

City of Coral Gables

*City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

9:00 AM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

City Commission

*Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers*

*David L. Brown, City Manager
Elizabeth M. Hernandez, City Attorney
Walter J. Foeman, City Clerk*

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Slesnick II, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk Jr. and Commissioner Withers

[Note for the Record: Before the invocation was given, Mayor Slesnick stated that in honor of Black History Month, a former City employee, Minister Tyrone Borden, of St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church was introduced. Mayor Slesnick further requested of Minister Borden to take back greetings on behalf of the City to his parishners].

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Minister Tyrone Borden of St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner William H. Kerdyk, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The following minutes summary includes all presentations made, and actions taken which information is supplemented by the following exhibits on file in the Office of the City Clerk, and which are by reference made a part of the record herein: (a) Resolution(s) adopted (Resolution No. 2008-26 through Resolution No. 2008-31); (b) Video; (c) Audio Recording; (d) Minutes Folder with Agenda and back-ground information, including items were submitted at the meeting.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

A.-1. 08-0124 Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Tyrone Borden in honor of Black History Month

[Note for the Record: Former City of Coral Gables Employee and recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation, namely **Roosevelt Watson** stated that he was proud to be a City of Coral Gables citizen].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 1

A.-2. 08-0122

Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Roosevelt Watson in honor of Black History Month

[Note for the Record: Former City of Coral Gables employee **Tyrone Borden**, also was the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation, thanked the citizens of Coral Gables, Mayor Slesnick, Commissioner Cabrera and City Manager Brown; further sharing with the public that last week he lost his sister to breast cancer; further thanking God for the City of Coral Gables, having worked here for seventeen and one-half years; further thanking the remaining **members of the Commission** and the public for this accolade.

Mayor Slesnick further noted that too often one hears the reference to Black History Month, without gaining a better insight into the true meaning of same; further acknowledging the many African Americans, as well as Bahamian Americans who have given so much to our City; further thanking said individuals for what they have given to our entire community].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 2

A.-3. 08-0123

Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Linda Dixie in honor of Black History Month

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 3

A.-4. 08-0106

Congratulations to Fire Captain Alejandro Garces, selected as 2007 Firefighter of the Year

Attachments: [Cover Memo - 2007 FF YR Agenda Item.pdf](#)
[2007 FF YR Nominating Form.pdf](#)

[Note for the Record: **Fire Chief Walter Reed** presented **Fire Captain Alejandro Garces** to the Commission, in recognition of his being selected as the 2007 Firefighter of the Year; further reading a memorandum from his EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Captain, namely John Curry, which recognized his off-duty actions regarding an automobile accident in Collier County, involving five victims-a Level 1 Mass Casualty Accident; whereupon Captain Garces employed life safety technique of a needle decompression, thereby saving a female's life, further directing his attention to extrication efforts, wherein said five victims were later transferred via air rescue; said actions by Captain Garces which went above and beyond the call of duty.

In acknowledging her husband's accomplishment, his wife Linda points out that Alex represents the best of the best; further noting that her husband deserves said award more than any one; further stating that she wanted to publicly tell him how proud she is of him and that she loves him.

Captain Garces thanked the Commission for said award; further acknowledging that on any given day that all of his co-workers are capable and eligible for said award. Mayor Slesnick further added that he and the Commission were thankful for all that he has done for the people of Coral Gables].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 4

A.-5. 08-0065

Presentation of 20 year service pin to Gail Springer, Public Works Department

Attachments: [G. Springer - Cover Memo](#)

[Note for the Record: **City Manager David Brown** in bestowing upon **Gail Springer** her 20 year pin, noted what has been said about Ms. Springer by her peers, recalling that she began her career as a Clerical Assistant on December of 1987; later being promoted to the position of City Dispatcher in Public Works on September of 1989, a position wherein she has maintained until this date; further noting that when something has to go out, when something needs to happen, or an important communication has to be made, Gail Springer has been dubbed the “go to person.”

Characterized as being a conscientious, highly capable, motivated individual; further noting that her approach to work being outstanding, with an efficient response; exhibiting a calm attitude during very stressful situations when everyone wants something and want it now. Ms. Springer, a two time Employee of the Month recipient, is the 2007 Employee of the Year.

