

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-4
October 8, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Stephanie Boydston Make-a-Wish Foundation
Christine Marques, Sports Grill

Agenda Item G-4 [1:02:04 p.m.]

A discussing regarding the 6th Annual Wings for Wishes event in Coral Gables
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And then on a timely fashion, we are going to take a time certain 10:30 a.m. Agenda Item G-4.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you very much Mayor, I appreciate that. Its that time of year again, its our 6th Annual Wings for Wishes Event in Coral Gables and I have been proud to sponsor this event ever since its inception, and I want to welcome our partner from Make-a-Wish Foundation who is going to give a brief explanation, and I also see the best wings in town, Sports Grill, she's being shy, but if you haven't gone to Sports Grill on Sunset, that's my favorite place to go have a nice cold beer and some wings. Yes, the podium over there. Please talk to us a little bit about Make-a-Wish, the event.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead please.

Stephanie Boydston: My name is Stephanie, I'm the Development Coordinator for Make-a-Wish in Florida. We are a non-profit organization that grants life-changing for children with critical illnesses, with the help of the amazing Sports Grill and our new board member from Make-a-Wish Florida ____ and Brian _____. We've been doing this event for about six years now and have been able to raise over half a million dollars, which is pretty amazing, because that's 116 wishes for children with critical illnesses being granted right here in our backyard. So this is pretty amazing. A lot of the kids that are residing in the City of Coral Gables and surrounding neighborhoods, so its very super special and with the support of the City, we've been able to do some pretty amazing things.

Vice Mayor Lago: So let me ask you, just to make this brief, because you've been here a long time waiting and I appreciate it. First year how much money did you raise?

Ms. Boydston: \$20,000.

Vice Mayor Lago: Last year how much did you raise?

Ms. Boydston: \$250,000.

Vice Mayor Lago: \$250,000 – this his homegrown in Coral Gables and I don't want to speak for you, one hundred percent, one hundred percent of the proceeds go to Make-a-Wish Foundation. How does that happen? The City chips in and gives some permit fees and the police does a great job, the firefighters do a great job, and then all the board members from Wings for Wishes, they donate their own money to make sure they can say 100 percent of the proceeds go to Make-a-Wish Foundation. Not many charities that I know of can say that we give 100 percent. So \$250,000 to Make-a-Wish Foundation is a really big deal and I'm very proud to be associated with it. What can we do for you this year? – anything?

Ms. Boydston: Well this year we are looking to get the approval to sell alcohol so we can have a really nice event.

Vice Mayor Lago: You already have that, you have that. You got it in Consent Agenda.

Ms. Boydston: Amazing – thank you. We are also looking for the City to waive the fees for a few of the permits, including the Public Works barricades, cones and signage rental fees, parking spot rental fees, electrical permit fees, the special event application fees was already waived, thank you
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very much. The tent permit fees, I don't think that we'll need, police and fire fees and code enforcement fees.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, I know that the Manager was going to talk about it, but I know there was that we couldn't waive, which was the electrical fee, right?

City Manager Iglesias: Some of the fees are out of pocket, but its up to the Commission.

Vice Mayor Lago: Whatever my colleagues, whatever they think is appropriate. Would you be, Mayor, would you be inclined to waive some of the fees for Make-a-Wish Foundation?

Ms. Boydston: For the kids.

Vice Mayor Lago: For the kids. So, I'll make a motion.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk can we get a roll call on waiving fees for Make-a-Wish Foundation?

City Clerk Urquia: Get a motion.

Vice Mayor Lago: For waiving some of the fees.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Vice Mayor made the motion and...

Vice Mayor Lago: Commissioner Mena second it.

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

(Commissioner Fors: Absent)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Lago: So the last thing really quickly. I'm going to sponsor a team this year for the wing eating contest, its going to be a Commission-based team, so I hope to get my wings...

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[Laughter]

Vice Mayor Lago So, I'm going to have all my colleagues, I'm going to have all my colleagues, I'll probably be the worst wing eater, I don't have a big appetite, but I love wings. I'm going to sponsor also a foursome for police, a foursome for fire, and a foursome for general employees. We've been talking about it for too long, we are going to get it done this year. Alright. So thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Ms. Boydston: Oh, thank you so much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wonderful job.

Christine Marques: If I could please address the Commission. My name is Christine Marques, I am one of the primary owners of Sports Grill. We have seven locations here in South Florida, and I hope most of you are aware. This is a great event and I'd like to thank the Commission in Coral Gables once again for allowing us, not only to continue to hold this behind our location in South Miami, but for all the support, everything that you put forward. Again, as a business owner in Coral Gables, we are very proud to be here and to be a part of this, but more importantly that you are behind us and that you support this as well.

Vice Mayor Lago: You give 100 percent; everything you give is for free, 100 percent is for free.

Christine Marques: Everything that we do – all of our staff, all of our food is donated, everything, the neighbor that comes in behind, all of our volunteers, everything that comes in.

Vice Mayor Lago: In a great little commercial area, we don't have any issues with people complaining...

Ms. Marques: No. Not at all.

Vice Mayor Lago: or any issues like that.

Ms. Marques: All the business owners that are all in the area, everyone signs off on it, everyone is a part of it. As a matter of fact, some of them close so they can be a part of it and enjoy the day as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

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Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you. Thank you so much again.

Ms. Boydston: Thank you.

[End: 1:07:14 p.m.]