

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-9
February 9, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item E-9 [11:19:02 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables creating in accordance with the City Code, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-64, a Waterway Advisory Board and setting forth guidelines by which such advisory board shall be governed and providing for a repealer provision; severability clause; codification and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Cason: E-9.

City Attorney Leen: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Item E-9 is An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables creating in accordance with the City Code, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-64, a Waterway Advisory Board and setting forth guidelines by which such advisory board shall be governed and providing for a repealer provision; severability clause; codification and providing for an effective date. This is a public hearing item on First Reading. I also have an amendment. Let me just read it in. Wait one moment please. E-9 – In Section 2, which is Creation and Purpose, based on comments that were received individually from Commissioners. I am proposing the following: Creation and Purpose – that the Waterway Advisory Board is hereby created for the purpose of identifying and recommending improvement, opportunities to City

staff with respect to the Coral Gables, and here's where's the addition, public, navigable waterways and coastal areas. That was suggested by a Commissioner. I do think it adds a little more specificity to what you are doing. So for example, this would not relate the lake, Lake Oskiola at the University of Miami. Likewise this would relate to coastal areas where you come out of a waterway, there are houses on coastal areas, so it would related to them. With that I'd turn it over to the Commission.

Mayor Cason: Makes sense.

City Attorney Leen: I know that this was sponsored by Commissioner Lago. So I will turn it over.

Mayor Cason: Do we have any speaker cards on this?

City Clerk Foeman: No Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Cason: Close the public hearing.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor, its pretty simple. I think we had a very thorough and in-depth conversation at the last Commission meeting. I requested that my fellow Commissioners give it some thought in regards to naming individuals. I know that the Vice Mayor was upset with the individual that I chose, because I beat him to the punch, but he's an individual who probably writes about two or three e-mails on a weekly basis in regards to a litany of City issues and they are always with a smile as I tell Manny. He always says, listen we need to fix this or we need to resolve this issue with a smile. So I think this is something important that the City, for a long time, like the Mayor stated has over 40 miles...

Mayor Cason: 47.

Commissioner Lago: 47 miles of waterways here in the City and I think that its time that we have a board that is active and dedicated just to looking into how we can continue to make the waterway, not only as clean and beautiful as possible, but as efficient as possible but as efficient as possible.

Vice Mayor Quesada: One amendment I want everyone to consider for Second Reading, I don't want to add it today, just to consider. I discussed it with the City Attorney and the City Manager yesterday is, I think it should be like the Traffic Advisory Board in the sense that there are different zones, because an individual – you know my parents live in Gables by the Sea and they are on the water there, so I know those canals very well, whether its kayaking or going on the

boat, I see those canals. I don't really know the Riviera-Granada waterway, I never really go down there. I don't really know the Coco Plum and the Gables Estates or the Kings Bay waterways. So I think its important that we have at least one individual that either should reside or is in charge of certain areas of the City, just so that if they are on it every day or at least monthly its going to be a little bit easier to identify problems so that when they attend those monthly meetings they can say, well, OK this month I went to the waterways and these are the issues that I'm seeing. Maybe that's not going to be the case every time, but I think it helps, just like Traffic Advisory Board. You know your traffic patterns because you live in that area a little bit more than the others. So that's consideration. I was discussing with the Manager and their City Attorney how we would break it up. And the preliminary thought was maybe two individuals that cover the Majee Waterway, Riviera, Granada areas, just because it really goes into the Biltmore, its pretty extensive; then one for the Gables Estates area; one for the Coco Plum area; one for the Gables by the Sea; one for the Kings Bay. Considerate it, take some time, look at the map, and maybe we can discuss a little further on Second Reading.

Commissioner Lago: I have no issues in regards to your statement. I actually agree with them. What I'd like to do is, if the Mayor agrees, and all of you agree, maybe we can move this to Second Reading and maybe it will give us some time to come up with a few names. I already gave one individual's name, but now, again he doesn't have to be my appointment, I just know how active he is. So if anybody, for example, we break it up per zone, as per each Commissioner, he may not fall in my zone, so I think that....

