

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Agenda Items G-5
July 14, 2020
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)

Agenda Item G-5

A discussion regarding the Commodore Trail and a resolution urging the City Commission to accept funds from Miami-Dade County through Commissioner Xavier Suarez's Office and the People's Transportation Plan to rehabilitate a portion of the Commodore Trail that runs through the City of Coral Gables. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-5 – Commodore Trail.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you Mr. Mayor. What I would love to do with Commodore Trail is, I would love to get all my colleagues on board on Commodore Trail, especially Commissioner Keon, because and I'll tell you why, because this goes through your neighborhood.

Commissioner Keon: You know what, I ride that trail almost every day now since Covid struck.

Vice Mayor Lago: Let me tell you a little bit about this trail, about what's going on. So for the last few months, I've been working with Commissioner Suarez in the County, along with Mayor Suarez from the City of Miami, and we've had a few meetings, and actually we voted on the TPO,
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to really allocate PTP funding and really look for a joint agreement between the cities to bring the Commodore Trail to fruition. Thank you to Commissioner Suarez at the county, he has allocated \$250,000, which is part of this resolution, to make sure that we can start working on the planning and all the soft costs, in relation to the Commodore Trail. Obviously, it's going to take more money, but that's why I need the help of my colleagues. We already have the money for the planning and the review and the public comment and all those kinds of great things, now we can start looking for the additional monies to really bring this to fruition. The portion of the Commodore Trail that's in the City of Coral Gables is really small and it doesn't encompass much of the five and-a-half mile bike and pedestrian trail, and most of it already existed. It runs from Coco Plum through Coral Gables and to the City of Miami to Rickenbacker Causeway. And I think this is a great opportunity, like I mentioned before, in a great neighborhood that I had the pleasure of living in for a few years, when my wife and I got married, and we used to walk this trail all the time, it already exists. But now this is a great opportunity to basically just spruce it up and make it a great amenity and connect people, so you get people out of cars and they can go from the City of Coral Gables on Old Cutler through Edgewater all the way through the City of Miami. So that's basically the gist of this and I would ask, I would really love to see my colleagues get involved, at the beginning. We are at the starting line of this project. It could take two or three years to bring it to fruition and I need all the help I can get to bring this across the finish line.

Commissioner Keon: Well you know it kind of stops, the trail stops after Ingraham Park, it doesn't pick up again until North Prospect, other than that it's just a sharrow, it really doesn't. And I'll tell you that there has to be, particularly in the pandemic, there is well over 100 bicyclists a day that come up Edgewater to connect from the Commodore Trail to the Old Cutler Trail, so its heavily used. People are used to it so the drivers seem to be relatively courteous to the bicyclists in sharing that path, but it could be a whole lot safer and it could be a whole lot better.

Vice Mayor Lago: Commissioner your comments about Ingraham Park are all detailed in the document that I sent out, its common knowledge about the sharrow. What I want to make sure that we give thanks to Commissioner Suarez, because he is giving us the \$250,000 to start the planning exercise and these are flexible funds, as ACM Santamaria and I discussed the other day and I'd love to get the support of all my colleagues and please feel free to jump on board and co-sponsor, and I'd love to see this come to fruition over the next two or three years.

Commissioner Keon: Commissioner Suarez has been very generous with the City of Coral Gables, as the Commissioner of my district, so we are grateful for it.

City Attorney Ramos: There is a resolution that needs to be voted on.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Keon: Second.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.