

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items H-1 and H-2 are related
March 28, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Economic Development Director, Javier Betancourt

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items H-1 and H-2 are related [0:00:00 a.m.]

A discussion regarding the opening/closure of Giralda Plaza to vehicular traffic.

A Resolution authorizing the sale of alcohol on the 100 block of Giralda Avenue every Saturday from April 1, 2017 through completion of the Giralda streetscape project, for a total of up to thirteen events, for "Giralda Alfresco," an outdoor dining series, subject to Florida Department of Professional Regulation Requirements.

Mayor Cason: Alright, we move now to H-1 and H-2.

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Agenda Items H-1 and H-2 are related – Discussion regarding the closure of Giralda Plaza to vehicular Traffic and a resolution authorizing the sale of alcohol on the 100 block of Giralda Avenue every Saturday from April 1, 2017 through completion of the Giralda streetscape project, for a total of up to thirteen events, for Giralda Alfresco, an outdoor dining series.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Good morning, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor, Commissioners. For the record, Javier Betancourt, director of Economic Development, for the City, here to discuss the opening -- or closure of Giralda Plaza. And I will ask for the PowerPoint to come up. So, as you see from the first slide, this is not an image that you're seeing for the first time. This has been the dream for Giralda for many years. And what's great to note in the second slide is that that dream is becoming a reality. The pavers, particularly in the first third of Giralda off of Ponce, are in. The plaza is looking fabulous. It's been very well received, and it continues to progress on the rest of the street. Here very quickly is a quick section of the street. You know its 60-foot right-of-way, the first ten feet of which is meant to be sidewalk, then you have ten feet of either parallel parking or programming, which is to say, outdoor dining, and then ten feet for each of the lanes. Multiply that by two, you get your sixty feet, so it's a very tight right-of-way, which forces us to make certain decisions. The construction on the plaza is proceeding. As I stated, a third is done. The other two-thirds are underway and it is still currently scheduled for a completion date of May of this year. The design and the designation as a plaza both provide for a great deal of flexibility with respect to what we want to do with the plaza, open it to traffic, close it to traffic, as desired, et cetera, and that's what we're here to discuss. Certain decisions, such as outdoor dining locations, furniture type, furniture placement, furniture storage, placement of the bollards, maintenance activities, et cetera, all depend in part on whether or not the plaza will remain open or closed to vehicular traffic. We're at the point where we're having those discussions with the merchants, with the BID internally at the City and need to determine what we're going to do with the street in order to know what to do with programming and operations. There are trade-offs associated with each of those approaches, but it's important to know that under either scenario the plaza's flexible design will allow us to change course, reverse course in the future should the decision not work well. The first option -- and again, the plaza was really designed as a flexible street. It would remain open to vehicular traffic, that's one lane in each direction. It contemplates 17 spaces of on-street parking between the Bridal Veil trees. Limited outdoor dining could be introduced in lieu of some of those parking spaces, if we wish. The plaza could be closed on a regular basis,

perhaps, on weekends, perhaps every night, as desired by the City and the BID and merchants. Valet operation will take place on the street when it's open to traffic and at the end caps of the street when it is closed to traffic. You may have smaller deliveries that could take place on the street, although, obviously, the larger trucks would be kept to the alleyways. And additional guidelines would have to be prepared should we choose to go this route with respect to programming events, furniture, et cetera. There are certain trade-offs associated with this approach. It would significantly limit outdoor dining opportunities, while the street is open to traffic due to the proximity of the diners to the travel lanes. It would require the frequent moving of outdoor furniture to a yet-to-be-determined storage location, which would cause frequent disruption to the plaza, require movable furniture that may be harmed over time and require an ongoing expense either at the City's expense, merchants or some combination thereof. It may damage the pavers and trees. While oversized delivery trucks would be -- refrained from delivering on the street, that's not to say that a few might not do so anyway and the pavers really are not meant to withstand that kind of pressure. It would likely require greater maintenance. The second option is a pedestrian plaza. That's one in which the plaza would remain closed to vehicular traffic via the simple placement of bollards at the end caps of the street to create a "permanent" -- although it could always be reversed -- and safe public gathering place. Access would always be available to police and fire or for special events with the simple removal of those bollards. There would be no self-parking on the plaza, allowing businesses to have an extended area for outdoor dining and activation at all days and times. Valet would operate at the end caps of Giralda and Ponce, as they are currently, and Giralda and Merrick Way. And the furniture could remain on the plaza at all times, so there would be no need for easily removable furniture or for storage. As in the previous scenario, additional guidelines would need to be determined governing events and furniture, et cetera. The trade-offs with this option is that it would limit the access -- I'm sorry, limited access would impact the ability of customers and other smaller delivery trucks to park or be dropped off directly in front of the businesses. It would provide limited visibility from vehicular traffic to some of the businesses, which may impact some businesses, particularly those that aren't restaurants. And it may limit the types of uses that would be feasible on the street in the future. We asked our partners in this endeavor,

