

KITE SURFING EVENT – GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARIES

DATE: February 9, 2018

LOCATION: North Shore Park & Youth Center

TIME: 10am – Noon

GROUP 1: Facilitated by Yani Peneda (Table located at the front of the room, near the projector screen, on the left side)

1. To what extent should be City of Miami Beach regulate kiteboarding?
What role (if any) should the City play?
 - CMB should have the primary role
 - Regulate fines , warnings
 - No commercial kite boarding not authorized by City
 - IKO level 3 minimum
 - Every kilter should roll lines and stack kites
 - Concerns over sport in areas with erosion (Triton Towers/ 27 ST).
 - Be proactive
 - Lifeguards should enforce
 - Address and regulate similar to other sports
 - Finding a balance between all beach equipment.
 - Certain times allowed for certain conditions
 - Beginners can't surf in low winds, experts can.
 - Only launch/land on beach and otherwise no kite over beach
 - Certifications required. Can surf on beach if a resident
 - Registration process identified with streamers/ cost to cover registration process
 - Mimic Crandon park program

2. To what extent should the City restrict where kite-surf can or take kitesurfing lessons, and if restrictions are in place, where should kite surfing be permitted?
 - Learners need to be in an IKO certified area
 - Experienced kite surfers should have multiple locations so overcrowding doesn't occur
 - If not a level 3 you need to be taking lessons from a certified school
 - Would like a second learning location
 - Experienced IKO3 kite surfers shouldn't be restricted to location

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- Feel that kite surfers are being unfairly regulated /penalized in comparison to biking, skating.
 - Certified IKO3 kite surfers are able to kite in the following: 1st – 5th, 23rd – 29th, 33rd- 37th, 45th – 58th, 65th – 75th, and 82nd – 85th. Don't push past 85th block will clash with Surfside kite surfers.
 - Or everywhere except on certain locations. In the zones to launch/land there should be cones or channels, shouldn't sunbathe in that area. @ own risk.
 - Differentiate between hotel beaches with concessions and residential condo buildings, with less populated beaches
 - The Home resident:
 - Cones between 25 – 29 to block off kite boarders, no kite surfing
 - Highly populated building, lots of children
 - Identification with picture.
3. What is the best way to ensure the safety of both kite surfers and other nearby users of the water?
- Creating rules IKO
 - City to enforce MBKF rules
 - Level 3 IKO issued cards or streamers if you are level 3
 - Official streamer issued by City of Miami Beach
 - Annual renewal
 - Visitors can sign up with lifeguard, city agent, or IKO certified school without streamers

Priorities

- Enforcement - (Code, police, Ocean rescue)
- Certifications – IKO, MBKF, Streamers
- No kites lessons outside of IKO certified schools
- Designated egress/j access areas
- More areas to launch/land to reduce congestion – open access
- Safety of children and elderly community between 25 -29
- Limit kite surfing in areas with narrow beach
- Move north 150 yard the 26th street lifeguard tower so that adjacent residences will not have such a high population of kite surfers.

GROUP 2: Facilitated by Amy Mehu (Table located at the front of the room, near the projector screen, on the right side)

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1. To what extent should the City of Miami Beach regulate kiteboarding?
What role (if any) should the City play?

Enforcement : City & Kitters , Establishing rules

- Launch areas for license check lifeguards
- 200 feet from
- Allowance for emergency landing
- Sign-in & registration w/license
- Permitting
- No surfing in/out
- Not kiting on shore
- Level 3 certification

Kiting Zones

- Training Areas
- Zones for beginners only
- Experience Levels
- Footprint of Area
- Tags/streamers for permission
- Licensing-IKO

Zone needs:

- Lifeguard stands
- Signage
- Demarcation
- No swimming
- Enforcement
- Equipment station
- Teaching should be restricted to area w/licensed surfers
- 600 ft. of channel

2. To what extent should the City restrict where people can kite-surf or take kitesurfing lessons, and if restrictions are in place, where should kitesurfing be permitted?

- Teaching Zones
- Certifications & de-certifications
- City enforcement rules

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3. What is the best way to ensure the safety of both kite surfers and other nearby users of the water?

See responses to 1 & 2

Priorities

- Designated area for beginners and lessons
- Enforceable rules developed by the City to be enforced by City officials
- Certification Process

GROUP 3: Facilitated by Antita Baquero & Randi MacBride (Table located in the middle of the room)

1. To what extent should the City of Miami Beach regulate kiteboarding?
What role (if any) should the City play?
 - Regulate commercial and recreational use for Kitesurfing
 - Do not ban Kitesurfing
 - Regulate instructors and certifications
 - Designate and mark areas for kite surfers
 - Channels for access points/Buoys for markers
 - Other cities have kiteboarding designated locations
 - Currently only two locations for kitesurfing. Need more locations/Access Points
 - Show certifications to lifeguards for check-in
 - Streamers on kite surfers after check-in
 - Designated streamers with individual tag numbers to be worn
 - Instructors should be required to have proper certifications
 - The city should require concessions to have licenses, certifications and permits, etc.
 - Kite surfing has to be done behind the markers that exist for powercraft. This is critical, to protect a kite surfer getting close to bathers that stay closer to the shore.
 - No kite flying practicing along the shore. This will prevent kites from landing on people that are sitting at the beach. This would also mean that they have to teach somewhere else.
 - Entry and exit channels to get to the area behind the markers need to be in areas of low beach usage.
 - One other one was kite surfers staying more than 50' from bathers.

