

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-5
August 22, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Deputy City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-5 [1:04 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission appointing Xavier Durana (Nominated by Commission-As-A-Whole) to serve as a member of the Historic Preservation Board, for the remainder of the current term, which began on June 1, 2023, and continues through May 31, 2025.

Mayor Lago: Moving onto G-5.

City Attorney Suarez: G-5 is a Resolution of the City Commission appointing Xavier Durana (Nominated by Commission-As-A-Whole) to serve as a member of the Historic Preservation Board, for the remainder of the current term, which began on June 1, 2023, and continues through May 31, 2025.

Mayor Lago: Are there any comments from the Commission?

Commissioner Fernandez: I did receive several concerns from residents about this appointment and the individual's prior voting record. The question I had was, were there any other applicants for this appointment?

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Agenda Item G-5 – Resolution appointing Xavier Durana, nominated by Commission-As-A-Whole
To serve as a member of the Historic Preservation Board

[Date]

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City Clerk Urquia: Yes Commissioner, there were other applicants. And additionally, the City Commission still has another vacancy on the board that's currently filled by Mr. Bruce Erenheft who has expressed his willingness to continue to serve. The other applicants who applied were John Sullenberger, Xavier Durana, who you are considering, Joseph Palmar, Bruce Erenheft, and Mike ____.

Commissioner Fernandez: Palmar is actually on the Budget Advisory Board.

City Clerk Urquia: One more applicant, Elizabeth Parnes.

Mayor Lago: So, we have another appointment. I think Xavie is a very standup individual. He brings a very different opinion and view to Historic Preservation. He values it. He's very engaged in this community. He's in the construction industry and design so he understands the process, and every interaction that I've had with him is he's incredibly professional, and I'm more than willing to name somebody else if you'd like. Again, in the spirit of collaboration, I think he's more than qualified.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Just one thing to note that we have specific expertise requirements on the Historic Preservation Board and one of them is a contractor/developer and I believe that Mr. Durana fulfills that. I'm not sure if any of the other applicants we have pending do. They may, I just want to make clear that that's a position, a slot that needs to be filled.

City Clerk Urquia: Correct. That is a position on the board. There are other people on the board that may still qualify for the same requirement, but there's also three citizens at-large positions and you can swap.

Mayor Lago: If there are no other comments, I'll entertain a motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

City Clerk Urquia: Before the vote, is there anyone who wants to nominate anyone for the second vacancy that the Commission has on the Historic Preservation Board.

Commissioner Castro: Bruce.

City Clerk Urquia: Bruce Erenheft is the current member.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I would second Bruce Erenheft.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: So, one thing to note is, I do believe, and Ms. Parnes is here, I think that board needs an architect is what the remaining position is on that board. So, I'm just not familiar enough with Mr. Erenheft's qualifications to know if he meets that requirement.

City Clerk Urquia: I was told Michael Maxwell might be an architect. He's not. Okay.

Mayor Lago: So why don't we do this. Why don't we work on for the next Commission meeting, make this appointment. We consider different architects, bring them before the board, bring them before the Commission, circulate who you think would be suited to serve on this board and we'll appoint that person on the board for next time. At least we start filling the seats. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion and a second.

City Clerk Urquia: So just to confirm, Mr. Mayor, I have a motion and a second appointing Xavier Durana to the Historic Preservation Board.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: No

Commissioner Fernandez: No

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 3-2)