

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-35

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA AMENDING AND RATIFYING PROJECTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD RENAISSANCE PROGRAM; PROVIDING CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AUTHORIZING OTHER REQUIRED ACTIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida (the “Borrower”) authorized a loan from the Sunshine State Governmental Financing Commission (the “Commission”), evidenced by a loan agreement, for the purpose of financing the Borrower’s capital improvements known as the “Neighborhood Renaissance Program”, as described in such loan agreement (the “2011 Loan”) pursuant to Resolution No. 2011-139 adopted on June 7, 2011 and in Resolution No. 2011-70 adopted on April 26, 2011; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2012 the Borrower authorized a loan from the Commission, evidenced by a loan agreement, for the purpose of refinancing the Borrower’s capital improvements known as the “Neighborhood Renaissance Program”, pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-101; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2014 the City Commission authorized Resolution No. 2014-147 whereby the location of the Civic Plaza “Lovers Court” was changed to Merrick Park; and

WHEREAS, the Borrower desires to further amend and ratify the capital improvements described in the Neighborhood Renaissance Program as indicated in Attachment 1;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this resolution upon the adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. The capital improvements, listed in Resolution No. 2011-70 and 2014-147 adopted on April 26, 2011 and July 22, 2014, respectively, describing the Neighborhood Renaissance Program (the “Renaissance Resolution”)and amendment, are further amended as indicated in Attachment 1, and are hereby ratified and confirmed as projects within the Neighborhood Renaissance Program. The City Commission hereby authorizes and approves loan proceeds derived from the 2011 Loan be used to pay for such project.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D., 2016.

(Moved: Lago / Seconded: Quesada)

(Yeas: Lago, Quesada, Slesnick, Keon, Cason)

(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)

(Agenda Item: H-6)

APPROVED:



JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:



WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY CLERK

Attachment I - Neighborhood Renaissance Program – Project Descriptions

I. Establish a Full Service Senior/Multi-Purpose Center

The City lacks a Senior facility, so in order to serve the at least 22% of our resident population who are over the age of 60, the City will establish a new multi-purpose facility consisting of approximately 10,000-14,000 square feet through a partnership with the County, under the auspices of County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, to bring such a facility to northern Coral Gables. The center will offer seniors, and visitors of all ages, a place to get together and participate in a wide range of exciting programs and activities designed specifically with seniors in mind, such as: art classes (drawing, painting, sculpture, and more), athletic games & competitions, book clubs, card games, computer classes, cooking classes and demonstrations, dance (all styles), dog obedience, drama club, exercise (everything from chair aerobics to tai chi to weight training), history discussions, language learning, lectures (such as financial planning, senior health, etc.), poetry & creative writing, social gatherings, travel & field trips, walking groups, wellness programs, a wine club, and yoga & meditation. With a new facility, the City would strive for accreditation by the National Institute of Senior Centers, thereby joining the only 12 other accredited senior centers in the State of Florida.

II. De Soto Fountain Traffic Circle Improvements

This traffic circle will be reconfigured to enhance traffic safety and flow in addition to beautifying the surrounding area with landscaping.

III. Beautification of Granada and Columbus Circles

These traffic circles at Columbus Plaza (Columbus Boulevard and Coral Way) and Ponce de Leon Plaza (Granada Boulevard and Coral Way) will be enhanced to promote traffic safety and provide additional landscaping. In addition, the civic monuments surrounding Columbus Plaza will be restored.

IV. Construct Biltmore Way and Ponce de Leon Boulevard (Final Phase) Streetscape Projects

Biltmore Way will be improved to provide for installation of medians, additional landscaping, and resurfacing, from Anderson Road to Segovia Street emphasizing the residential character of the area and from Segovia Street to Hernando Street and then along Andalusia Avenue from Hernando Street to Le Jeune Road emphasizing the transition from a residential area to an entrance to downtown (pending inclusion in the County transportation improvement program). The final phase of the streetscape project for Ponce de Leon Boulevard, a major North/South artery would be continued from where it currently ends at Salamanca Avenue to its intersection with SW 8th Street.

V. Development of Parks City wide

The City has not had the funds available to improve/develop parks. This project would provide available funding for the development of passive and active parks throughout the City.

