



## Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

### Committee Members

Clare McCord, Chair  
Curt Dyer, Vice Chair  
Galen Treuer  
Alon Alexander  
Ronald Starkman  
Karin Matos  
Julie Basner

City Liaison  
Amy Knowles

**TO: Members of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee**

**DATE: Sep 18, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Minutes of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee on September 18, 2024 Meeting**

**Present:** Julie Basner, Clare McCord, Curt Dyer, Karin Matos, Ron Starkman, Alon Alexander (Virtual)

**Absent:** Galen Treuer

**City Staff:** Amy Knowles, Noel Webber, Juanita Ballesteros, Aron Siriano (Aide to Commissioner Dominguez), Cristina Ortega

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### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

C. McCord calls meeting to order and welcomes new member, Julie Basner.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

C. McCord motions to accept the minutes from the July 17, 2024, meeting, and K. Matos seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **DISCUSSION ON VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**

C. McCord raises the topic of the Vulnerability Assessment Study and requests that A. Knowles provide further details on the subject.

A. Knowles explains that significant progress has been made, marked by the recent release of The Vulnerability Assessment, handing the discussion over to N. Webber and J. Ballesteros.

J. Ballesteros explained that the project includes a vulnerability assessment and an adaptation plan. The vulnerability assessment is nearly complete, while work on the adaptation plan is ongoing.

N. Webber described that the study is categorized into four areas: transportation assets, critical infrastructure, community and emergency facilities, and natural, cultural, and historical resources. The study focuses on three main flooding scenarios: regular high tides with current sea level rise, king tides combined with a 10-year storm, and a severe 100-year storm surge for the years 2040 and 2070.

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R. Starkman asked if the visuals found within the presentation will be made available online.

N. Webber confirmed these images are available on [MBRisingAbove.com/VA](http://MBRisingAbove.com/VA).

C. Ortega emphasized the importance of addressing both seawall height and ground elevation, as low ground levels could still allow water to match levels seen in nearby canals, the bay, or ocean.

C. McCord suggested summarizing the data to highlight primary areas of concern and "hotspots," making the information more accessible to the public.

W. Webber clarified that a focus in the report was to balance documentation with readability. He emphasized that the report's main body is concise, an accompanying map would provide a more streamlined summary, improving accessibility.

R. Starkman asked if the story map would include visual elements of areas identified as key issues and if there is possibility of resident contribution to these images.

N. Webber states that the story map will not be editable by residents however, residents are encouraged to send any flooding photos they capture. They can email these images to [flooding@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:flooding@miamibeachfl.gov) or to [MBRising@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:MBRising@miamibeachfl.gov).

C. McCloud suggested that establishing a forum to facilitate public engagement.

The group expressed consensus on preparing a motion to demonstrate community involvement and endorsement of the adaptation strategy.

N. Webber shared that a virtual public presentation will follow, with a comment period for community feedback to help refine the plan.

R. Starkman supported the City's adaptation pathways initiative, suggesting collaboration with academic community to have students document community perspectives.

N. Webber stressed focusing on conditions over timelines in the adaptation plan. This approach aims to foster meaningful discussions on adapting to environmental challenges.

C. McCord proposed making a motion to support the adaptation plan, seeking clarification on specific wording for the motion.

R. Starkman proposed wording like, "On September 18th, the committee was presented with the vulnerability assessment and enthusiastically supports the development of an adaptive approach focused on evolving conditions rather than traditional fixed timelines."

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C. McCord made motion to support the ongoing development of an adaptive approach focused on evolving conditions rather than traditional fixed timelines.

J. Basner second the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously

**Summary of Feedback:**

- Motion passed
- Staff to consider providing a clear, concise summary for the public
- Consider how to engage the academic community

**ULI STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION REVIEW**

C. McCord introduced the commission's referral, which requests that the committee examine green and blue infrastructure solutions as outlined in the ULI report. She handed the topic over to A. Knowles.

A. Knowles explained that the 2018 ULI study led Miami Beach to adopt green and blue infrastructure, including rain gardens and bio-retention areas, with Jacobs Engineering's support. She highlighted the city's dune system for sea level protection and new efforts like the convention center's living shoreline, a floodable park with the flood wall near the building.

C. McCord inquired about how projects are considered and prioritized.

C. Ortega explained that upgrades include road elevation and permeable pavers for water management. The design team integrates blue-green infrastructure from the city's blue green strategy report as much as possible.

Amy highlighted green infrastructure projects like Maurice Gibb Park's recessed seawall with mangroves for wave absorption, Bayshore Park's stormwater lake, and Canopy Park's underground water storage. She emphasized the role of dunes in sea-level protection and noted efforts like Marcia Gibb Park's stepped seawall to support mangrove growth for added stability

R. Starkman inquired about the water-holding capacity of the retention infrastructure at Bayshore Park and asked if there are specific plans for said water.

A. Knowles responded that Bayshore Park is under the management of the Parks Department and how this water is going to be utilized is being examined.



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C. Ortega updated on Pump Station 32 near 6th Street, noting a recent connection was completed, but drainage cover repairs are ongoing to address groundwater leaks affecting efficiency. The system is operational but older, requiring adjustments along 63rd Street for better drainage.

J. Basner emphasized the need for ongoing assessment, asking if there's a formal evaluation process as responsibilities shift to the parks department. She cited a failed system on 59th Street, highlighting the importance of consistent monitoring to promptly address issues.

A. Knowles explained that the city tracks avoided tidal flooding on raised roads, with over 200 instances in Sunset Harbor logged by tidal gauges. Without a monitoring team, resident reports and photos are crucial for identifying issues and planning infrastructure.

C. McCord suggested revisiting the topic at the next meeting.

G. Treuer encouraged the committee to consider county-level initiatives in future projects. He suggested the committee explore how Miami Beach can proactively align with these policies and similar strategies in the city's tree master plan and test the applicability of county-led solutions for local implementation.

### **CURRENT/FUTURE PROJECT UPDATES**

C McCord opens the floor to the Committee members on if there are additional topics that the Committee Members would like to discuss during Fall meetings.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

C McCord makes a motion to adjourn. G. Treuer seconds.