

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-6
May 23, 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)

Maria Cruz

Agenda Item F-6 [3:54 p.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission amending the City of Coral Gables Zoning Code Article 14 “Process”, Section 14-103.2 “Membership; Terms; Vacancies; Removal” to amend the manner in which one of the required seven members of the Board of Architects is appointed, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Commissioner Menendez)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto F-6.

City Attorney Suarez: F-6 is An Ordinance of the City Commission amending the City of Coral Gables Zoning Code Article 14 “Process”, Section 14-103.2 “Membership; Terms; Vacancies; Removal” to amend the manner in which one of the required seven members of the Board of Architects is appointed, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, providing for an effective date. Deputy City Attorney Stephanie Throckmorton will present the item.

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Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Hello again. This item is sponsored by Commissioner Menendez. As you all recall, we had a discussion at the last meeting about Board of Architects appointees. This item changes the way one of the seven required members of the board is appointed. There are more than seven members on the board, but there are seven members required in the code. This ordinance provides that one of the required seven members will be a Commission as-a-whole appointee. The City Architect shall provide the City Commission with a pool of qualified applicants as outlined in sub-section 3, which is the same remaining provisions for the qualifications which include being a registered architect, doing work within the City of Coral Gables for the last five years, a minimum of ten years' experience, be a resident or have their principal place of business in the City of Coral Gables, and those pool of applicants will be presented to the City Commission for a City Commission as-a-whole appointee, for one of the seven.

Commissioner Menendez: And I just want to add from the last discussion, and I did mention last, I think this is a step in the direction a lot of people being asking for us to take. I think it's a solid step, but I also see it as legislatively a vehicle by which in the future if we want to add, not one, but maybe two or three, the structure of the vehicle already legislatively created. It's just a matter of changing the number. So, I think it sets the apparatus going forward in case we want to make modifications down the road.

Commissioner Fernandez: Through the Mayor. We've actually had several applicants already who have submitted applications this past month. I asked last time if we could ask people to apply.

Mayor Lago: I'm in all favor of it, as long as they're qualified. As long as they have their office or they live in the city, ten years of experience and they have actual residential experience, not warehouse experience; residential experience and they are vetted, obviously by Mr. Riesco, which I have full faith and confidence in.

City Manager Iglesias: May I say something Mayor?

Mayor Lago: Of course.

City Manager Iglesias: We use the same as we do now. Both the City Architect and I look at the resumes and then the City Architect reviews the portfolio of the architect. If the portfolio looks good, which is very important, then they will be recommended to the City Commission. If I find more than one, then I'll be recommending someone.

Mayor Lago: How many people applied already?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I'm not aware of exact numbers. Perhaps the Clerk is.

Mayor Lago: Do we know Mr. Clerk?

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City Clerk Urquia: No sir.

Commissioner Fernandez: There were four that I'd gotten in my packet.

Mayor Lago: I'd love to see them, who they are.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'd like to see them too and I'd like to see their portfolios.

Mayor Lago: So, if anybody has those, I'd love to see them. I'll entertain a motion. Are there any comments?

City Clerk Urquia: Ms. Maria Cruz.

Ms. Cruz: Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. I'm very excited, really excited. They were listening to the people and I'm glad that there is some movement here and maybe someday all the architects would be selected in different ways, so we don't have to worry about just listening to one person. I think this is what people are asking. I'm glad that we're listening and it's a great move. I'm very excited.

Commissioner Fernandez: And with that, I'll make the motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Second.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)