the BID, to conduct a survey of the merchants and property owners on the street. I believe they sent that survey out twice, got good responses, although not unanimous. They surveyed 18 property owners, 10 of which responded. Five were in favor of closing the plaza to vehicular traffic. One would like to see it remain open to vehicular traffic and four deferred to the majority. Twenty-three of the merchants were surveyed; fifteen of those responded, fourteen of which would like to see the plaza closed to vehicular traffic, and one, which is also the same property owner that would like to see it remain open and one deferred to the majority.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Where is Roux Architects on the...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Roux Architects is...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Mile -- I mean, on Giralda.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Immediately adjacent to the scientology building...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Got it.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: On the east -- east of the scientology building.

Commissioner Slesnick: Javier...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: And I believe it's currently on the market.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Is that where Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine used to be, that restaurant?

Commissioner Slesnick: Oh, yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Is that the location?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: I think that's further east of that.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Further, okay.

Commissioner Slesnick: Javier, I heard that the scientology building was sold and that a boutique hotel is trying to come into that location.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: I've heard a lot of discussion...

Commissioner Slesnick: But I mean...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: About that building. I don't know...

Commissioner Slesnick: If the street is...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: What's come of it?

Commissioner Slesnick: Closed off, I mean, would they have provisions for being able to bring people into that location?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: First of all, we would be thrilled if a boutique hotel wanted to come onto Giralda right-sized, and we would make it -- we would work with them on it. I understand that that original deal fell through, but we would love to keep the conversation open...

Commissioner Slesnick: I think it's a great idea.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: With anybody that's interested. And we don't believe the action that we're recommending to you today precludes that from happening.

Commissioner Slesnick: So, is there -- on each end of the street with the areas closed off, could you at least turn into the street at each end, so people could be dropped off?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: The idea is to have valet drop offs at the end caps of the streets.

Commissioner Slesnick: So --, but people could at least be dropped off there too.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Yes, that as well.

Commissioner Slesnick: Like 15 feet in.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: And again, there's also access from the alleyways. The Scientology building, if I understand it correctly, also has access from Aragon. There's property across from...

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes. There's a parking lot behind the Scientology building.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: I believe that's theirs.

Commissioner Slesnick: On Aragon, yes.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: That's their property.

Mayor Cason: So, deliveries can be made in the back. It's not a question of they have to...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Yes, they could be made in the back.

Mayor Cason: So, deliveries can be made in the back. The vast majority of owners and the people that responded want it closed. The option would be, as proposed, is to -- I gather is to close it for two years and then maybe take a look -- I'd like to have it -- take a look maybe after six months, again, survey the -- how's it going. But it seems to me, moving -- the option of moving furniture every night in and out is dumb. It's not going to work. And to have heavy trucks -- and we need to do everything possible to help those businesses. They've suffered a lot. And if it turns out the way we envisioned and you've got the chairs and tables outside, it should be a great destination. And --, but I would hate to see them carting in every day and out.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah. I had the pleasure of meeting with some of the businesses this past week in my office and they were very adamant. They told me that it was basically unanimous in favor of closing the street down. Their biggest concern was -- and I brought it up to the Manager -- was the issue of programming and in reference to what are we going to do about if there are tables and chairs -- where are we going to store that. So, again, I personally am in favor of closing the street down. You know, the last thing I want is to have -- to be more impactful on the business community, which has been -- already been hit pretty hard. Even though -- I want to be very clear -- that in two or three years when the business is going very well, you know, these decisions, like I mentioned before with the Mayor, are going to be an afterthought.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Right now, the businesses have made significant financial sacrifices and I understand that.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: But we're looking at the future so, I'm in favor of closing it down and also offering the opportunity where we're just less impactful on the business community in reference to the chairs and tables, but it's got to be done something where the City has control over the program, something uniform, orderly. Maintenance has to be -- I think maintenance has to be at the forefront of our discussion.

