

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items H-4
June 10, 2014
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Pat Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

Interim City Manager, Carmen Olazabal

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Aida Curtis, Co-founder Curtis and Rogers, Landscape Architect

Maria Hernandez, Coral Gables Resident

Alexander Adams, Coral Gables Resident

Agenda Item H-4 [Start: 1:12:58 p.m.]

A Resolution authorizing the implementation of the Neighborhood Tree Succession and Initiation Program; and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Annual Budget to recognize as revenue a \$3,601,081 transfer from the General Capital Improvement Fund Reserve and to appropriate such funds to cover the cost of the program.

Mayor Cason: Let's move on to H-4, City Manager Item.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: Yes. Item H-4 is A Resolution authorizing the implementation of the Neighborhood Tree Succession and Initiation Program; and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Annual Budget to recognize as revenue a \$3,601,081 transfer from

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Agenda Item H-4 – Resolution authorizing implementation of
Neighborhood Tree Succession and Initiation Program

the General Capital Improvement Fund Reserve and to appropriate such funds to cover the cost of the program. The City started on this project on May of 2012, when the City approved a resolution authorizing staff to proceed with a tree succession and initiation plan and design. As part of this project approximately 40,000 trees have been analyzed and in the locations where the trees were found to be sick...or were nonexistent, weren't there, the recommendation to plant those trees. As a result of this program that is coming forth in front of you, we are proposing planting 3,000 trees to enhance...Today we have Aida Curtis from Curtis and Rogers who will be making a presentation about the plan and will walk you through our efforts in what we are trying to do.

Ms. Aida Curtis: Thank you. Good afternoon Commissioners, Mayor, my names is Aida Curtis, as Carmen stated, and I have had the pleasure of working with the City of Coral Gables for two years on this plan, and first I want to commend the City because not many municipalities go through a process of looking at their tree canopy and going through a process of the tree succession plan, evaluating the trees that are there and making sure that they will be there for a long time and the canopy will be preserved, so that's something really wonderful about the City. I want to start – do we have the presentation...? OK. The project goals of our presentation where in essence to develop this program whereby we can ensure the longevity of the canopy that exist in Coral Gables, because we know that this is one of the hallmarks of the City. We wanted to promote species diversity within the City because we know that in time sometimes there are species that get susceptible to different diseases, so we wanted to have the diversity so that we wouldn't have a problem with it at one point, you could be wiped out of the entire canopy. We wanted to evaluate the species within the City and find out which species were appropriate for the different places that we have, such as the ones that are underneath wires, if that was appropriate or not and species that were appropriate to be used for street trees. We wanted to look at new species, new species that are out there available for trees that could be used for possible inclusion into the City, species that you find plant species are like fashion trends. They come in and out of fashion like that, so there are new species that are coming in being developed as trees so we wanted to look at those and include them in the City pallets; and we wanted to look at historically established themes, each street – the streets in Coral Gables have themes of different types of trees for different streets, so we wanted to look at those established themes and make sure that they were still appropriate for the time and if they needed to be changed what they needed to be changed to. So we went through a process that the first thing we did was we went through an analysis. We went through a visual assessment of all of the trees in the City. We looked at over 38,800 trees in the entire residential streets for the City, and we looked at a visual tree assessment, a level 1, where we went and looked at every tree and said, is this in a good condition?- is this in a critical condition?- because of its shape and structure, and we cataloged them and marked them and mapped them on maps for the entire residential areas of the City.

