

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-2
January 26, 2021
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Carlos Valera
Jesus Martinez
Sergio Bacass

Agenda Item I-2 [Start: 12:00 p.m.]

A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer to award RFQ 2020-021 for Design Consultant Services for State-of-the-Art Mobility Hub and negotiate a Professional Services Agreement (“Agreement”) with M. Arthur Gensler, Jr. & Associates, Inc. the highest ranked responsive-responsible proposer, pursuant to Florida Statute 287.055, known as the “Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act.”

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I-2.

City Attorney Ramos: I-2 is a Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer to award RFQ 2020-021 for Design Consultant Services for State-of-the-Art Mobility Hub and negotiate a Professional Services Agreement (“Agreement”) with M. Arthur Gensler, Jr. &

City Commission Meeting

January 26, 2021

*Agenda Item I-2 – Resolution accepting the recommendation of the CPO
To award RFQ 2020-021 for design consultant services for State-of-the-Art Mobility Hub*

[Date]

1

Associates, Inc. the highest ranked responsive-responsible proposer, pursuant to Florida Statute 287.055, known as the “Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act.”

Procurement Officer Walker: This particular project, again, was issued as an RFQ, we gathered the qualifications. We had twelve firms who responded. We had a two-phased evaluation process, they were short-listed and four of the finalists did presentation to our evaluation committee and they are recommending the award to M. Arthur Gensler.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: I’ll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Fors: Second.

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

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor before we take the roll call, we do have three speakers on this item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is this a public hearing?

City Attorney Ramos: Its not an official public hearing, but it is the last time that the Commission will make a decision on this, so pursuant to State Statute its allowed.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Two minutes each please.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir. The first speaker is Mr. Carlos Valera.

Mr. Valera: Hi, good morning. Can you all hear me?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead.

Mr. Valera: Thank you Honorable Mayor, members of the City Commission and everyone else present today. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I am Carlos Valera...I am representing the firm that is recommended to enter the project negotiations with the city. Being a

City Commission Meeting

Coral Gables resident for a long time and I was just thinking about our city. We wanted to acknowledge the incredible job done by Coral Gables Procurement team, along with the review committee that evaluated all...[inaudible]...This process was very transparent and thorough. On December 1st when we ranked number one, we have been monitoring very closely if anyone had protested or any lobbyist had registered to oppose this recommendation; and I'm happy to share as of yesterday morning we haven't seen any of the opposition thus far. We are excited to join the city in defining the vision for the mobility hub by delivering a product of excellence. We have been given a very important task to share the future of Coral Gables. The task you have today and...Gensler, the right design partner, we will design our hometown for decades to come. We trust that we have earned your vote of confidence to be your partner in co-creating and redefining the future of our community. And I would like to invite all of you to build this vision together. Thank you for the opportunity and we'll be around listening to discussions if there are any questions for us. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you sir. Next.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor the next speaker is Mr. Jesus Martinez.

Mr. Martinez: Thank you. All my points were covered by Mr. Valera, so I defer my time to him in case he needs something a little later. Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you. Next speaker is Mr. Sergio Bacass.

Mr. Bacass: Hello. My name is Sergio Bacass. I also am a project manager with Gensler and am available to answer any questions you may have about this, if they should come up and I'll leave time for Carlos. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you sir. Its been moved and seconded.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, one last speaker, Mr. Javier Banos is requesting to speak on this.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Banos.

Mr. Banos: I want to commend the City Manager and the city staff and the Commission on this item. I found very frustrating to work through the permitting process, a small project but I have building a fence and a wall on my property, its taking over a year.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Are you talking about this issue Mr. Banos?

City Commission Meeting

Mr. Banos: Yes, it is, and I want to commend them trying to streamline the whole permitting process.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Banos that item past, that was last item. Will you call the roll please?

Vice Mayor Lago: I have a few words, a few comments.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

Vice Mayor Lago: I have a few comments, if I may Mayor. Are we done?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: I have a – I don't want to relitigate the issue that has happened here before, but I had a conversation with our City Attorney and I have an ethical dilemma regarding one of the team members on the firm that is being awarded the project today, and I will not be able to vote in favor of the project based on that dilemma. I have worked with Gensler before, as a matter of fact, I just finished two projects with Gensler over the last six months, I just finished with them. It has been a pleasure to deal with Gensler. Gensler is a world class architectural and engineering firm that we are blessed to have them working here in our city. The projects that I worked with him where one was an interior remodeling job, very high-end job in the City of Coral Gables and another one was a brand-new construction project in the City of Miami. Both of them were very complicated projects. Gensler was incredibly professional, and they did a wonderful job. My dilemma is based on one of the individuals that they've hired as an outside consultant and they included them in their project, that I cannot work with that person, especially after certain that have happened in the past in regards to the City of Coral Gables. I will be voting no, not on Gensler qualifications. I'll be voting no as a result of one of the team members that Gensler chose to be involved that is an outside consultant.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you Mr. Vice Mayor. Thank you. Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: No

Commissioner Mena: Yes

City Commission Meeting

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes
(Vote: 4-1)