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2. To what extent should the City restrict where people can kite-surf or take kitesurfing lessons, and if restrictions are in place, where should kitesurfing be permitted?
 - Access points throughout North Beach – South Beach for experienced Kite surfers
 - Spaces/Designated points for training/learning Kiteboarding
 - Rescue craft needed such as jet ski, in case of emergency
 - Enough space to launch Kitesurf on the sand - 30 feet width
 - As soon as Kite surf is launched on the sand, immediately proceed to the water. No waiting or hanging out.

3. What is the best way to ensure the safety of both kite surfers and other nearby users of the water?
 - Designated areas and access points
 - Rules posted /Signage showing the rules
 - Consequences – Fines/tickets
 - Enforcement- onsite for quick response
 - No practicing on the beach

Priorities

- Designated areas/Access points for experienced kite surfers
- Access points throughout North Beach-South Beach for experienced kite surfers
- Designated areas for training/schools
- Regulate commercial/recreational use
- Channels/buoys for markers
- Show certifications to lifeguards for check-in
- Streamers with individual tag numbers to be worn
- Enough Space for kite surfers to launch- 30 feet width
- Once Kite surfer is launched, immediately proceed to water
- Rules posted /Signage showing the rules
- Enforcement onsite for quick response
- No practicing on the beach
- Consequences-Fines/tickets

GROUP 4: Facilitated by Mark Milisits (Table located in the back of the room, on the left side)

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1. To what extent should the City of Miami Beach regulate kiteboarding?
What role (if any) should the City play?
 - Designate multiple locations & make them no swim zones
 - Mark the beachfront w/appropriate signage
 - Kite surfers want to come close to shore/waves within the designated areas
 - City should be fully involved in regulating day by day kitesurfing (not vendors)
 - All kite surfers should check-in or be registered with ocean rescue or vendor in order to be allowed to surf
2. To what extent should the City restrict where people can kite-surf or take kitesurfing lessons, and if restriction are in place, where should kitesurfing be permitted?
 - 30th Street
 - 76th Street (existing location) should be made larger for commercial (lessons) and separate location for recreational
 - 24th Street
 - B/W 25th and 26th Street
 - 85th Street
 - 64th Street
3. What is the best way to ensure the safety of both kite surfers and other nearby users of the water?
 - Resident-does not want to worry about being hit with a kite surfer. Main concern is safety. Prefer that the City Ocean Rescue/Marine Patrol enforce off-shore activities
 - In designated locations, should be regulated by a third party/vendor
 - Educate the public regarding risks
 - Launch and land in designated areas only
 - Train ocean rescue
 - Stay 50 ft. from swimmers
 - 200 ft. from shore
 - Designate approved areas w/buoys
 - Must be enforcement/safety is priority
 - Level 3 certification required

Priorities

- Multiple designated water channel /areas for kite surfers with signage and buoys
- Regulation
- Enforcement

GROUP 5: Facilitated by Vincent Canosa (Table located in the back of the room near the sign-in table, on the right side)

1. To what extent should the city of Miami Beach regulate Kiteboarding?
What role (if any) should the City play?
 - Enforce existing rules that are against unlicensed teaching
 - Kite's close proximity within the beach is the problem, eliminate that will solve the problem – Enforcement of the three rules is necessary:
 - No Kiting 50 feet from swimmers
 - Must kite 200 yards from shore
 - No flying kite over beach except to launch and land
 -
 - Learners should be surfboarding at a legal concession place like TKS, not on the beach
 - Create a rule that will keep Kite boarders 200ft from shores, most of the kiteboarding problems will go to 84th street

2. To what extent should the city restrict where people can Kite-Surf or take Kitesurfing lessons, and if restrictions are in place, where should Kitesurfing be permitted?
 - Commercial Kitesurfing and recreational surfing should take place in different location.
 - No restriction on where recreational Kitesurfing should take place
 - Beginners are more likely to hurt people, public safety is their main concern
 - There should be no swimming on rip current days

3. What is the best way to ensure the safety of both Kite surfers and other nearby users of the water?
 - Patrolling and give out tickets to violators
 - The Miami Beach kiteboarding rules
 - No commercial on 26th Street

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- Keep one street open for recreational
- Surfboarders must have a level 3 or higher to surfboard on the beach
- Exclude learners and beginners from surfboarding on the beach to prevent more problems

Priorities

- Enforce existing rules such as the 3 Miami Beach Kite surfing Rules
- Commercial Kitesurfing and recreational surfing should take place in different location.
- Kite surfers must have a level 3 or higher to surf on the beach