Obvious defects of the trees, trees that posed hazards to the public safety we made note of them and we found them to be those would be of critical condition meaning they needed to be replaced immediately. There were a lot of other trees that said they are going to at some point they are in decline, but not in a critical condition yet, so let's put them in another category so that we can evaluate them maybe three years from now or something like that, because we know tree successions are part of a process that needs to be undertaken. We recommend every five years that you look at your tree canopy and take a look at the most critical ones again. So we recorded all of the trees that were in critical condition. We looked at the streets, and we mapped where trees had been missing, where there were holes in streets that trees needed to be replaced, and so we looked at all of that and we came up with a program that we in fact presented to the community, and this was a program that essentially kept the existing tree species that we had in the areas, the pallets that the City had, and then we replaced them with similar species or the exact same species, and then there were situations where there were certain streets that had in particular large coconut palms that had exceeded their height, that were in decline now and when we evaluated them. We looked at them and said there is a large percentage of these coconut palms are in decline and so this is a point where you can take a look at the entire street as a whole and say, is it appropriate to replace them with coconut trees again, or should we replace them with a canopy tree? At this point, we sent ballots to the neighbors in those streets and we said, what would you prefer because clearly there are new species of coconuts that have been developed that have a different type and growth pattern that would be appropriate for use as street trees and if the residents desired then we would change them to a canopy tree, which in some of the cases that was the decision. So those streets would then change to canopy trees and we went through the process of which would be appropriate canopy tree for those streets. For purposes of facilitation, public process, we divided the City into five zones and it was only for geographical reasons for reasons of being able to meet with the people and focus on specific areas. The five zones that we divided were Zone 1 from Coral Way, from Red Road to Douglas, and from Coral Way north to the City limit. Zone 2 was again from Red to Douglas and from Bird to Coral Way. Zone 3 was from U.S.-1 to Bird Road and east and west of the City limits. Zone 4 was from Sunset Drive to U.S.-1 and from Red Road to U.S.-1; and Zone 5 was everything south of Sunset; and in that case we had a neighborhood, two neighborhoods in fact that had been recently annexed to Coral Gables, which did not have a tree species pallet as per the days of Merrick. So we established tree pallets for those neighborhoods, one was the Kings Bay neighborhood and the other one was Pine Bay Estates, thank you. We held community meetings on a per zone basis so that each of the residents we could focus on each of the streets after that we held, there were some issues that came up in some of the specific neighborhoods and we held individual meetings with those residents and neighbors so that we could address their concerns, their specific concerns. We did so and I'm happy to say that the plan that we came up with is the plan that has been reached consensus with the citizens. It is not a finite plan,

it's a plan that is a succession plan that needs to be revisited again in five years, because as I say the most critical trees that are in a critical hazard condition are being replaced, but there are others that need to be looked upon as time goes by because that's the way succession plans work.

Mayor Cason: How many trees are in your critical?

Ms. Curtis: In the critical I believe we had about 200 or 300 trees, 200 trees in the critical that needed to be replaced immediately, but overall we are planting 3,000 trees, it's a new plan that we are planting and of those 200 of those are in the critical zone and then the remaining are holes that we found in the City that needed to be replaced, where there used to be a tree at one point. There isn't a tree anymore or streets that didn't have like in the annex places of Kings Bay that we needed to replace. So in conclusion, our plan proposal, our plan has analyzed all of the streets in the residential areas in Coral Gables. We are replacing those that are in hazard conditions immediately that present a hazard to public safety. We have developed a plan so that the trees that are going to be replanted are of good quality. We have developed specifications for contractor to bid and a process by which the contractor will completely take care of that tree for the first year, which is the critical establishment period. We have re-established themes, so all of the City streets have themes and by that what we mean is that if there are trees that in the future is dying in that street then a tree of a similar pallet would be replaced with that tree, that's not to say that themes could not change over time as trees become diseased or there is a new bug that is attacking a particular type of tree there is still the opportunity to revisit that with time. So we are proposing, we have this plan in place, we are proposing the first regeneration, the first re-establishment of the trees, documents are ready for that to go out to bid, and we are hoping for your approval and continuation of this plan.

Mayor Cason: Just one question before we start. In the Neighborhood Renaissance Program we had some monies set aside for Country Club Prado, is this separate or does this include the trees.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Its separate - \$500,000 in Country Club Prado that's separate than the tree succession plan.

