

B. Member Updates

- a. Six Working Groups are being developed. As of right now we have Beachwalk, Indian Creek Drive, Collins Avenue, Public Space, Membership, and Beach and Water Quality.
- b. WhatsApp Member Group Chat has been formed to include all voting members and other residents or hotel representatives from member properties. This platform will be used to communicate updates on projects and upcoming meetings.
- c. MBNA Priorities - Executive Board met and decided that MBNA will not take a position on any future projects that lie outside of the Indian Creek Drive and Collins Avenue 24<sup>th</sup>-63<sup>rd</sup> Street boundaries.

**III. Approval of September Minutes**

Deborah Lake made a Motion to table the approval of September minutes to November. Charlotte Tomic seconds the Motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**IV. Treasurer's Report (Melinda Pearce):**

A To date there is \$5,298.51 in the Iberia Bank account.

B. MBNA has 52 active members, 14 hotel and 38 condominium properties.

C. Eden Roc renewed their membership in September 2020 with a payment of \$250.00.

D. Checks written and accounts payable since our last meeting was \$0.00.

**V. Old Business**

**A. 41st Street Revitalization Commissioner Steven Meiner**

1. ACOM has provided two designs for consideration. All MBNA members are encouraged to complete the survey – tonight is the deadline. Scheme 1 is only 41<sup>st</sup> Street, replacing palm trees with shade trees, and no parking; while Scheme 2 includes side streets and hybrid on shade trees and parking. Depending what Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> Committee decides it will go to the Commission. Cost was discussed among members.
2. Additional support has been provided to address homelessness on 41<sup>st</sup> Street.
3. Two additional police patrols have been assigned to 41<sup>st</sup> Street. Since the change there has been a decrease in shoplifting and other quality of life related crimes.
4. LED Lighting – G.O. Bond approved for the poll lighting to be replaced by LED.

## **B. Beach and Water Quality Working Group**

Elizabeth Wheaton, CMB Director of Sustainability, explained the following:

1. Biscayne Waterway Impacts on MidBeach – Biscayne Bay Task Force was created in 2018 in order to provide recommendations on how countywide staff and municipalities could protect the Biscayne Bay. The main recommendation was for a Chief Bay Officer and coordinated approach to manage the Bay. Miami Beach's rising above website has this resource and others.
2. Fish Kill in August and at the beginning in October - many partners are working to gather the data and begin to map out why these fish kills are happening and how we can prevent them.
3. The City Commission approved on first reading the fertilizer ordinance, final draft to be presented in November. Overall this is part of the effort to prevent nutrients from getting into the system. Condominiums can assure their landscaping contractors are not using fertilizer and are aligned with the City ordinance, ensuring residents are picking up after the dogs, and send messages to the City for sediments to be picked up to avoid them from getting into the system.
4. Sargassum – two local researchers received this week notice that their proposals are in the second round for grant funding to study Sargassum. The issue is ongoing and at the meeting additional updates were not provided.

## **C. 41st Street/Collins Ave/ICD Intersection Commissioner Steinberg's Sponsored Item**

Jose Gonzalez, CMB Director Transportation explained the following:

1. Commissioner Steinberg proposed an item to the Commission to have the Dept. of Transportation study 41<sup>st</sup> Street/Collins/IDC intersection.
2. MBNA would like to see a larger refuge/pork chop going from 41<sup>st</sup> to Indian Creek, crosswalks, signage, and possibly flashing lights from Collins Ave to 41<sup>st</sup> Street are necessary, two lanes from Collins to 41<sup>st</sup> is supported.
3. A traffic study in draft form has been prepared and presented to FDOT. There is ongoing interagency communication and MBNA will receive an update at the next meeting.

## **D.**

### **Indian**

### **Beach**

Park Deborah Lake, Public Space Working Group Chair

Jose Del Risco, Barbara Hernandez, Parks & Recreation Department explained the following:

1. Renderings of the additions at Indian Beach Park were shared.
2. MBNA Public Space Working Group has been working closely with the City providing feedback on park elements, such as colors, pour-and-play flooring play structure, shade, connection to Beachwalk, drinking water access, etc.
3. Park should be ready by Summer 2021.

## **E. Indian Creek Drive**

Esteban Porcelli, Indian Creek Dr. Working Group Chair

Nelson Perez-Jacome, from Public Works Dept.. Since Nelson was not present at this meeting, Vanessa Vazquez, Neighborhood Affairs Coordinator, stated that permits are in progress.