Mayor Cason: And I agree. I think it should be closed with a review period after X number of months. And, everything you said it -- we want it to look like it does in the first picture after six months. We want it to look beautiful. I always bring up chewing gum and all the things that make -- ruin the look of our city so...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Well, I think maintenance and upkeep is the biggest part of it.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Make sure we allocate funds for that. Question for you. I'm looking at the map here of Giralda. So, there's an alley behind the stores, the buildings on both sides, so both sides can have access to pickups and drop off and everything that they need from a, you know, items and services perspective. How far would it go? Would it go all the way to Galiano Street?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, that parking lot that exists there now that the ingress and egress is through Giralda...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Lot 25.

Vice Mayor Quesada: What's the idea with that?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: The ingress and egress was changed to Merrick Way, so it's actually no longer from Giralda.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We opened that up as a commitment to the merchants. We already opened up in November the Merrick Way access to that parking lot and it's going very well.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Okay. The -- also, I see that there's an access to the alleyway next to Giralda Cleaners, right by the Italian restaurant there. Do you know what I'm talking about?

Commissioner Slesnick: You mean the coffee place?

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, Church of Scientology.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Other side, this access here.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'm assuming this gets closed off. And if the delivery needs to be -- I apologize for those at home.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: That's what was closed and we moved the ingress and egress to Merrick Way. It's closed today.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, it's closed here...

Commissioner Keon: It's closed for construction.

Vice Mayor Quesada: And, then a delivery truck could technically come off Ponce, come through and leave through the...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: That's what they're doing today,

Mayor Cason: And the critical things is going to be the bollards to make sure that the delivery trucks don't -- despite whatever we say, don't come in and crush the stones that are there that are fragile basically.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Right. And the bollards that will close the street on the ends aren't the stone ones. They're, I think, heavy metal bollards that could withstand that hit.

Mayor Cason: So, any other discussion on this? I think it's -- everybody else...

Commissioner Keon: No, I think it's a great idea.

Mayor Cason: Okay.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I love it. I think...

Commissioner Keon: In the beginning, I wanted it closed, so I'm happy to see that it's closed.

Vice Mayor Quesada: The only thing I want to do is, just consistent with what we did on Miracle Mile, once we have it done, let's have a block party to announce it to the world.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: So, that's a good segue.

Commissioner Keon: But I would like to talk a little bit about, you know, programming for this space.

Mayor Cason: Let's...

Commissioner Keon: I think now all events and whatever go through the Parks Department. I'd like -- you know, these spaces -- any events that are programmed for these should also go through the BID. And maybe the permits can come out of Parks.

Mayor Cason: Let me make a suggestion.

Commissioner Keon: Everything should go through the BID.

Mayor Cason: Let me make a suggestion since we've got two parts on this. That we vote on...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Cason: On the first item first, H-1.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Cason: So, do we have a motion to...

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Mayor Cason: Close it and...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Second.

Mayor Cason: Okay, so Commissioner Lago makes the motion. Vice Mayor seconds. City Clerk.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, what is the vote on H-1.

Mayor Cason: The vote -- H-1...

City Attorney Leen: Because the actual item says a discussion...

Mayor Cason: Is to close the street...

City Attorney Leen: Okay.

Mayor Cason: Let's close the street, take a look after six months.

City Attorney Leen: Suspension of...

Mayor Cason: Yeah, suspension.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Excuse me, Mr. Mayor. If you all will humor us, we would like it closed for a two-year period, allowing us to evaluate. We would come back. We would have the regular updates. We would be reviewing it along the time, but it's easier for City to close it for two years, and then you take another future action, rather than us close it and then have to move forward to unclosed it.

City Attorney Leen: And if it's the Commission's will, the City Manager and I talked about using the term "suspend," so there's no vested rights, no one -- it's just suspending it for two years, and then it could be reevaluated.