Ms. Curtis: Yes, its two different things. We looked at the edges of Country Club Prado, but not at the middle portion of Country Club Prado, same thing with Alhambra Circle, we looked at the edges of Alhambra Circle that are directly in front of the homes, but not the median, so I think that's a separate program.

Mayor Cason: OK.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Just a comment. First of all, I'm very, very enthused and excited about this. The City of Coral Gables has been Tree City USA for the last 25 years or so. I really believe this tree succession plan is going to be a signature program for this community, that is for sure, and to take the initiative like this is good for the City to do this. You guys should all pat you on the back because this is a very, very good initiative to have and this is why the City of Coral Gables is a special place. Just two quick questions. You talked about putting some trees where there are no trees from communities that don't have a tree or plan or trees in it. You talked about Kings Bay and Pine Bay. We have two streets Catalonia and Malaga, 300 Block of Catalonia and 300 Block of Malaga that has no trees on it whatsoever, abuts the commercial district in the City of Coral Gables. What did we decide to do with those?- do you know?

Ms. Curtis: I know which ones you are talking about, right off of LeJeune here; and it's very interesting because those particular streets what happens is the street itself is very wide, so it doesn't have any swale area, any public swale area that trees could be planted, so that really didn't fall into tree succession, because there were no swale areas. Our proposal would be that we encourage the City to reclaim those areas, and maybe there is something that can be done by removing every other parking space so that you could in fact have a public swale portion where you could plant trees, because clearly the need is there, clearly the need is there. The issue is that there is no place to plant the trees per say without reconfiguring the entire street and maybe doing some bump-outs or things of that nature.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think we remember in the Craft Section was just east of this location, we did something at that time to some of those streets there where we created some buffers like that where we planted some trees, and I really encourage the City to look into that, and maybe this is something that Agave could talk to because it's fairly close to the Agave project.

Mayor Cason: Remember they said they were going to do some streets to the east.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: To the east, but this is to the west, but maybe something to include in that, but if not the City....

Ms. Curtis: Yes – should undertake – because they are very wide streets and there are single family homes there and clearly the need is there, it's just a matter of reworking the street a little bit, so we encourage you to.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Just one other comment. How do you determine where do we start and what's the rollout of this?

Ms. Curtis: It's very interesting because we've been talking a lot about that and I think that we debated whether even one or more contractors was even appropriate. I think we decided that it's probably best to have one person responsible, one contractor to do this, and then we thought well maybe we would start from north to south and maybe we would start from south – how do we want them to start?- but really I think the way that the contractors work, they will probably bring-- for example, let's bring the live oaks all together, so they will bring the live oaks and they will plant the live oaks all over and then they will bring whatever the next tree over, and bring the next tree to plant. So I think at this point we were saying let's get the contractor and let's discuss with them what would be the best way to kind of stage this area in terms of how they wanted and how we think it would work in the City, but the reality is that there are a massive amount of trees that are coming to be planted and it's going to take a lot of organization and planning for that.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: A follow up question, assuming we pass this, assuming it's going to be passed, when do you see this project starting? We have to get an RFP for the contractor and then we'd go from that point forward.

Ms. Curtis: We think the bidding process, the bidding negotiation process is probably about two months, give or take, and by the time you put an RFP, get the questions and the contractor ready. One of the things we have constantly been doing, we've been constantly checking availabilities and we know that the trees that we have specified are available, so I think once that is established; we get a contractor ready to go, so I would say we could be ready to go in four months.

Mayor Cason: That would be great.

Ms. Curtis: The monies are allocated we'd be ready to start.

Mayor Cason: I have a couple of questions. As we plant trees near sidewalks, we've all seen City trees dig up sidewalks, are there going to be tree guards in appropriate areas so that the roots don't cause us problems?

Commissioner Lago: I hear what the Mayor is saying. I think we can use following that netting, which runs about 3 or 4 feet below the surface of the ground and it's basically a netting which goes parallel with the sidewalk and then the roots are forced down instead of....

