

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-11
March 29, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Landscape Director, Deena Bell-Llewellyn

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-11 [Start: 4:15 p.m.]

Discussion regarding the expansion of acceptable Swale Package plants.
(Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Commissioner Anderson: Can we do G-11, since she's standing up here.

Mayor Lago: Perfect. Let's do it – G-11.

Commissioner Anderson: G-11, Discussion regarding the expansion of acceptable Swale Package plants. And I brought one sample flower for you over there. So, I'll ask you to educate the rest of us on how you feel that we should expand native plants and other types of plants in the swale packages and your recommendations.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: Okay. When we are reviewing landscape plans for swales, which is a terrific program for residents to be able to plant their swales fully, it helps with parking and also shade and tree roots. The current package has six different plant types that we allow in swales. They are mostly dark green, non-native plants and a lot of residents during the review process ask if we can use natives and different species. Of course, we can make special exceptions,

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we just want to make sure they stay lower than 30 inches height for visibility, but there are many different native species we could expand into the allowable plant species pallet.

Commissioner Anderson: So, the City Clerk would show the flower to the Commission. That is a native flower that stays, basically under 24 inches, and I planted it and it just has sprawled on my swale area without irrigation, other than what nature is giving it. Waiting to see what you are going to do with this now.

[Laughter]

Commissioner Anderson: Anyway, there it is. Can you come back with a memo on suggestions for additional swale package plants that we can approve.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: Happy to.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay.

Mayor Lago: I love it.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: That's a Dune Sunflower, by the way.

Commissioner Anderson: A Dune Sunflower.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: Dune Sunflower.

Mayor Lago: That's great.