Mayor Cason: Okay, so we have -- Commissioner Lago made the motion and the Vice Mayor made the second. City Clerk.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mayor Cason: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: Now, to H-2, which is the -- authorizing the sale of alcohol on 100 Giralda every Saturday from April 1, 2017 through the completion, and then any other discussions.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: So, this item would allow us to move forward with a weekly event on that one-third of Giralda that has been -- I don't want to use the technical term "substantially completed," but the pavers are in place, open to pedestrians, and the merchants are obviously eager to start using that space. We can't do so, while it's an active construction zone, but we can, perhaps, use it as a -- on a regular basis as a special event. So, this would simply allow us to put some furniture outside on that one-third of the plaza by Ponce where the pavers are currently in place, allowing the merchants to use that furniture. So, it would be an all-day activity. You could do breakfast, lunch and dinner there. We would supply the furniture. The BID, I think, has agreed to supply entertainment -- non-amplified entertainment, and the merchants would serve the customers. It's fairly simple, but it's a way of allowing the merchants to start utilizing the space, while it's still a construction site.

Commissioner Keon: So moved. Thank you. I...

Mayor Cason: And one question. We're going to provide the furniture. I think in the original discussion a couple years ago, we had examples of the furniture that we're putting there. Is that the same furniture?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: In this case, this would be temporary furniture.

Mayor Cason: Temporary.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Just rent them. You know, they'd get dropped off in the morning, picked up at night.

Mayor Cason: Now, when permanent furniture goes out, when it's all completed, will it be each business put out what they want or are we going to provide some kind of uniform, so that it looks the same?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: It's a little bit of both. We are working on that outdoor dining plan with Planning and Zoning as we speak. The idea at the time is to preselect three, four, maybe five different styles of furniture that are appropriate, get them preapproved, so that merchants can select from that preapproved list, not have to go through Board of Architects and have a much easier time in the process. However, if they would like to choose a different furniture type, they would still have that option, but they'd have to go through Board of Architects, but we want to allow for that flexibility.

Mayor Cason: Okay.

Commissioner Slesnick: And the City funding -- would the City help with the funding for those purchases?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: I don't believe we're prepared to do that at this time.

Commissioner Slesnick: I mean, I'm so concerned about what the merchants have been through that if we can have any part of supporting some of that furniture.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, one of the things with Giralda Alfresco, who's paying for it?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: The City.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes. For the...

Mayor Cason: Thirteen events.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Eleven or thirteen weeks. So, we want...

Commissioner Slesnick: And the BID, the BID.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Well, the BID is possibly providing the entertainment. But the big ticket is your City. We want to be a partner in the re-launch of Giralda, but we want to be careful with what that best role is. So, rather than identify that our role will be the permanent furniture --, because you also have restaurants that will say, I want my own identity. I don't want to look like the restaurant next door to me. So, we want to have those discussions. The action that you all have just taken allowing that furniture to stay out, then they don't have to worry about storage. They get their money's worth for a two-year period on purchasing furniture. We'd like to continue the good conversations that are already going on with Economic Development, with the BID and with the Giralda merchants to see what role is the best role.

Commissioner Slesnick: And if we allow the furniture to stay out for two years, since we're voting for two years instead of six months, we don't really need a storage area any place for pulling it up.

Mayor Cason: And I think the key thing is there's not just a mishmash of people pull out their old folding chairs and it looks awful. I mean, something that looks nice, that they choose from -- even if there's three different styles it all sort of...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: It complements each other and it's of high quality.

Commissioner Lago: I'd even go a step further. I think we should maybe just have one style of furniture.

Vice Mayor Quesada: For real?

Commissioner Lago: Yeah. I think so because, again, it can just get out of control. The cost -- you know, what if one person chooses a different style and that doesn't hold up as well as the other one? I think we should have something uniform and, you know...

Vice Mayor Quesada: But you're saying the furniture where a customer will sit down and have a cup of coffee or eat a meal. Is that what you're saying?

Commissioner Lago: On the outside, yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: You're saying it should all be consistent.

Commissioner Lago: Something, yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I completely disagree. I think every merchant should be able to pick whatever they want. It goes with the theme inside their restaurant.

Commissioner Lago: I think...

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's almost like saying that, well, you know something, we don't like the light walls in your restaurant. You know, we should do something else.

Commissioner Lago: I'm giving my opinion.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Mr. Mayor, if I can just remind the Commission...

Commissioner Lago: I think we made the big decision today, which was closing the street down.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: And, I think that the furniture issue, which, again, is something that we need to figure out, so that they can put that furniture out there as soon as possible -- I just gave my opinion. If my colleagues disagree, it's okay. It wouldn't be the first time. The furniture...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Think about outdoor seating. But hold on, think about outdoor seating anywhere you've ever been in the world, and it's unique and designed according to whatever the aesthetic of that restaurant and that...