Ms. Curtis: Our details don't call for that at the moment, which is not to say that we could add that to our details, if so desired. I think our rationale was we would create large holes and create

a lot of good soil so that the tree roots, encourage the tree roots to go under, because a lot of what happens, when these situations happen is that the area is so compacted that there are little holes being made for trees too little for the size of the tree and then the tree only gets there and then everything else is compacted so they are forced to go out and....our proposal was to ensure that the holes were large enough that there was plenty of good soil to go around, but for extra security we could add root barbs in the areas where we have sidewalks. There are a lot of areas that don't have sidewalks.

Mayor Cason: Where it is appropriate otherwise it would create a problem ten years from now.

Commissioner Lago: It's a good investment.

Ms. Curtis: It's a good investment. We could add that definitely, we could add that to the contract documents.

Mayor Cason: And the second question is, there may be a neighborhood or more that didn't get 30 percent of the trees distressed and don't like – usually its coconuts, don't like the coconuts, under our proposal from a couple of months ago where neighborhoods can get together and create a special district, is there a way that we thought about those neighbors if they want to use their own money to plant a different tree theme? I have a petition from one neighborhood that's in a category wants to know, they don't want coconuts, but they don't meet the threshold, but maybe we could good get a good deal for them.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: We do have a special assessment ordinance that can be used for this purpose where the neighbors can contribute those trees, we can definitely give the portion of what it would cost us to plant the missing trees and then they can pay for the remainder if they wanted to exchange them for a tree that they agree upon, so that's one option.

Commissioner Lago: I think what we should do is just another street that comes to mind is Donatello. I've spoken to several of the residents there, their concern about getting coconut trees they want shade, everybody is always clamoring for shade. I think that if it's not too much work, I'm not sure, maybe we can put together a list of streets that are going to be receiving coconut trees and maybe we could send out some sort of notification saying, this is your option before we plant the coconut trees. If you'd like to have the trees removed and relocated to somewhere else in the City and you want to plant oak trees or plant mahogany trees or black olives the cost would be "X", and the residents on that street would be responsible for paying for that.

Ms. Curtis: We could do that. We have a list of trees, we have a list of streets that are getting – we have an entire list of trees that are all the City streets that have coconut trees, and we have of those that have coconut trees 25 percent fell on the threshold and are being changed to canopy trees right now, so the remaining we can take a look at, as you say as the approach.

Commissioner Lago: I'm just thinking, I don't know if you disagree with me. I just think that it's just at least worth notifying them and saying, this is your option, we are about to spend significant amount of dollars in regards to your neighborhood. If you have a vested interest and you have a real interest in changing the pallet like you said, of your street this is the time to make a stand on the issue. We'll leave it up to them, they can make a decision and if they want to pay the added fee...

Mayor Cason: Pay an assessment.

Commissioner Lago:...To pay an assessment.

Mayor Cason: If they want it they can pay for it.

Commissioner Keon: Could we not plant anymore black olives, where they don't exist?

Ms. Curtis: That's right; we are not planting anymore black olives.

Commissioner Keon: That will never be an option, if it doesn't already exist on the street, the option would not be to have black olives.

Ms. Curtis: No. We are not establishing – There are two things, let me answer Commissioner Lago's concern. I think that is an option, Commissioner, to do that. I think the danger in that or I guess is all of a sudden you end up with a larger project, which again, it can be done.

Commissioner Lago: I understand your concern and I agree with you wholeheartedly, trust me, like the Vice Mayor said, I'm beyond impressed that your staff and our City staff has put something together like this. This started a long time before Commissioner Keon and myself were here. So this is something to really have a lot of pride in, especially like you said, if we do maintenance every five years, this is something that we could harp about and we could really showcase to other cities, but I still think just a notification, the City notify and says, you are going to be getting the following trees. I wouldn't even – my issue more in regards to notification would be people who are receiving palm trees....

Ms. Curtis: Yes.