Gail, in accepting said accolade noted all of the employees whom she considered as part of her family; further noting that dealing with the inordinate number of people throughout the City has been fun].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 5

A.-6. 08-0109

Congratulations to Monica Moreno, Police Department, recipient of the City of Coral Gables Employee of the Month Award, for the month of March 2008

Attachments: [CoverMemo EOM March2008](#)
[NotificationLetter EOM March08](#)

[Note for the Record: In recognizing Monica Moreno, as the Employee of the Month for March, Human Resources Director Marge Adler noted that she joined the City in July of 2001; being sworn in July 2008. Ms. Adler further noted that her perseverance and perception as a police dispatcher are unmatched.

In accepting said accolade, Ms. Moreno stated that she is proud to be here; this represents a good opportunity, working for the Police Department; said experience provides an adrenaline rush; the work is completely, a team effort; further noting that many of us do an excellent job.

Major Pedroso also noted that Ms. Moreno is that caliber of employee, wherein there are only a handful at every level that one may characterize as stars; further noting that she can perform every job; further noting that she is a single parent, raising three kids; a great dispatcher, and that he is proud to have her on his team].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 6

[Note for the Record: Mayor Slesnick stated that in recognition of the sense of family that is shared amongst City of Coral Gables employees, that yesterday the City lost one of its own, namely Florence Dawson, who succumbed to cancer; further describing Ms. Dawson as a kind, gentle caring and competent individual; further requesting of his colleagues and the public to observe a moment of silence in further recognition of Ms. Dawson].

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

08-0121 Regular City Commission Meeting of February 12, 2008

Attachments: [CCMtg February 12 2008 agenda item C-1 - Approving Construction of Guard Ho](#)
[CCMtg February 12 2008 agenda item D-1 and H-2 are related - Cocoplum Assoc](#)
[CCMtg February 12 2008 agenda item H-3 - EDEN Project Update.pdf](#)
[Meeting Minutes February 12, 2008.pdf](#)

[Note for the Record: Mayor Slesnick acknowledged our legislative workflow and document management system, namely Legistar, as part of our modernization efforts on the dais, noting varying links and access to other supportive legislative materials].

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., that this motion be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

City Clerk Item No. 7

C. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed within this section entitled "Consent Agenda" are considered to be self-explanatory and are not expected to require additional review or discussion, unless a member of the City Commission or a citizen so requests, in which case, the items will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered along with the regular order of business. Hearing no objections to those items listed under the "Consent Agenda", a vote on the adoption of the Consent Agenda will be taken.

[Note for the Record: Prior to the vote being taken for the Consent Agenda, Consent Agenda Item C-5 was pulled for further consideration].

Passed the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to Adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Anderson and Mayor Slesnick II

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-26**C.-1. 08-0114**

Resolution authorizing expenditures in the amount of \$24,000.00 from the Coral Gables Police State Forfeited Asset Fund (FAF) to provide for specialized training in the area of Dignitary/Executive Protection.

Attachments: [COMMISSION COVER MEMO - Dignitary \\$24,000.pdf](#)
[RESOLUTION- \\$24000 00-Dignitary.pdf](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,000.00 FROM STATE FORFEITED ASSET FUND (FAF) MONIES TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN THE AREA OF DIGNITARY/EXECUTIVE PROTECTION.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2008-26 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 8

Presentation of Boards and/or Committees minutes requesting no action from the City Commission:

- C.-2. 08-0068** Insurance Advisory Committee Meeting of February 6, 2008

Attachments: [CoverMemo_IACMtg_020608](#)
[IACMtg_DraftMin_020608](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 9

- C.-3. 08-0100** Landscape Beautification Advisory Board Meeting of February 7, 2008

Attachments: [Minutes BC 2-7-08](#)
[BC Cover Sheet 2-7-08 na](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 10

- C.-4. 08-0103** Senior Citizens Advisory Board Meeting of February 4, 2008

Attachments: [Min 02-04-08 Draft_3](#)
[Cover Memo 02-04-08 Summary](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 11

