

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
October 24, 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
Historic Preservation Officer, Dona Spain

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item: H-1 [12:07:27 p.m.]

A Resolution approving a public exhibition of artworks by Master Carlos Cruz-Diez in association with Art Basel and Miami Art Week, extending through Winter 2018. (Unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 6 to 0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next is H-1, public exhibition of artworks by Master Carlos Cruz-Diez in association with Art Basel and Miami Art Week extending through Winter 2018. It was unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board and we have succeeded in attracting Master Cruz-Diez who is a world class artist to put banners in front of City Hall and also put in some of the crosswalks as he has done in Paris, Los Angeles, Madrid, New York, and other places and I think it's a big success for us, we got ourselves on the official Art Basel directory. I am personally raising \$35,000 for this in order to continue to pay the fees and the City is contributing \$30-\$35,000 plus in-kind services and I think it's a big success to start putting us once again or putting us on the art map.

Mrs. Spain: It's really exciting, thank you sir; and thank you because you are responsible for this, it's really a big deal, we are very happy.

Vice Mayor Keon: The banners are beautiful, they're beautiful.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Just as clarification, so it's fully authorized. I believe the monies are coming from...

Mrs. Spain: The Art Acquisition Fund.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, the amount of money that you've earmarked?

Mrs. Spain: \$50,000.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: 50 which includes in-kind.

Mrs. Spain: Yes, is 15 for support, the installation is going to take place at night in November, so we'll need off-duty police officers and Public Works people.

Commissioner Quesada: Remind me again the location.

Mrs. Spain: City Hall – the banners outside of this room, there'll be 13 in between those 12 columns, so in between each column there'll be a banner, and then the crosswalk on Biltmore Way; the crosswalks, two of them on Coral Way, and then on...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: In front of the Museum.

Mrs. Spain: ...in front of the Museum.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Mr. Mayor, Irma took down a tree on the western side of the park across from City Hall, so we will be placing for this year only the City Hall Christmas Tree over at that western location so that the banners can really be fully enjoyed.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think it will be beautiful.

Mrs. Spain: And we are scheduled for a VIP event similar to what we did with Alice Aycock that's been approved by Art Basel, that's on a Sunday morning, December 10th.

Vice Mayor Keon: At the Museum?

Mrs. Spain: No, actually we are thinking of having it right next to the crosswalk in front of City Hall, so they can view the banners and also see the crosswalk.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor if I may. I went to last year's VIP event and it was incredible, because as all of you know Art Basel brings an immense amount of people to Miami-Dade County, you are talking about close to 50,000 people come just for the most prominent art event in the entire world, maybe outside of Basel Switzerland. This is a big coup for the City, because now for the second year we are going to be on the program for Art Basel, which is a program that deals with all the major museums in South Florida, major collections, major institutions, so Coral Gables will be highlighted. Master Carlos Cruz-Diez and I have to give the credit to the Mayor, because he pulled it off. This individual is just by calling him Master you are paying him homage, this individual who is in every major museum in the world and one of the most respected, you wouldn't even consider him a Latin American artist, he is in every major auction house, his record speaks for itself. This is going to really highlight the City and its going to bring us a lot of positive publicity and like I told the Mayor when I had coffee with you the other day, I would love to help you and if any of our colleagues want to help you with fundraising it would be an honor to help you, because this is going to be another feather in our cap for the City.

Commissioner Quesada: Can you make sure Economic Development, you guys did such a great job with Giralda to try to get the word out the same way you did for that.

Mrs. Spain: Absolutely.

Commissioner Lago: Big deal – good job.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Do I have a motion?

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 12:11:55 p.m.]