

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item – Mayor’s Comments
February 26, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

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

Public Speaker(s)

Brenda Moe, Coral Gables Art Cinema
Marlin Ebbert

Agenda Items C-1 and C-2 [9:17:43 a.m.]

Mayor’s Comments

C-1: Update on the Coral Gables Art Cinema

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And the next item on the agenda is update on the Coral Gables Art Cinema. Hi.

Brenda Moe: Hi. Good morning.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning.

Ms. Moe: Good morning Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager and City Attorney. Thank you so much for giving us this time for our goodwill update. My name is Brenda Moe, I’m Co-Executive Director of the Coral Gables Art Cinema. Our founder and the gentleman who I’m proud to share an Executive Director title with, Steven Krams, sends his regrets, as scheduling

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conflict prevented him from joining us today. In presenting today's goodwill update, I think it's notable to, of course mention that the Coral Gables Art Cinema has been operating for eight and-a-half years, it will be nine in October. We are fortunate to have a steadfast Board of Directors and have our programming directed by the incomparable Nat Chadiak, with support from Javier Chavez. I am bias, but I also think we have the best staff in Coral Gables. In addition to the local and state grants and the support we see from the City of Coral Gables Cultural Affairs Office and Catherine Cathers, specifically she's been involved since the very beginning and we can't thank her enough for everything that she has done for us. We are proud to announce that we applied for and received a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support a variety of free and family-oriented programming. This programming includes Movies on the Mile. This is a program in coordination with the City of Coral Gables Economic Development Department, to bring free outdoor movies. I'm currently working with the Director Pamela Fuertes on this and we are talking about what we can do to reactivate Movies on the Mile. The grant, the National Endowment for the Arts Grant also is supporting our sensory-friendly screening series. This is a series where we offer typical movie-going opportunities to people living with autism spectrum disorder and their families, and this is in partnership with the City of Coral Gables Youth Center. I've worked with Carolina Vester on this. Now, I believe we've been working on it for two years. This National Endowment for the Arts Grant is going to help underwrite those costs. So both the City and this Art Cinema don't incur all the expenses. The grant also supports our family day on Aragon program. This is a shared monthly program with our partners, the Coral Gables Museum and Books and Books. This program is now, thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts and the Coral Gables Community Foundation, the program is now free for children 12 and under; regular tickets are only \$5.00. This gives families access to affordable and culturally rich entertainment right here in Coral Gables. The National Endowment for the Arts Grant will also support our Children's International Film Festival, which is the only one of its kind and is always well supported by Coral Gables TV. Some programming, notable programming that highlights the City of Coral Gables includes in July of 2018, we screened 2001 A Space Odyssey on 70 millimeter film and the City of Coral Gables and the Coral Gables Art Cinema was the only space or the only place that you could watch this film on 70 millimeter film in the southeastern United States. The Netflix film, Roma, again was screened on 70 millimeter film, and this was available to even less markets, so you could see it in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, or Coral Gables. Thankfully we have Mitchell Kaplan, founder of Books and Books as a Board Member; and as many know he's gone into film programming. We have featured two of his films, The Man Who Invented Christmas and The Journeys Literarian Potato Peel Society. Both of those just because of Mitchell's connection to the community were huge successes and we were really proud to host them. We literally would not be here without the ongoing support of the City and every one of us should be proud of what our cultural landmark brings to South Florida. It is not the effort of a few, but of many, including all of you on the dais today. So, we just want to say thank you and I hope that what we are bringing makes all of us proud. Marlin.

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Marlin Ebbert: Good morning. For the record, my name is Marlin Ebbert, I live at 65 10 San Vicente Street in Coral Gables. Good morning to everybody. As most of you know, I wear some multiple hats in the City, but probably one of my favorites is the Coral Gables Art Cinema. Being an independent – when I heard that Brenda was coming today, I asked just to steal a few minutes of her time, because I could say some things that maybe she couldn't. Being an independent theater, we can do so many things for the community that Landmark or other theaters just cannot do. Just a couple of highlights of things that I've enjoyed over the last few months. When we showed Mary Queen of Scotts, we had high tea and scones one Sunday afternoon. When we showed Capernaum, a wonderful film that was Lebanese foreign film entry, we skyped in the director/producer, which made that film so much more meaningful to people in the audience. Brenda mentioned Roma. Roma was shown for free on television if you had Netflix. It sold out just about every time we showed it, because people wanted to see it in the big screen. Valentine's Day, Casablanca, sold out crowd, and it had been showed on Turner Classic Movies that week. And last Friday, another thing I do is, I'm a member of the Villagers, which is for Historic Preservation. We had our Villager meeting last Friday morning at the Cinema and we showed Graceful Graces for Black History Month, and Edwina Prime and Beverly Gibson were there in the audience with us and it just was so moving. Another note, I got an e-mail last week from a friend in the North Gables, she lives on Mariana and her husband is ill; and she just said to me, the Cinema has become her second home. You know it's a place where people can go and escape and forget their troubles. So, I just wanted to add that for the Cinema. Thank you. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. We are very blessed, we are lucky to have cultural resources such as the Cinema and Coral Gables is a very special City because of the Cinema and we have three book stores in a City of our size. We have five live theaters, we have the Cinema and we also have a resident of Miami Cinema here, plus Merrick Park. We are a cultural resource, cultural offers to our residents, and you are one of the most prominent ones, so thank you very, very much for what you do and on behalf of the Commission, I think you have our full support.

Ms. Ebbert: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

C-2: A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the International Affairs Coordinating Council that Granada, Spain, become a Sister City Emeritus.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next is a Resolution accepting the recommendation of the International Affairs Coordinating Council that Granada, Spain, become a Sister City Emeritus.

Commissioner Quesada: Just quick as you are walking up. You do a spectacular job. No one ever complains, everyone always says how great it is. It seems like everyone in town goes, so keep it up. Thanks.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next item now. Do I have a motion on Granada?

Commissioner Mena: Yes. I'll make the motion.

Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed? Good.

[End: 9:26:31 a.m.]