Commissioner Slesnick: The theme of the restaurant is.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Retailer is. Yeah. If everybody has to be the same...

Mayor Cason: But you want some guidelines. You don't want purple with green legs. I mean, you know...

Commissioner Keon: Well, you know...

Mayor Cason: You've got to -- there's got to be something that -- you know...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Well, but it's got to be consistent with the restaurant.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, Mr. Mayor, this item is for the temporary 11 or...

Mayor Cason: Right.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: 13 weeks.

Mayor Cason: Okay.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We have plenty of time to fine-tune the permanent installation plan for the furniture, and we'll meet with you all individually, get your feedback and we'll also be working with Giralda and with the BID.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'm confused with the term permanent installation.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: For two years.

Vice Mayor Quesada: No, I understand that, but I'm saying...

Mayor Cason: It's going to stay there for two years, the furniture.

Vice Mayor Quesada: But I'm saying these are the tables and chairs where customers are going to eat at, or is this just going to be a general space...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: No, I -- thank you for the -- for requiring clarification. The furniture that will be in front for people to sit at, eat at, drink at...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Directly in front of the merchants?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Directly in front of the merchant.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Okay.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We will be able to develop a workable protocol and we can bring it back to you all. Today, we're only saying...

Mayor Cason: Booze.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: It's such great space that they're really wanting to activate that we're seeking your approval to temporarily activate that with rental furniture, where Saturday morning they set up, Saturday night they break down and we jumpstart Giralda this way and then we develop a very deliberate protocol moving forward on the furniture in front of their stores that they will be sitting and eating on.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I think it's unnecessary regulation to tell them what they can and can't have there, other than, hey, don't have any furniture that's going to damage the stone floor.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We understand...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Or require them to put some sort of rubber cushions on the legs of the tables and chairs. But to say that you have to use these chairs and you have to use those tables, I think it's excessive.

Mayor Cason: Well, let me refer to the resolution in front of us.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Okay.

Mayor Cason: It only says authorizing the sale of alcohol on 100 block of Giralda every Saturday from April 1 for a total of 13 events and that's it. That's what we're voting on, nothing else for the moment, so...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah, I have a couple of questions, though. I want to -- even for the temporary furniture that you're going to put out -- on the Mile, you have -- it's designed, so that there is a clear walkway in front of every store and then the tables and chairs are beyond that. I want to make sure that you...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Yes. We would maintain it.

Commissioner Keon: Maintain that so people aren't walking in and out and through people's chairs or whatever. I mean...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Absolutely. We would maintain the ten-foot...

Commissioner Keon: You need to maintain that ten-foot space, the walking area that's adjacent to the storefront.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: It's planned exactly...

Commissioner Keon: And then anything can go out beyond that ten-foot...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We'll make sure, Commissioner...

Commissioner Keon: But you can't place it within the ten foot of the storefront, even for restaurants.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Done.

Mayor Cason: Okay.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We'll make sure that it meets ADA requirements. There needs to be an ADA path and we'll make sure...

Commissioner Keon: It needs to be a consistent walking path, you know...

Vice Mayor Quesada: You're saying ten -- you're saying...

Commissioner Keon: It's a ten-foot, you know...

Vice Mayor Quesada: No further than ten feet away from the...

Mayor Cason: Door.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Façade or the door.

Commissioner Keon: You have to maintain a ten-foot open space from the...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Oh, in the middle.

Commissioner Keon: No, from the storefront to where you're going to place furniture.

Mayor Cason: The sidewalk.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Oh, got it, got it.

Mayor Cason: Equivalent of where the sidewalk would be.

Commissioner Keon: Where you're going to place furniture.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Similar to Lincoln Road, that there's a space in between...

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Mayor Cason: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: That there's a space, so you -- you know, because it's not all dining. I mean, there's also shops and they really need the pedestrian...

Vice Mayor Quesada: To walk right in front of their store.

Commissioner Keon: Experience to be in front of their store.

Mayor Cason:

Commissioner Keon: So, we need to make sure we (INAUDIBLE) with that.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Is ten feet the magic number?

Commissioner Keon: I think -- that's about what it is...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: It's about right.

