

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item K – Discussion Items
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
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item K – Discussion Items [3:30:33 p.m.]

Mayor Cason: For discussion why don't we start with you?

Vice Mayor Quesada: Alright, I've got a few things, got to extend Jim Cason's reign a little bit longer.

Mayor Cason: So moved.

[Laughter]

Mayor Cason: I had to say that one more time.

Vice Mayor Quesada: You can't make a motion Mr. Mayor, you should know that by now.

Mayor Cason: Moving forward.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Moving forward. Dorothy Thomson, this is something I approached her like two years ago, whether you like her or you don't, I think most people like her, I think everyone likes her, she's a pioneer in our City. She was the first female Mayor in our City, and this is woman's month and I've been trying to move this through for the last two years, and I think its important that we have something named after her. I thought a park, I had thought different things and actually approached Dorothy about it and said look, I want to try to do this, I want to try to leave this, because I don't feel like you've been recognized in the proper way. Obviously, she has her picture in City Hall, but again, I think it's a big deal and I think its long overdue. So what I would like to do is I'd like to place a plaque on her office or just outside the office of when she was Mayor, the office that she sat at.

Mayor Cason: And the existing plaque on the outside is about this size.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Whatever staff sees fit, whatever she would like to see also. Typically for something like this, the individual would have to be deceased, I think that takes a little bit of the fun out of it, so she and her family can enjoy it. Again, if the will is on this Commission to do that. Technically it would need a four-fifths vote to allow it.

Commissioner Lago: From the last time I checked, Bill is still around right, and we've got to talk to him after.

Mayor Cason: And he's got a plaque.

Commissioner Keon: Place a plaque.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes, place a plaque outside the office of where she sat as Mayor.

Mayor Cason: Yes, there is one plaque on one side where it says Mayor, put it on the other side, just balance it off.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'd like it to be something nice, really acknowledging that she was the first female Mayor in our City's history, not to say we won't have future female Mayors in our City, but I think its important for the first one and she did it quite a bit of time ago.

Mayor Cason: So I agree.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So I think its something special and I think its nice and I think its well deserved. So before I make a motion, I'd like to hear if everyone is OK with it.

Mayor Cason: I'm in favor.

Commissioner Lago: I think its great.

All: Yes.

Mayor Cason: So unanimous.

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK. So its unanimous.

Mayor Cason: Unanimous resolution. Done.

Vice Mayor Quesada: All I would ask for staff is to reach out with Mayor Thomson and to work on the details so that we would have a nice event. What I would also ask the staff is any member that she served with be present and we have an unveiling and we do a nice little event and this Commission, including the soon to be former Mayor should be present as well.

Mayor Cason: Sure.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So we have a nice event at that time.

Mayor Cason: So ordered.

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's number one; number two, the project related to the parking garage is on Andalusia. I had discussed this with our City Manager, I had discussed this with the applicant. We had discussed potentially, now this is completely informal, this is something I had discussed with the applicant, because they were nervous because of election time, they thought it was going to add a little bit of trouble with the timing because we had given them six months to negotiate and I had discussed it with the City Manager whether we should give them more time considering with election time, giving a little bit more time to negotiate based on staff's needs, you had mentioned to me that we'll see how time goes.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Thank you sir. We've also said that the clock hasn't started ticking yet. That you gave us six months to begin negotiations, to have negotiations, we had a general no attorneys, no nothing, meeting, but we said in meeting with us that wasn't that the clock was ticking.

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So that calendar hasn't begun.

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK. I just want to make sure that – I know that we have so many things going on with the City and I know at least a developer was concerned, hey, are we going to have enough time to negotiate all of this. I don't want to put additional pressure on you, as I've told Peter many times, I think your plate is overflowing with how much work we have going on right now with all the different projects, and I just want to make sure that we don't negotiate something poorly because we are limited on time. That's it. Other than that I'm done.

Mayor Cason: OK. Commissioner Slesnick.

Commissioner Slesnick: I just want to mention Merrick House is completely dark at night now and if we had any way of leaving some lights over there on the porch or whatever, because there are, the neighbors tell me there is activity there at night and maybe we should have police patrol the area a little bit more or have some lights over there. Also, I understand too that in the development of the Merrick House and all the money that's going to be spent over there, there is no plan to have any additional lights outside that could be used for evening activities and so forth, so if we could maybe look in before its completed to have some kind of lighting system or even a small lighting system and the lights will be there to have evening activities.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We are having discussions with, I think probably the same person that is speaking with you.

Commissioner Slesnick: He is a Merrick House Board Member.

Commissioner Lago: I sent you an e-mail about that last week.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes. And so we are working with the Assistant City Manager and Historical Resources.

Commissioner Slesnick: Also Walter, I haven't missed any votes in my two years of being on the Commission and I want to cast a yes for the one on the financial reports, so its 5-0 instead of 4-0, on the financial report. I was out.

City Attorney Leen: The Commission can allow that.

Mayor Cason: So ordered.

Commissioner Slesnick: Thank you. And last but not least, we have an impending election and this could be my last regular Commission meeting, and I just want to thank my fellow citizens in Coral Gables who have supported me from my last two years. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve everyone in our community to the best of my abilities and to keep Coral Gables a safe, unique, and beautiful place and I just thank you very, very much for allowing me to be a public servant here in the City of Coral Gables.

Mayor Cason: Thank you. Commissioner Lago – Commissioner Keon anything? Commissioner Lago?

Commissioner Lago: I'm perfect.

Mayor Cason: You're not perfect, you're almost perfect, you're almost perfect.

[Laughter]

Mayor Cason: OK. Well that's it. So moved. That's it. Meeting adjourned.

[Applause]

[End: 3:38:00 p.m.]