

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-6
March 29, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Landscape Director, Deena Bell-Llewellyn

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-6 [Start: 4:22 p.m.]

An update from staff on the landscaping plantings on Red Road.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Since you're here Deena, let's go over G-6, an update from staff on the landscaping plantings on Red Road.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: Yes. On Red Road about a year and-a-half ago, we installed after obtaining an FDOT permit, 232 Alexander Palms, about 1,500 Fichus Green Islands, and a little over 1,000 Wart Fern ground covers to beautify the swale. And that happened between U.S.-1 in the south, all the way up to 8th Street in the north. And they are currently all be maintained by SFM city landscape contractor, milling the grass included in that scope of work for maintenance.

Mayor Lago: So, what I need from SFM is, for example, when you see areas like 57th Avenue and Bird Road, across the street from what used to be the old Allen drug store, and all that Green Island Fichus has been destroyed and run over, or its just dead. Someone has to call us and say, hey, we need to replace this, unless maybe SFM has already done that, maybe we don't have the budget for it. I need to understand that. When you go down 57th Avenue, you cross Bird Road in between

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Bird Road and Miracle Mile, excuse me, and Coral Way, you'll see Green Island Fichus that's also been planted. A lot of it is dead, it's been run over, as people, again, instead of waiting in line, they just run over the grass and run over the Green Island Fichus. Can we have an assessment of Green Island Fichus that's missing, for example, on Bird Road and 57th Avenue, on 57th Avenue between Bird Road and Coral Way and see if we have it in the budget and get that done also, some planting.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: We have done that recently. We've taken a plant count, replacing orders to replace that. We have to do that often, that is a problematic median, but we had staff go out, what three to four weeks ago, and we are putting a new plant order in for that now.

Mayor Lago: Another area that's really bad too...

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: And there are two palm trees that need replacing also, and we need to fertilize, it's time to fertilize.

Mayor Lago: Another area that's bad also is in front of Sunset Elementary, in the front of the residential homes, the swales, we had ferns. Maybe we need to plant something a little heavier there, because the cars are just running them over in their desperation to get away from the traffic.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: We are very aware of that area.

Mayor Lago: Has anybody checked that area recently?

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: We have. We checked that area. That's part of the resident's ability to plant their swales.

Mayor Lago: I know. It just looks awful. Its awful. Maybe we can take a look at that, if we can.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: Okay.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you, Deena for the update.

Landscape Director Bell-Llewellyn: You're welcome.