

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-3
June 16, 2015
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Cindy Birdsill

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-3 [12:42:22 p.m.]

A Resolution authorizing the use of the Art Acquisition Fund for incorporation of public art into the Miracle Mile Streetscape Project; and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Annual Budget, to recognize as revenue a transfer from the Art Acquisition Fund and to appropriate such funds to put toward the cost of the project.

Mayor Cason: H-3.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: H-3, I'm going to call Cindy Birdsill up to explain the item and to present the resolution.

Ms. Birdsill: Hello Mayor and Commissioners. This is a resolution to authorize us to use some of the funds in the Art Acquisition Fund for the incorporation of public art into the Miracle Mile Streetscape Project. We have been working with Cooper Robertson and our Arts Advisory Panel

to come up with a list of artists that they think would be appropriate for the project. Cooper Robertson selected six of their top artists who are Blessing Hancock, Teresita Fernandez, Cao + Perrot, Sibylle Pasche, Robert Chambers, and Meejin Yoon. So those were the artists that they wanted to explore. They are starting with the first four artists and they've been having skype discussions, but we are hoping to be able to set up meetings with the artists on site when Cooper Robertson is here in July, around the 8th and 9th.

Commissioner Lago: Can I ask a quick question? I saw the list, it's a very impressive list of international artists. I'm excited to see the fact that we included someone like Teresita Fernandez, which is local. She currently has an incredible public exhibition in New York, which is incredible. I haven't seen it in person, but I think it would be something spectacular to see. I was a little bit, I wish we would have been able to include Jorge Pardo on that list. He is world class, Cuban artist represented by some of the most important galleries in the world, included in probably all the prominent collections in museums.

Ms. Birdsill: Jorge Pardo was on the list qualified by the Board, but Cooper Robertson didn't select him to be one of the artists they wanted to work with.

Commissioner Lago: Is there any way that we could potentially – I would love for them to have, just reconsider maybe just exploring the opportunity of inclusion because – and I'll tell you why. He is not just a sculptor, and I recommend that anybody go to the de la Cruz Collection and see what he does. He makes furniture and he is well known for his incredible lamps, so maybe those lamps could be incorporated into some sort of design on Miracle Mile. If you go to the de la Cruz Collection you'll see hand blown lamps that he's done, which has probably been there since the incorporation of the new collection, and I think it would bring a different touch in reference to what we are looking for.

Ms. Birdsill: I think the artists that they selected in large part were because those artists worked with similar themes. You know, they are working with the sky and the atmosphere and the rain, and they felt that the artists they were selecting were more responsive on those particular topics, but certainly we can let them know that you know...

Mayor Cason: Ask them to take another look.

Ms. Birdsill: Sure.

Mayor Cason: I have a question in terms of the process. Will the Advisory Committee just looking at all the design elements, make a recommendation to us when we have our final vote on...?

Ms. Birdsill: Absolutely. This will go through the normal Art in Public Places process, so the next step would be for Cooper Robertson to meet with the artists, have four of the artists probably come up with a concept of how they would incorporate art into the project; and then that would be presented to the Arts Advisory Panel and then presented to the Cultural Development Board and then their recommendations would come to you.

Mayor Cason: And this is in addition to all the elements that are being paid for under the streetscape. In other words, the discussion we had on Columbus Plaza, the normal sidewalks and things, special designs, this is in addition to.

Ms. Birdsill: This is in addition to that and this is a City project also. What we are asking for \$1.1 million of the Art Acquisition Funds to be available for this important project.

Mayor Cason: Discussion?- motion?

Commissioner Keon: When are we going to start getting some estimates of cost on the streetscape project?

Ms. Birdsill: I'll let Glenn take that one.

Mayor Cason: You want to vote on this first and then have the discussion?

Vice Mayor Quesada: So moved.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor moves the motion.

Commissioner Lago: And I'll second the motion. Do you think that once you speak with the architects and ask them just to entertain potentially having another artist or maybe a second artist, maybe someone here on the Commission would have another artist that they feel would be adequate, do you think we'll get a response from them soon?

Ms. Birdsill: They are going to be here July 8th and 9th. I will communicate back to them and have them take a look at it and perhaps they can have a skype conversation with Mr. Pardo.

Commissioner Lago: If they want to skype me, I'll be available.

Ms. Birdsill: OK.

Mayor Cason: Alright, so we have Vice Mayor made a motion, Commissioner Lago seconded.

City Clerk

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 12:47:22 p.m.]