Commissioner Lago:...because they have written me and they say, we just want some shade and palm trees obviously do not provide any shade.

Ms. Curtis: We could provide a notification, we could work with your City staff and come up with a notification process so we could do that – yes.

Commissioner Lago: And then we could do something like, to provide the following trees mahoganies...

Ms. Curtis: Maybe the neighbors on the entire street get together because the danger there is to have, well I'm willing to pay for my tree, but the next door neighbor, Oh, I don't want...so you could end up with a situation which could...we did that for those neighborhoods that exceeded the threshold, we took a vote on the street and maybe that's...

Commissioner Lago: How was that vote?- was it unanimous?- close to unanimous?

Ms. Curtis: No, actually it was quite divided, very interesting. On a lot of the streets it was like one or two votes that swung the vote of a canopy tree to a coconut, there were a lot of people that wanted to keep their coconuts.

Mayor Cason: Well this would be an option for people who very strongly, most likely it's going to be the coconut people who want something else.

Ms. Curtis: Yes. Yes. So I think we could do that for the remaining streets with coconuts. So let me then address Commissioner Keon's point; and yes Commissioner Keon, you know the City has one-third of the canopy existing in the City as black olives and we know there are a lot of issues with black olives, the staining process. We've done research on the black olives and we know that there are people that are in fact, studying the fact that it isn't a tree, but a bug in the tree that causes the stain, so we in fact are recommending that the City may become a pilot project with the University of Florida studying this, and so we are saying maybe the City can become a pilot project and they can test some of these things to combat this bug that provides a stain. However, in the streets that have holes or critical or missing trees that are black olives, we have elected not to plant black olives for the moment. So we are planting oak trees which are similar to black olives and a lot of people may not even notice the difference for the time being. So no new black olives are being planted, but oaks are being planted in those area, however, I think it's still a point that needs to be looked at in terms of – because the tree in itself has

survived many years, many hurricanes and in fact it is a good street tree, other than the fact that it stains. So I think it still could be looked into the possibility of becoming part of the program.

Commissioner Keon: I didn't know that. Thank you.

Mayor Cason: OK. We have three speakers or three people that have some questions or speak. Maria Hernandez. Thank you.

Ms. Hernandez: Good afternoon, my name is Maria Hernandez and I live at 1216 Medina Avenue between Genoa and Columbus. I gave you a list of all the residents on the block. I have to tell you that I have owned my house for 42 years, so I have been paying my property taxes for 42 years, and I have to say that, that block has completely been neglected, I mean forgotten. When we bought the house that year they planted the coconut trees and ever since nothing else – trees have died, lightening have killed them, and now there are about four coconut trees that are dead, they cut them. I had to call them and they came and they cut them, but it's completely – you know it's a lot of sun, it's very hot, we want – as you see, we have the signatures of the residents of the whole block and we want at least some shade trees there, OK?- and as I said, nobody – I don't think they care about that block, it's just a small block, Medina between Madrid and Genoa has the oaks which are beautiful. Columbus, all the other streets around, beautiful streets with beautiful shaded trees except our block; and as I said nobody wants the coconut trees except one person and he planted himself his Royal Poinciana in front of his house and the other lady who has lived there like 45 years, she also planted a Royal Poinciana in the part of the City, so we don't care what trees you plant, except coconut trees. As I said, they do not do maintenance there. The coconuts fall on the cars and the kids that play. They are ugly and the block completely has different kind of trees, so we would like to have a good block, nice shade because that's where we chose to live in Coral Gables. We want to live in Coral Gables just because of that, for the quality of life, for the Beautiful City, but we want to keep it that way too; and as I said, I have friends that go, how come this block is so empty no trees, it's true. I wish you could go around and take a look at it and you will see what I am talking about; and I have been for two years, I have to say I have the list of the person that I have been calling and talking to for two years. Every time I call they transfer me to somebody else, I have talked to Lorena Garrido, to Ernest Pino, to Bob Bowman, I don't know and other in between for two years and they keep telling me, Oh, we are behind six months, but in six months believe me we are taking care of this, and this has been going on for two years, and we have been patiently waiting until something is done and nothing has been done.