Commissioner Keon: On the Mile, so I think that that...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Is that what it is at say, Lincoln Road, for example?

Commissioner Keon: It's about ten feet.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: I couldn't tell you what Lincoln Road is, but ten feet is the proposed pedestrian pathway for the plan, and we'll maintain that for the special event.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Could we at least reach out or speak to -- I don't know if Miami Beach has a BID -- just to see how wide it is there?

Economic Development Director Betancourt: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: Well, their -- yeah, theirs is proportional to the whole width, which is quite larger...

Vice Mayor Quesada: I understand, but I'm just curious to see what the width is. Maybe...

Mayor Cason: Well, the key is you still want people wandering in between your tables, that's it.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah, you have people walking through the tables.

Mayor Cason: That's the key thing.

Commissioner Keon: Yes, so whatever that is that -- whatever that is.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: The ADA sets the minimum at five feet, so anything beyond five feet would meet ADA. I mean, we could adjust it from five to ten at that point.

Vice Mayor Quesada: All I'm saying -- just think about the experiences we have living in South Florida. When you walk on Ocean Drive, its way too narrow.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: You feel like you're walking single file.

Commissioner Keon: That's a five-foot sidewalk or a four-foot sidewalk.

Vice Mayor Quesada: But I'm saying, so it...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Feels cramped in there. But you know, you walk in Coconut Grove, some spots feel good; other spots feel tight that you're walking through. And you walk on Lincoln Road, I think that's consistent that there's a nice comfort of width.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's the only reason why I mentioned Lincoln Road.

Mayor Cason: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: I mean, it goes back to the programming in regards to what type of chairs, how many chairs we're going to allow out there, tables, so...

Economic Development Director Betancourt: That's part of that discussion.

Commissioner Lago: Well, I've changed I change my decision. I think we should just go -- have a smorgasbord...

Mayor Cason: That's a discussion for the future.

Commissioner Lago: Of chairs and colors and tables and everything.

Mayor Cason: Right now...

Commissioner Keon: I think they should reflect, you know, the restaurant that is -- you know, the character of that particular restaurant, you know. I really wouldn't like to see red velvet couches like you do at GreenStreet or whatever, but...

Mayor Cason: Right.

Vice Mayor Quesada: You said you would like to see it?

Commissioner Keon: I wouldn't like to see...

Vice Mayor Quesada: You would not?

Commissioner Keon: No. Not red velvet couches.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Unless it's a restaurant that calls for velvet couches.

Commissioner Keon: The red velvet couch place, okay.

Mayor Cason: To be determined in the future.

Vice Mayor Quesada: We should not limit -- it could be something spectacular that comes along that we prohibit through regulation.

Mayor Cason: But right now, let me focus on this. Are we going to allow martinis to be sold from April 1, 2017 for 13 -- total of 13 events?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Cason: Okay, so we have a motion, Commissioner Keon.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I wanted to say something for the record that we are not in substantial completion right now. Where we are is we have an agreement with the contractor to use that construction site. So, I just want to make sure we understand this is not a substantial completion issue.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Mayor Cason: Right.

City Attorney Leen: But it's a special event, which means that it's always going to be monitored by our building official and the contractor.

Mayor Cason: Okay.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: And we've said also that the event can be cancelled by the contractor at any time to allow for necessary weekend construction activity.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: So, if they want to work on the weekend, they have no excuse. They can cancel the event...

Mayor Cason: Okay.

Economic Development Director Betancourt: And do so.

Mayor Cason: Who's going to second this one?

Commissioner Slesnick: I moved it.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Oh, you did?

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Slesnick made the motion and Commissioner Keon seconded.
City Clerk.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Cason: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Commissioner Keon: I -- you know, I don't want to see the -- I wouldn't like to see Giralda become, you know, what Merrick Plaza has become where it seems to be the sole -- for the use of one particular tenant along there. I'm concerned that it will be a very attractive space and I want us to remember that it was an economic development project that is for the benefit of those merchants and store owners and property owners along there and not to have it so programmed in such a way that it takes away from the -- their business or their sales in any way.

Mayor Cason: Alright, we're going to move to E-5 and E-6 now.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, if I may, I didn't -- and I'm sorry to Peter. I didn't want to overstate this. When I said he was going to monitor it, I didn't mean he would be there all the time during each of these times. I meant he's going to monitor the situation. Sorry about that.