

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-4
July 11, 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, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-4 [11:10:20 a.m.]

Mayor's Comments

Announcement of Mayor's Council on Innovation and Industry
(Sponsored by Mayor Valdes-Fauli)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item is C-4, I've had on the agenda for the last three meetings an Innovation Council and I would like to propose that we set up or the City set up an Innovation Council made up of significant leaders in our community on innovation, telecommunication. We have for example, in our City the Cisneros Group that is taking Facebook to South America and if we could have that type of person promoting our City for marketing purposes and also for making Coral Gables the innovation center of the Americas I will make it multi-national corporation center of the Americas. I'm very proud that we are recognized and I had a conference call with people from Silicon Valley, people from the City – Mayor of Wynwood, which is one of the individuals...and I think the City Manager was there and I think they were there and frankly in terms of innovation and in terms of the Six Sigma project, we are very much in the forefront of cities in the United States if not the world; and I would like to pursue that effort with this council, the council will be made up of leaders, and I haven't talked to any of

them, I was thinking of people like Manny ____, I was thinking of people like the Cisneros Group, I was thinking of people in tele-communications, and innovation industries, and I just want to announce it to the Commission and I'll be bringing forth developments, information periodically as its worthwhile.

Commissioner Quesada: I'm fully supportive. I don't know if we need a vote on this? Would there be an appointment process that you would appoint everyone or we would each have...?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: This is not a political or politically motivated and I will consult you of course, but have people from the significant innovation, significant technology industries in Coral Gables named to this council.

Commissioner Quesada: Do you want the structure to be that we give you recommendations if we have...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Recommendations yes, not appointments, recommendations. It's by invitation; they are not going to have any function except promoting us out there in the Americas. They are not going to meet maybe once, a luncheon or something, which everybody will be invited of course. I just brought this for information purposes.

Vice Mayor Keon: So you'll meet with them.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'll invite them once in a while. I've asked the City Manager if we had to hire somebody to pursue this effort, to shepherd this effort on a part-time basis and she said yes. Her name is Patrice Dunhill.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We haven't selected who yet.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK, but we are looking at several people, some of which are significantly in this area and one of them congratulated us for how far we have gotten along in this process.

Commissioner Quesada: You know something to keep in mind, just a recommendation thought. To a certain extent where the spirits capital in the south United States, keep in mind DiAgio, keep in mind Bacardi, because they have extensive reach, we had a good partnership. They've been great with us locally, but they have reach all around the world.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The naming of the spirits.

Commissioner Quesada: No, no, not me.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor, I commend you for this effort and I think that an opportunity that we could potentially use this group of individuals to really achieve a certain goal in innovation, whatever that may be, hasn't been decided; and there is a driver, I'm going to be talking about it later which is the G-A, which is the Bloomberg Philanthropy's Mayors Challenge.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That would be great.

Commissioner Lago: We can use this group to come up with ideas, again, it's going to be a whole City effort and we will talk about it later, but to potentially bring this innovation to the City and you could win grants of millions of dollars.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Absolutely. That's a very, very good idea.

Commissioner Lago: These people you mentioned right now to come to the City and give up their time, I'm all for it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's wonderful.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, my understanding of the group would be that it's an informal working group...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very much so.

City Attorney Leen:...for the Mayor. They are not going to be making any formal recommendations to the Commission. They would be individually giving us ideas and working with you, which is why at this point I don't think it is subject to the Sunshine Law, but if we were going to go forward and create a more formal group...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No this is not formal; my job here would be to motivate them to sell Coral Gables.

City Attorney Leen: Got it. So this is really attached to you and your office, understand.

[End: 11:15:10 a.m.]