

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-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

Historical Resource Officer, Dona Spain

Public Speaker(s)

George Volsky, Coral Gables Resident

G-1 [Start: 9:23:43 a.m.]

Presentation of excerpts from the Historic Preservation Board meeting of November 15, 2012, requesting the following action:

That the City Commission adopt a resolution authorizing Ad Valorem tax relief for the property located at 1021 Alhambra Circle, a contributing structure within the “Alhambra Circle Historic District” legally described as Lots 15 and 16 and the East ½ of Lot 17, Block 3, Coral Gables Section “C,” according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 8, at Page 26, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,200,429 and the estimated cost of work on historic section is \$770,949 (both estimates were supplied by applicant and are not verified by Historical Resources Staff) which would correspond to approximately \$4,370.51 per year and \$43,705.10 over ten years. (Historic Preservation Board Vote: Unanimous 8-0).

Mayor Cason: We are going to move up to Item G-1, which is a City Manager Item. I assume that Mrs. Spain will be the presenter for the City.

City Manager Salerno: That's correct Mayor.

Mrs. Spain: Good morning. I'll read it into the record. This is a presentation of excerpts from the Historic Preservation Board meeting of November 15, 2012, requesting the following action:

That the City Commission adopt a resolution authorizing Ad Valorem tax relief for the property located at 1021 Alhambra Circle, a contributing structure within the "Alhambra Circle Historic District" legally described as Lots 15 and 16 and the East ½ of Lot 17, Block 3, Coral Gables Section "C," according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 8, at Page 26, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,200,429 and the estimated cost of work on the historic section is \$770,949 (both estimates were supplied by applicant and are not verified by Historical Resources Staff) which would correspond to approximately \$4,370.51 per year and \$43,705.10 over ten years; and the Historic Preservation Board voted unanimously 8-0 on this item. And as I've mentioned before that cost estimate is verified by the Property Appraiser's office at the end of all this. It needs to go to the County to the County's Historic Preservation Board and then on to the County Commission. So if you could queue up the PowerPoint, I don't have a clicker, so we could just briefly go through this. It's a wonderful piece of property, slowly go through the slides. This is how it looked in the 1940's, some plans go forward, then these were the original plans, its fortunate that the City has most of the original plans. This is a site plan showing what it was before the work was done. Next – and this shows as it is now. A fair amount of work was done including side work, landscaping, keep going, again, until we get to the photographs you can go through quickly, it's really a wonderful project and a fair amount of restoration work, OK. Keep going. This was a home designed in the 1920's by Phineas Paist, it was constructed in 1929, and I'm sorry, I should have introduced the owner. This is Mrs. Nason, and the architect is here Rafael Portuondo; and again this is the home the way it looked prior to their work and afterwards. The front door – stop there – they even did a screen door to mimic the configuration of the door behind and restore that. The surrounds which were painted blue are now appropriate; all the windows have been replaced with period appropriate impact windows, really a wonderful job.

Mayor Cason: How long did it take?

Mrs. Nason: Three and-a-half years.

Mrs. Spain: Three and-a-half years.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Wow. OK. You deserve this vote.

Mayor Cason: You can take a vacation now.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: You deserve this motion.

Mayor Cason: Get a vacation after this.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I'll make the motion please.

Commissioner Anderson: Second.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes the motion.

Mr. Volsky: Mr. Mayor this is not....I just want to say two words...

Mayor Cason: Go ahead.

Mr. Volsky: I am in favor – My name is George Volsky, I live at 1008 Alhambra Circle across the street from the Nason's residence. As some of you might recall, perhaps Mr. Kerdyk used to be a resident of – Dorothy Flynn was a very good friend of your father and she sold my house about half a century ago, and the house was abandoned practically over the years and what Mr. and Mrs. Nason have done to the house is absolutely incredible. I've seen the house inside, it's an example of what can be done not only historically, but to convert a historic property into a modern functional and an extremely elegant house, and the addition to this I must say that the Nason's, I don't know whether if you have heard that once Oscar Wilde said, "to be anyone in society one must have at least two addresses, and they have two excellent, north Gables and west end in London"; and they represent our City very famously in London. So, I hope the Commission will approve the addition. Thank you very much and congratulations to you, very nice. She is an economist; she has been one of the top officials in the City, which is the financial center of Europe perhaps the world, equivalent to Wall Street. So we are proud of them and I am proud of them as my neighbors.

Mayor Cason: Thank you. My neighbor too. I've seen the house, it's gorgeous.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Great job.

Mayor Cason: Do we have a motion?

Commissioner Anderson: I seconded the Vice Mayor's.

Mayor Cason: The Vice Mayor made the motion seconded by Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Anderson: I just want to say many years of health and happiness in that home. You did a beautiful job – I know it took a long time but I hope it was well worth it for you, and that front door is amazing, I just want you to know. Thank you.

Mayor Cason: City Clerk

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mrs. Spain: Thank you so much.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

[End: 9:30:37 a.m.]