Commissioner Lago: If I could just interject for one second. If you see here Commissioner Quesada has your street up on this computer, which obviously I know you can't see it, but it is

pretty staggering in regards to the lack of trees in the neighborhood, so. Could you do me a favor, could you answer in reference to your survey and to the proposed tree succession plan, what will this nice lady be receiving on her street along with her neighbors?

Ms. Curtis: Her block is coconuts right now.

Ms. Hernandez: But nobody wants coconuts, nobody wants coconuts.

Mayor Cason: We understand that.

Commissioner Lago: But as you can see there isn't one tree...

Ms. Hernandez: For 42 years, I'm sorry, for 42 years they haven't replanted...they haven't done a thing.

Commissioner Lago: Let me get a little bit of information from our consultant.

Ms. Curtis: Because the continuation of Medina is black olives, the replacement trees for that particular block would probably be black olives, but in the fact that we are not planting black olives you'll get oaks.

Ms. Hernandez: Oaks – fine, we love them.

Commissioner Lago: Just one second, just one second. So as per the plan we will be replacing them with oaks, is that correct or no?

Ms. Curtis: We had originally put coconuts because we had not heard from the neighbors.

Ms. Hernandez: They haven't planted coconuts.

Ms. Curtis: That's right, so we would be planting oaks....given the neighbors petitions that they have voted for that...

Commissioner Lago: So you and along with your neighbors will be receiving oak trees.

Ms. Hernandez: Great. Buenos.

Mayor Cason: Solved.

Commissioner Lago: We are voting, we are voting on the resolution today and like the lady said who is our consultant, we hope to have the RFQ's ready to go out once we hire an entity, you want to speak on behalf of that?

Mayor Cason: You said four months.

Commissioner Lago: This gentleman was just hired to work in the City of Coral Gables.

Mr. Brook Dannemiller: Brook Dannemiller, Public Service Director. That street, there is only one missing tree on that street; currently it's a coconut...

Ms. Hernandez: Three missing coconut trees, I'm sorry.

Mr. Dannemiller: Well the survey was done three years ago.

Ms. Hernandez: Well, let me tell you something...[inaudible – off mic]...so we have three coconut trees, OK, I'm sorry to say, three that were dead.

Commissioner Keon: On that block, on your block?

Ms. Hernandez: On that particular block and there are four altogether missing because one got sick. I had to call because every time...

Mayor Cason: Excuse me Maria, let him speak please.

Mr. Dannemiller: When the survey was done there was only one missing oak at that time and...

Commissioner Keon: Missing oak?

Mr. Dannemiller: Missing coconut, my apologies, and so as a result that meet the 30 percent threshold, so as a result that one missing coconut was going to be replaced with coconut. If the situation has changed where there are far more coconuts missing, then we can revisit that and that would be if it meets the threshold then we are going to change that over, the logical tree to replace it with because everything else around is black olive would be oak trees.

Mayor Cason: That what they want.

Mr. Dannemiller: That's the clarification and that's why currently on the plan...

Ms. Hernandez: Please, I'm sorry to say that there were four trees, OK, not one tree, the survey wasn't done properly.

Commissioner Keon: Can you maybe give her your card.

Ms. Curtis: Your street would be implemented with oak trees and the plan is...

Ms. Hernandez: Thank you so much. We all knew that something was going to be done today....

Commissioner Lago: And if you look at what Commissioner Quesada has here, you are talking about probably 4 or 5 location for trees that are missing, that are empty.

Commissioner Quesada: On Google street view, which who knows – well it actually says the image was captured February 2014, and it looks like there are 4 missing.

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

Ms. Hernandez: Thank you so much.

Commissioner Keon: OK. So you are guaranteed most likely oak trees, but it's going to take probably, could be a year before they are there, OK.

Ms. Hernandez: Another year.

