

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-4
May 30, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Frank Quesada

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 G-4 [4:15:54 p.m.]

Discussion regarding goals and priorities for special events in Coral Gables
(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item is discussion regarding special events in Coral Gables, Commissioner Lago.

Commissioner Lago: This is very brief.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I hope so.

Commissioner Lago: Fred, you want to give a quick synopsis of what we are talking about here or you want me to lead into this? OK, really quick. I asked Fred and his team, I'm not sure if Naomi had a hand in this, I think maybe you put this together, and it's basically a simple list of events from October 2016 to October 2017. I know that we are probably missing some events...

Mr. Couceyro: There are a few that hasn't been turned in yet for this year.

Commissioner Lago: And I also looked at it, maybe I missed it, Oh no, it's here, Burgerlicious. What I want to bring to your attention, you probably received e-mails from certain residents that their concern about the amount of events that maybe are occurring in the City that are not Coral Gables related or they are not Coral Gables 501(c)3's, charities or non-for-profits. To make a long story short, I wanted to bring it to your attention, take a look at it on your time, just to see if maybe we could have a more thorough process and maybe we could get precedents to entities that are part of Coral Gables, like charities and other types of organizations that can make Coral Gables what Coral Gables is.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, we will do that.

Commissioner Lago: And again, I've heard multiple complaints and also, talk about timeframes, when are you going to have events. For example, on Ponce Circle Park, if you have events on a Sunday, do you think it's appropriate to have events late into the evening or late into a Saturday night when it's a residential neighborhood adjacent to that. Now that we are redoing Miracle Mile and Giralda, you are seeing that for example, Kiwanis, I'm not sure if I'm 100 percent correct in this statement, but that they are moving to Alhambra, correct?

Mr. Couceyro: Well, they don't want to.

Vice Mayor Keon: Temporarily.

Mr. Couceyro: Temporarily until the Mile is done.

Commissioner Lago: I would not be in favor of having them on the Mile, tens of thousands of people walking, I love the Kiwanis, they do great for the community, but we just spent \$22 million on the Mile and I think that you don't want to have tens of thousands of people walking on the Mile and setting up tents.

Vice Mayor Keon: You don't want to close down the merchants for that period of time because of those throngs of people and everything.

Commissioner Mena: Do they close though, because that was my next question?

Commissioner Lago: They don't close.

Vice Mayor Keon: They don't close, but they get no business.

Commissioner Lago: They don't close, it's tough, but beyond that I want to make sure we protect the investment that we made in the City, so it's obvious without saying it, they are moving to Alhambra, because there is no other place to house them.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I share your concerns and your thoughts, but the more festivals having to do with Coral Gables the better, in my opinion.

Commissioner Lago: No, I don't have an issue with it, but I want to make sure that we give precedents to the ones, and we can push them in a different direction, not maybe have them in Ponce Circle, maybe we can have them on Alhambra where again, they are not infringing on the neighborhood that's a stone's throw away.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I think the Kiwanis thought that Alhambra worked, but they wanted to come back to the Mile. If it is the direction of the Commission for us to go back and tell them that it will be on Alhambra then we need to have you all on that, because you will be highly pressured for them to want to come back.

Commissioner Lago: My understanding was that it was more profitable on Alhambra than on the Mile and that they are actually happy being on the Mile, excuse me, on Alhambra that's my understanding.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I heard it worked well for them, but they also were worried that they weren't going to be allowed back.

Commissioner Lago: I just brought that up and I want to respect the Mayor's statement to be brief, if we are going to have events on Ponce Circle Park that's the real concern for me, because there are neighbors a stone's throw away, right there next to Christy's, right there, they hear the music, it's a lot of people they park in the neighborhoods. So, what I thought of doing and I appreciate you taking the lead on this Fred, is I wanted to give you an example, a snapshot of all the events so you can take a look at the things that are going on. Some of them are local, some of them are not local, maybe we should minimize the amount of non-local events and give precedents to the local events, that's just my view.

Mr. Couceyro: I can also forward, probably about a year back I brought forth some guidelines on how we would manage special events and certain things, limitations on certain sites, what we would do with residential areas, you know the deployment of a Code Enforcement officer to make sure the noise was monitored correctly. I can send a copy of that as well, I can forward that you can kind of partner that with this list and see what we are already doing and if we need some

more specifications at the direction of the Commission we can do it and we can be a little stricter on some of that.

Commissioner Lago: And also the issue of Ponce Circle Park, it's also a nuisance for individuals in wheelchairs, it's not very ADA compliant; you have issues with people in strollers, they are all confined to that area, cars going around them.

Mr. Couceyro: Yes, there are only certain sidewalks there.

Vice Mayor Keon: The issue of Biltmore Way is also a problem and Merrick Park, because of its proximity to the neighborhoods too; you know you are only a block off from the residential neighborhoods.

[End: 4:22:25 p.m.]