

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-3
December 5, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Public Works Director, Ed Santamaria

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-3 [12:14:35 p.m.]

A discussion and update from staff on the bike sharing program
(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: A discussion and update from staff on the bike sharing program.

Commissioner Lago: This is another quick point and I know that our Director Santamaria is coming before us. I just want to give you a quick update before he says this; and I want to backtrack some comments that I made and I'm a man, so I can admit when I'm wrong, because I met with Ed and there was a discussion about bike sharing, should we rush into this or not. I think it was myself and I'll give Commissioner Mena a little blame too, he can carry some of the blame. I'm blaming him too, he'll take it. It was about the potential bike sharing. I'm still in favor of doing bike sharing, I think it's great, but there is a little bit of an issue -- docking versus non-docking. I've had an awful bike in front of my house for, I think they may have picked it up yesterday, I think it was probably three or four days, I want to give it justice. The awful bikes are thrown all over the City of Coral Gables, especially in our neck of the woods, which is right next

to your mother-in-law's house, that's my picture – wow, Chelsea is on her game today. I took that picture and I sent it to her and that was from my driveway, so that bike is from the South Miami RFQ that went out and they won, and basically you see those bikes thrown throughout the City. Listen, I love the idea of bike sharing, but it's very difficult when you don't have some sort of docking mechanism. How are we going to address this without setting back, hopefully having bike sharing as an option?

Commissioner Mena: Just to add to that. First of all, I'm still against docking. So at least one of the vendors that I spoke to months ago before we even voted on this, it's their obligation and what they told us and I don't know, Jessica is not here, but every night they will go around, collect all the bikes, they know exactly where they are, and reposition them. If they don't fulfill that obligation then we cancel the contract. I'm all for that. They've got to execute.

Commissioner Lago: I want to put this on the record as an example, it's my understanding that this company also does similar, has those similar protocols in place in their contract and it's not being met. By the way, there is a lot of interest in bike sharing because I would see all these people around the bike in front of my home every day reading the sign that says, obviously bike sharing program. We need to be very, very careful and follow exactly what you said, if the company that we are going to bring in here to do this bike sharing, I think we are doing a kind of test, a dry run, if they don't meet the standard we can't allow this.

Commissioner Quesada: I'm with Mike. I like the fact that you don't have to take it to a docking station. I think we've just got to be on the contract negotiation, I think we've got to be strict and we've got to police it immediately, quickly in the near term.

Commissioner Mena: The picture you just showed, I think that's OK one day, right, it's there. Somebody comes along and takes it that night. I think that's OK. You don't want it sitting there three or four days, as you discussed. I was in Charlotte this last weekend and they rolled this out in their downtown multiple companies and there were a lot of people using it; and it was sort of funny because they have the old docks city bikes as well, and they are all docked there and nobody is touching them, as you see in Miami.

Commissioner Lago: But I'm in favor of the bike sharing and I'll tell you, just exactly we said in Charlotte, they are everywhere, these bikes are being used from South Miami all the way into the City of Miami, past Coral Gables, all the way down to 37th Avenue, you see them on Coral Way, so it's working. Now the idea is how do we avoid putting ourselves in a situation where they are littered through a residential neighborhood.

Commissioner Mena: And I think – maybe we need to have a Code Enforcement discussion, but if the company from South Miami has got people leaving the bikes and it's not the company we are using, then we need to talk about how we are addressing that, because they are not our vendor, that bike you just showed obviously is not somebody who is affiliated with the City, so what are we doing about that and what should we be doing about that?

Director Santamaria: Good afternoon Vice Mayor, members of the Commission, Ed Santamaria, Director of Public Works. We did put out a RLFIs pursuant to the will of the Commission in terms of dockless bike sharing program. It is a pilot program. We are in the process right now of finalizing the selection. We've made our recommendation to Procurement; Procurement still has some homework to do in terms of obtaining some information from the potential awardee. So we hope to be able to pull the trigger on something very, very quickly. To address some of your concerns regarding...

Commissioner Lago: When do you expect rolling this out, let's say if they meet all your expectations and they answer all the questions, when do you think we will be rolling this out?

Director Santamaria: I would say it's realistic that it could be rolled out in 30 days, if not...

Commissioner Lago: I asked you because a lot of residents are asking, listen this doesn't look correct, but we want something similar that doesn't have that issue.

Director Santamaria: And so to the extent that there is a requirement posed on the company for balancing, in other words, the bikes have to be balanced every day. One of the things that we looked at was the commitment to this balancing programming and that has a lot to do with the number of staff that they would have available to do this; and so, the company that we are recommending for, to us has a more robust staff here. So that is a valid concern and it is something that we would have to hold their 'feet to the fire' in terms of making sure that a bicycle doesn't loiter in front...

Commissioner Mena: And I think we had even talked when we first spoke about this and voted on it, we had talked not only about having them balance it, right?- but having areas designated by us as a City where they should be. It's not docking but where they are supposed to put them every night, if you will. They go around and collect them, where should they be placed, so it's just not that they kind of spread them out throughout the City, but that they do it in a way that we are comfortable with, as far as where they are originating.

Commissioner Lago: My point is, I just want to bring this to your attention and also mention the fact that this is not working, so I'm happy to hear that staff is taking this into consideration before they roll this out. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

[End: 12:21:04 p.m.]