Mayor Cason: Well we have to get a contract and...

Ms. Curtis: We hope that it will be sooner, but it takes at least six months to get the right person on board.

Ms. Hernandez: I hope this time they are not behind because that's what they keep telling us for two years, and for 40 years nothing has been done on that block.

Commissioner Keon: OK. You know what?- Brook?- He's going to give you his phone number and you can call him.

Mayor Cason: Is Nancy Sanabria here? I think she left – and the last speaker is Alex Adams.

Mr. Adams: Thank you Commissioners, Alexander Adams at 36 Palermo Avenue. I want to speak in support of this tree succession master plan. Coral Gables is the City Beautiful is our official slogan and I cannot think of another plan that will have more impact on the beauty of our City than adding to our already lush street canopy. Simply look at the street edges of our City and you'll see the stark contrast between our City and neighboring cities in the county. An organized theme of tree themes adds value to our homes and businesses, they provide shade for pedestrians as outline in the recommendation of what's coming and the bicycle and pedestrian master plan and it provides environmental benefits. I support this master plan and commend the Commission for bringing this item forward and allocating funding for this to start implementation immediately. I just wanted one thing and it's sort of a suggestion. At one of the meetings and before there were discussions of Agave or anybody else, I know that the Craft neighborhood and some areas during that meeting talked about areas that had palm trees and were going to keep palm trees, possibly having an underplanting of some sort of shade or flowering tree. So we wouldn't actually be taking all of the palms out, we would actually be planting another level of shade trees under them and just from an aesthetic standpoint, you know the palms kind of our South Florida, whether you like them or not, they are not shade, let's get that straight, but they are aesthetically part of South Florida, so planting and the consultant could rattle off a list of half dozen trees, but maybe something different than what we haven't even....Vera wood or Queen Myrtle or something else, you know you have a double planting and this was talked about in one of the meetings. So I just want to throw that out as another alternative the neighbors should be allowed to consider.

Mayor Cason: Thank you. Do we have a motion on this?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So moved.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes the motion.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: I just want to make sure I understand. So if I understood correctly on Medina Street, on that block what we are planning to do is where there are missing trees we are going to put oak, right?

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Interim City Manager Olazabal:...Right – where there are missing trees; and then for the streets that have not been surveyed that are palm streets, we'll send them a letter letting them know that they have an option of doing an assessment and changing the theme of their street.

Commissioner Lago: From what I understand, an example of that would be Donatello, if I'm not, if I'm correct, the residents that live on Donatello.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: OK – and then we could cover the difference with the assessment. OK.

Ms. Curtis: I believe Donatello is getting shade trees.

Commissioner Lago: They are?

Ms. Curtis: Yes they are.

Commissioner Lago: OK.

Ms. Curtis: Donatello is getting...

Commissioner Lago: I just want to confirm that.

Ms. Curtis: Yes, Donatello is getting shade trees because that was assessed and in fact they had expressed their concern, so they are getting replaced...

Commissioner Lago: Just giving them the option, if they are tagged to get a palm tree of some sort, give them the option of whatever the difference is that we can offer them shade trees.

Commissioner Quesada: I second the Vice Mayor's motion.

Mayor Cason: OK. So we have the Vice Mayor makes the motion, Commissioner Quesada seconds it.

City Clerk

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Vice Kerdyk: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

City Commission Meeting

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Mayor Cason: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Keon: Is there an irrigation plan with these?- I'm assuming, that, that's part of the request that they – once we plant them that there is irrigation plan for them until they get established?

Ms. Curtis: Actually all the trees that are being selected can survive in swale areas without irrigation. They are sturdy, but what we are doing is we are requiring the contractor for an entire year to maintain that tree, including water it as it needs it to be completely established, water, fertilizing and that; and then after that period of a year there is still one year warranty for that tree. So we are asking the contractor to do a little bit more to ensure the survivability of the trees.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Cason: Great.

[End: 1:50:55 p.m.]