VI. Country Club Prado Landscaping Improvements

The landscaping within this historic, one-of-a-kind open space has declined over decades without any significant restoration efforts. This project will benefit the adjacent neighborhoods through restorative design and installation of complementary landscape and trees.

VII. City-Wide Street Resurfacing, Sidewalk Repair/Replacement and Traffic Calming

The street improvement projects listed on Attachment 1 to this report will benefit numerous neighborhoods. This will include resurfacing approximately 30 lane miles of city streets (21 residential lane miles and 9 downtown lane miles), most of which have needed resurfacing for a considerable period of time. This project will positively impact approximately 2,650 single and multi-family residences that front the streets to be resurfaced. After the City catches up with this resurfacing backlog, the City will be able to stay current with street resurfacing and address other traffic improvements with the current funding level of recurring gas tax funds. This project will provide for the funding of approximately 20 traffic calming projects that are in various stages of review and approval, including intersection

improvements, traffic circles, chokers and traffic islands. In addition, neighborhoods would benefit and be made more attractive by the repair and replacement of existing sidewalks that may have been impacted by trees in the right of way.

Additionally, this project will allow for street resurfacing for other City streets, as well as include funding where necessary for sidewalk repair and replacement and traffic calming throughout the City.

VIII. Segovia Circles

This project involves the creation of two new civic art monuments in the two new large traffic circles on Segovia Street, a major artery traversing the City that serves as a gateway between residential areas and the entrance to downtown. The prominence of these circles will be amplified once the Segovia streetscape is complete. Coral Gables has a long history of incorporating civic art and special architectural features into its fabric, and it is in part because of this that Coral Gables is one of the most historic and beautiful communities in the State of Florida. This will be an opportunity through the City's Art in Public Places Program to design and place works of art (which may include fountains) that would be selected through an international competition to create a civic gateway. Consideration will need to be given to the relationship between the artwork and the surrounding buildings, open space, landscaping and existing civic markers.

IX. Beautification of Street Intersections Citywide

This project will provide additional greening with landscaping and irrigation as well as specifically repaving at the following neighborhood street intersections (a/k/a/ the "triangles"): Manati Avenue and Hardee Road; Campo Sano Avenue and University Drive; Valencia Avenue and Cardena Street; and San Amaro Court and San Amaro Drive, and providing available funding for other neighborhood street intersections citywide as deemed necessary

X. City-wide Landscaping Improvements

This project will beautify neighborhoods that would benefit from the replacement and planting of additional trees throughout the City, as well as providing for additional greening with landscaping and irrigation.

XI. Entrance Way & Fountain Restoration

This project will restore historic entrance ways and fountains at the following locations: Granada Entrance (Granada Boulevard and Eighth Street), Commercial Entrance (Alhambra Circle and Douglas Road), Granada Plaza (Granada Boulevard and Alhambra Circle), Segovia Plaza (Segovia Circle and Coral Way), and Balboa Plaza (Biltmore Way, Anderson Road, DeSoto Boulevard and Coral Way). It will also provide available funding as deemed necessary to other entrances and fountains throughout the City.

XII. Acquire and Develop a Site for "Lovers' Court" in the City Beautiful

Cities around the world are beginning to recognize the environmental, economic and social benefits of creating public open spaces in urban areas, which promotes active lifestyles. In order to reinforce Coral Gables' image as being one of the most livable cities in the country and to make the downtown more pedestrian friendly, the City will seek to develop and construct a civic plaza on Biltmore Way and the immediate surrounding area and convert it into to a public gathering place. It will create a special, intimate public space for smaller public events that will not affect day to day traffic. The most valuable public spaces create an atmosphere that invites people to gather and relax; providing them with people to watch, sun to bask in, trees to sit under, and water to listen to. A public gathering place would provide a much needed oasis where office workers can eat lunch and get a breath of air, for senior citizens to sit and socialize, and for shoppers to take a break. A place of renewal and reflection. A place that attracts, delights, excites and comforts all. It is where important words will be spoken, vows exchanged and promises made.

