

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
January 22, 2013
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Maria Anderson

Commissioner Rafael “Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

City Manager, Patrick Salerno

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

H-1 [Start: 10:27:40 a.m.]

Resolution Accepting the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer pursuant to Section 2-828 of the Procurement Code entitled, “Contract Award” and invitation to Bid (IFB) 2012.11.21 to award the Ingraham Park and Tiziano Park Improvement Project to Caribe Utilities of Florida, Inc.; and authorizing a budget amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Annual Budget recognizing as revenue a transfer of funds from Capital Improvement Fund reserves and appropriating such funds to put toward the cost of the project.

Mayor Cason: OK. Let’s move on to City Manager item, Mr. Manager would you read the title of H-1 into the public record.

City Manager Salerno: Thank you Mayor. Item H-1 is a Resolution Accepting the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer pursuant to Section 2-828 of the Procurement Code entitled, “Contract Award” and invitation to Bid (IFB) 2012.11.21 to award the Ingraham Park and Tiziano Park Improvement Project to Caribe Utilities of Florida, Inc.; and authorizing a budget amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Annual Budget recognizing as revenue a

transfer of funds from Capital Improvement Fund reserves and appropriating such funds to put toward the cost of the project. Mayor and Commissioners for a bit of history of this project, the matter, this project is actually two projects; one of which is a beautification effort to the green space at Tiziano and it is approximately a 4,000 square foot piece of property that is generally unimproved, and that was suggested by Vice Mayor Kerdyk that we explore that opportunity to make an improvement there. The other project is larger in scale at 2.24 acres; the property is basically unimproved green space somewhat wild looking in nature and that was suggested by Commissioner Quesada that staff explore the possibility of making significant improvements to that project. Staff is very excited about these projects and what they will add to the quality of life of our residential communities. The projects represented to the Landscape Advisory Board and the Recreational Advisory Board and were approved, in fact I would say there was a considerable amount of excitement about addressing both of these opportunities. We actually also held a neighborhood meeting on the site, which was extremely well attended, Commissioner Quesada attended as well and addressed, I'd say probably in the neighborhood of 40 residents or so, and at the conclusion of staff's presentation on the item I asked the residents that were there if they would raise their hands if they supported this project and let us know their feelings, and my recollection was everybody in the audience raised their hand and acknowledged that they wanted this project as presented to go forward. You have in your packet a site plan on both projects showing the various features of this project, one of which and probably – there are many features, amenities that will be brought to this area, one of which that has received the most excitement from the community and the advisory boards is the construction of a fountain resembling one found in the Alhambra in Spain, which would go as you see in the site plan on the corner. This is probably one of those rare opportunities that a Commission has to make a visible and lasting improvement to the quality of life in the community that will be resembled and remembered actually for decades to come. The Ingraham Park opportunity is probably, I believe and staff believes that once this project is completed it would be one of, if not the nicest park in the entire City both from the aesthetic standpoint and from what it offers the community as far as recreational amenities that they can take advantage of. The item, the project has been bid, we had a significant number of bidders, the pricing on the bids, the spread on the bids was very close which tells us we are getting good value for this project. As you can see there is some 13 bidders and the total spread between those 13 bidders was in the neighborhood of \$250,000, so that tells us received that we are getting good value, it is a recommendation to go with the low bidder, and staff is here and prepared to answer any question that the Commission may have.

Commissioner Quesada: Let me just start here. The Manager mentioned that we had a community meeting that was well attended; I think that's an understatement. We really had a lot of people come out and I think it goes to the fact that there aren't as many public meeting spaces in the southern part of the Gables and there are a lot of residents that live in that area with the condominiums and the many homes. We had a lot of good ideas that came out of that, that

resident meeting that I'm happy to see were incorporated into the final design. A lot of residents told us and I used to live nearby, they told us a lot of groups meet in that area; Boy Scouts, I guess two or three times a year they do a walk and a lot of times they would meet up in that park there, so you end up getting a lot of people now congregating in the circle, almost in the parking stalls right now in the circle, and you also get a lot of cyclists and runners who congregate in that area, and so they were happy to see that this is going to be something that pulls them off the road and into that park area. I also talked about a place that there is nowhere to walk dogs in the area, so they had an idea making a passive area, and if you are trying to get through quickly run so you sort of have two loops, you have a slow inner loop and you have a faster outer loop, which I think was an idea that came from the residents. So I think it was nice work to get a lot of input from the residents and work with staff and I think it's going to be a great project for the neighborhood.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think the only thing that I would add to that is that of course the City of Coral Gables quality of life is dependent upon its parks and open spaces, and this open space is something that is really going to be something for the adults; I mean there is going to be fitness and place to mist off when you are running and actually what Frank alluded to a lot of people use it now including the running club uses it every Saturday morning; and now with the dynamics with the new pedestrian bridge that allows bicyclists and pedestrians to utilize, this is really going to reinvigorate this 2.25 acres piece of property in the center of Coral Gables on the corner of Ingraham Highway and LeJeune Road. It is really something that we are all going to be proud of; it's going to really be a give-back to the south Coral Gables community.

Mayor Cason: Any other discussion? Have a motion?

Commissioner Quesada: So moved.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I second.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Quesada makes the motion seconded by the Vice Mayor.

City Clerk

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 11:01:04 a.m.]