1. Frustration was expressed by Esteban Porcelli on the 2-year delay with the seawall.
2. Road/Landscaping/Bike Lane Project. Mina Samadi, Program Manager, Office of CIP, was not present. Vanessa Vazquez provided an update on the walkway and bike lane separators stating that recommendations were being reviewed.
3. Kevin Pulido gave an update on harmonization of Collins Ave adjacent to Indian Creek Drive since it's part of the Indian Creek Drive Project. Timeline is within 18-months or whenever Indian Creek Drive finishes. Oscar Vasquez, MBNA member, wanted to know more about the harmonization on 25<sup>th</sup> and Collins Avenue. Kevin agreed to provide an update soon and send the memo to MBNA for posting on their website.

## **F. G.O. Bond Update**

1. G.O. Bond Liaison Robert Rabinowitz gave the following update:

- a. Beachwalk - completion targeted for June 2021
- b. Bayshore Park – has all of its permits and is progressing.
- c. 41<sup>st</sup> Street – asked all members of MBNA to participate in the survey.

2. Allison Novac asked MBNA to consider submitting a position today regarding 41st Street. Anamarie stated that MBNA will not be taking a position on the schematics of 41st because it is outside the MBNA boundaries, but members would be encouraged to complete the survey and participate in the Blue Ribbon Committee Meetings.
3. Alicia Casanova, MBNA Ex-Officio Member, asked about a comprehensive plan to better understand the impacts of Schemes 1 or 2. Allison Novac said these schemes are what is funded by GO Bond and anything more comprehensive would need to come from the Commission. Gedel Merzius from the City's Economic Development Department echoed Allison's comments.

**G. Beachwalk Project Updates**

Alicia Casanova, Beachwalk Working Group Chair

1. **Project.** Ariel Guitian, Sr. CIP Coordinator, Office of CIP, explained the following: They're starting installation of pavers on 24th Street today followed by installation of the lights. After this they'll be opening the beachwalk to the public. Deadline was June 2021 but it was extended due to wind driven factors such as a storm that took place, and the fact that more fill than expected had to be moved. Anamarie expressed her concern with poor planning and construction management. "The sand fills under the wooden boardwalk has been there since before the project, cameras were discussed before the funding was secured for the project, and other excuses attributed to the delays are difficult for the community to support. The community has Beachwalk, Collins Ave (harmonization or not), and Indian Creek is under construction and any delays should be unacceptable." Additional MBNA members asked if construction workers could work more often since residents are not seeing employees out on the Beachwalk. MBNA requested for the City staff to think about ways to expedite the process, including having workers on the site on Saturdays also.
2. **Signage.** Kevin Pulido, Neighborhood Affairs Manager, stated that proposed signage will be discussed at an upcoming Beachwalk Working Group meeting.
3. **Bollards.** City of Miami Beach Property Management, this item will be discussed at the upcoming Beachwalk Working Group meeting.

**H. Utility Markings**

1. Dr. Levenbrown, MBNA member, provided the following update:
  - a. There needs to be a change in state legislation.
  - b. Trying to coordinate a Working Group meeting for this item.

**I. Collins Corridor Project (41st to 63rd Street)**

Anamarie Melo & Alicia Casanova, Collins Corridor Project Working Group Co-Chairs

Dan Hardy, FDOT Consultant, explained the following:

1. In another week we will have the contract modification done to extend project limits and incorporate additional public outreach.
2. Public Involvement Plan which include a few new strategies, such as Wikimap and walking field reviews, will be incorporated into the plan. This product should be ready by the end of October. Trish Burger is the FDOT PIO on this project.
3. FDOT looks forward to collaborating ongoing with the MBNA Collins Avenue Working Group to help support the project.
4. A FDOT Project Advisory Team is being formed to bring all technical agencies as well as a few community stakeholders to the table to be able to advise throughout the project.
5. Much excitement and participation from various MBNA members was expressed verbally and via the Zoom chat. All members were encouraged to become part of the Working Group to keep the project going.
6. MBNA requested for the hotel members to extend their ballrooms to host the field reviews keeping proper social distancing in mind.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Access to Bayshore Park from Indian Creek Drive**

MBNA is looking at access and how to improve the access to Bayshore Park from Indian Creek Drive. All members are encouraged to reach out to the Public Space Working Group if you'd like to be involved.

**VIII.**

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.