Vice Mayor Quesada: I don't think we have to break it up by Commissioner just to make sure that...

Mayor Cason: We all have good people – like we do on the Traffic. It may be that we have two or three people that are in one area...

Commissioner Lago: The reason why I bring that up is we were talking about zones for the Anti-Crime Committee and that is based, each Commissioner is named to a zone just in case that my fellow Commissioners want to go that route. Again, I just want to leave that door open so that someone could potentially use...

Commissioner Keon: Well, I already have someone I'd like to appoint.

Commissioner Lago: So do you want to wait to Second Reading and then appoint or do you want to provide those names now so that we can start working on the structure that the Vice Mayor had stated.

Vice Mayor Quesada: If you guys are in agreement with the structure breaking it up, I think we should wait to naming till next meeting, but if everyone can bring some names and we can just sort of figure it out, because I have some other people in mind, but I'm not exactly sure where they live in the waterway.

Mayor Cason: Me either. Why don't we give the name we have because maybe then...

Commissioner Keon: And I can tell you where they live.

Mayor Cason: Let's vote on this and then suggest names if you have them...

Commissioner Slesnick: Would we have a boat available for these people to use or do they use their own boat?

Commissioner Keon: Generally they use their boat because they spend time on the waterway.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I think a requirement, a staff member to be at these meetings would be one member of the Marine Patrol and then they can coordinate for whatever kind of ride-along they need to do.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And in addition to that, Public Works is the liaison to the Waterway Advisory Board and there is a boat available for public works.

Mayor Cason: Alright. Let's have a motion then on E-9.

Commissioner Slesnick: So moved.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Slesnick makes the motion.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor seconds. City Clerk.

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: And there was no public input on this.

City Clerk Foeman: Right.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Just to be clear, are you guys in favor of breaking it up and making it with certain requirements at least one person is responsible.

Commissioner Keon: I think you should distribute it around the City, I mean around the waterway so its not like everybody...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Everyone lives on Granada, Riviera.

Commissioner Keon: Right, right. I think so.

Mayor Cason: Let's try at any rate and see how...

Vice Mayor Quesada: And see how it comes out. OK.

Commissioner Lago: It makes a lot of sense. Again, even if you have, like you mentioned two people for the Majee Waterway; the waterway is a waterway. Again, the water quality, anything potential objectives that this committee proffers is going to help the waterway as-a-whole.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Of course.

Commissioner Lago: What you mentioned before which I think is one of the most important points, I want to hear how different areas are being affected.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes. Of course.

Mayor Cason: I'll throw out a name. I'm not sure where he lives, but he's very interested, Jeff Hicks who was suggested.

Commissioner Keon: He lives on the water?

Mayor Cason: Yes, he lives on the water...any other names?

Commissioner Keon: Juan Gulong, he lives right by the bridge in Coco Plum, right by the pedestrian bridge, so he could maybe cover Coco Plum and that whole area of the waterway there.

Commissioner Lago: I mentioned Manny Chamismo, he live right there in the Granada area.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Is he on the Granada?

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK.

Mayor Cason: Why don't we just pass these names to the City Manager and when we come back we'll see where they live.

Commissioner Slesnick: I have one for Gables Estates for Granada, I'll see who yours is too.

Vice Mayor Quesada: You know I haven't really thought about who its going to be, but I don't think I heard anyone say Gables by the Sea or Kings Bay and I know some people there that are pretty active. Because my parents still live there they call me all the time and they say they've seen the show on the water.

Commissioner Keon: Juan comes to mind because he's the one who calls me regularly to tell me about the waterways.

Commissioner Lago: That's why I mentioned Manny, same thing, very active.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I want people that are going to want to be involved.

Commissioner Lago: Of course.

[End: 11:27:21 a.m.]