

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-6
May 8, 2018
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 Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-6 [3:17:21 p.m.]

Request for update regarding dog park at Nat Winokur Park
(Sponsored by Commissioner Mena)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Mena your dog park.

Commissioner Mena: So, Commissioner Lago has had a few meetings in the past about trying to identify a location for a dog park. At one of those public meetings we had, we identified the possibility of Nat Winokur Park and we have a brief update that I just asked the City Manager to provide on where those discussions are and what the progress is.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Absolutely. So, we know the interest in having a dog park. We had discussions on Nat Winokur, which is a public piece of property. We had had a ground easement for the rights to that from 1986. The County believes that that right has expired; we are still researching it because the City Attorney is helping us research it. So we haven't given up the right, but in the meantime, through the Underline we have initiated an alternate conversation.

Nat Winokur would have been a 14,000 square foot property, on the Underline, plenty of parking so that the dogs that don't walk to it can drive to it; and so, I personally spoke to Brent Reynolds who is doing the buildout is Gables Station. They are doing a very significant, as in like three and-a-half million dollars in park improvements. He has said that he would be absolutely willing to incorporate a dog park as a part of that. We have that meeting tomorrow at 2 o'clock, and we are going to have the Underline there, we are going to have our staff there. We are going to develop a brand standard for what the Underline dog parks could entail. We will not be the only dog park, but this would be a dog park in Coral Gables open to the public, but for Coral Gables; and so we are excited about that. Monies have been budgeted, City monies have been budgeted. City operations have been – we anticipate maintaining that from an operation standpoint and although delayed and disappointed on the failure of notification on Nat Winokur, I'll be honest with you; we are excited about moving forward on the Gables Station location for a public park. We will have a community meeting; we will invite the Coral Gables dog owners and interested public to attend. It is not going to be designed as a countywide come and plan the dog park, because I know that your interest Commissioner Mena, Commissioner Lago's interest was a dog park for Coral Gables dogs.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: Thank you.

[End: 3:20:01 p.m.]