XIII. Create an Entertainment Venue on Giralda Avenue

Restaurant Row has been in decline for some time. Every downtown faces continual challenges. The great ones respond. The street level businesses that populate downtown, whether retail, dining or entertainment, all require pedestrian traffic to thrive. This project would have a major influence on the resurgence of Restaurant Row, in addition to benefitting the surrounding area, and would broaden the scope and appeal of downtown. We need a catalyst for after-hours activity downtown (beyond 5 p.m.). An architecturally attractive entertainment venue, such as an upscale five or six-plex first-run movie theater with concierge services and in-seat service of food and drinks, a comedy club, dancing or live-music venue, will reinforce the downtown as the dominant place for activity, gathering and commerce. The role of entertainment is instrumental in driving pedestrian traffic and bringing new faces to the downtown. Entertainment centers are more vital and vibrant, and cause people to come together. We have an opportunity on Lot 25 located at the corner of Galiano Street and Giralda Avenue to create such a catalyst by utilizing this property for a public/private partnership from which resulting funds will provide the necessary resources for downtown event programming.

XIV. William H. Kerdyk/Biltmore Tennis Center Improvements

The William H. Kerdyk/Biltmore Tennis Center has declined in appearance and functionality over the years. This project will renovate the clubhouse, courts, lighting and grounds so that the Tennis Center will become the central focus for tennis play in the City.

XV. Transformation of Ponce Circle Park

This Project will transform Ponce Circle Park into Coral Gables' "public living room" in order to create a comfortable place to gather, relax and enjoy, and will be an improved space for public events that will encourage community interaction and exchange. The park will feature fountains, plazas, gardens and landscaping, light features, hidden power and electrical outlets to be used for various community events, and may include a pavilion and/or pergola. We also have a unique opportunity to partner with the Spain/Florida Foundation in the creation of a worldwide landmark that would commemorate Ponce de Leon's 500th Anniversary of discovering Florida, which will occur in late March or early April 2013, by engaging a world-class artist to create a signature "Fountain of Youth." This project represents a unique opportunity in the fields of landscape architecture and urban design that would reinforce Coral Gables' image as being one of the most livable cities in the country.

XVI. Installation of Bicycle Paths

Bicycle activity has become more and more popular for residents and visitors, especially as the bicycle has emerged as a viable mode of green transportation. The existing bicycle facilities do not satisfy the demand.

This project will move the City forward in creating and installing bicycle facilities that will enhance safety and convenience for cyclists, and provide access to an environmentally-friendly mode of transportation as well as the opportunity for residents and visitors to exercise and explore the City.

XVII. City-wide Installation of Decorative Historic Streetlights

Decorative streetlights unique to Coral Gables' history can add warmth and elegance to our neighborhoods. This project would provide neighborhoods the opportunity to petition for improving the atmosphere and style of their streets by upgrading the existing lights to the decorative historic style streetlights as well as adding additional historic style streetlights as appropriate to the block or neighborhood. In addition, this project would include the conversion to LED technology of existing, replacement, and newly installed historic style and non-historic style lights.

The City would provide fifty percent of the costs to purchase and install the lights. The participating neighborhoods would fund the other fifty percent. The City would cover all recurring electricity and maintenance costs

XVIII. Acquisition of Land for Park Space

This project will allow for the purchase of land for use as park space. Land purchase will increase the levels of service for all residents in the City with the goal of having park facilities that are easily accessible and are within close proximity to each neighborhood.

XIX. Sidewalks, Sidewalk Extensions and Crosswalks City-wide

This project will allow for the use of available funds for the construction of sidewalks, sidewalk extensions and crosswalks citywide where they currently don't exist. Adding sidewalks, sidewalk extensions and crosswalks enhance the safety of our residents and increase the walkability of our neighborhoods.

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V. Development of ~~Two~~ Passive Parks City wide

~~The City purchased 5028 Maggiore Street in 2008 (20,427 square feet) and 4650 Alhambra Circle in 2010 (21,000 square feet), and has not had the funds available to improve these properties as passive parks.~~

The City has not had the funds available to improve/develop parks. This project would provide available funding for the development of passive and active parks throughout the City.

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The landscaping within this historic, one-of-a-kind open space has declined over decades without any significant restoration efforts. This project will ~~enhance-benefit~~ the adjacent neighborhoods through restorative design and installation of complementary landscape and ~~will primarily consist of installing new trees.~~

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