- C.-6. 08-0110** Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board Meeting of January 24, 2008

Attachments: [Cover Memo YAB 1-24-08 Summary](#)
[Min 1-24-2008](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 12

- C.-7. 08-0111** Coral Gables Advisory Board on Disability Affairs Meeting of January 8, 2008

Attachments: [Disability Affairs Cover Memo](#)
[Disability Affairs Minutes January 9](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 13

C.-8. 08-0119

City of Coral Gables/University of Miami Community Relations
Committee Meeting of February 4, 2008

Attachments: [UM Community Relations Cover](#)
[UM Community Relations Minutes](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 14

C.-9. 08-0129

Economic Development Board Meeting of January 16, 2008

Attachments: [minutes 1-16-08](#)
[Commission cover no action 2-26-08](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 15

PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**C.-5. 08-0108 Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board Meeting of January 9, 2008**

Attachments: [Cover Memo YAB 1-9-08 Summary](#)
[Min 01-09-2008](#)

[Note for the Record: Commissioner Cabrera conveyed to his colleagues that following reading of the minutes from the Youth Advisory Board meeting, he could not help but notice that said Board is contemplating some kind of petitioning effort in connection with a traffic related matter; further urging the City Manager to meet with said group with a view toward helping them understand the Board's role, clarifying that traffic is something that said Board should not be concerned with.

Mayor Slesnick informed **Commissioner Cabrera** that he had been informed that he understood that the Youth Advisory Board was concerned about a youth related issue (i.e. kids playing, etc.); whereupon Commissioner Cabrera stated that he would be comfortable with said Board making a recommendation to the Traffic Advisory Board for the latter to initiate some follow-up action regarding same.

City Manager Brown stated that he would meet with said group and convey to them what the true process is. Commissioner Cabrera further stated that he would even be interested in attending the next meeting of the Youth Advisory Board, and providing said group members with the guidelines for traffic calming, subject to his being provided with the date for the next meeting].

A motion was made by Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Yeas : 5 - Mayor Slesnick II, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr.,
Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr. and Commissioner Withers

City Clerk Item No. 16

D. PERSONAL APPEARANCES**D.-1. 08-0141**

Andrew Boysen, Community Representative for the American Cancer Society, announcing the Relay for Life of Coral Gables with the assistance of the Coral Gables Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board.

[Note for the Record: During the introduction of **Andrew Boysen, Commissioner Withers** acknowledged receiving a phone call from Dr. Grace Young, a noted oncologist, who also serves on the American Cancer Society Board, and had conveyed to him that she is gearing up for the Team Relay for Life event; further acknowledging that our city's own Youth Advisory Board, along with Dr. Young through the American Cancer Society Board, as prime examples of two different forces in our community coming together.

Andrew Boysen introduced the 2008, community representative for the American Cancer Society, namely **Kevin Munoz**, who further noted that one-third of all Americans are touched by cancer, a statistic that is further highlighted by the personal nature of this disease, which does not discriminate based on race, sex, etc., attacking every victim on every level; further acknowledging that this year's Team Relay event which will occur on May 12, 2008, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 10 p.m., will be the largest, thus far; further noting that there has been a lot of support received from Coral Gables (i.e. including but not limited to the family of **Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Mayor Slesnick**, serving as honorary chair and others); further pointing out that said event symbolizes the on-going battle against cancer; further expressing optimism that hopefully one day, one will see a day wherein said disease will no longer form part of our English vocabulary.; further urging the City to organize a team for participation in said event.

Mr. Boysen extended an invitation to each member of the Commission to be in attendance as honorary guests; further stating that said Mile Relay event is a wonderful activity that binds communities from across the country, thus organizing people to support its mission; further noting that here in Miami-Dade County, the Patient Navigation Program, allows one who has been affected by cancer to take advantage of the American Cancer Society's service programs; further stating that in Miami, a lot of research is being done through the American Cancer Society program; further noting that this year's fundraising goal is \$250,000; further stating that anyone who works or resides in Coral Gables can avail themselves of said services, thus tracking the progress of said program.

Mayor Slesnick summed up said event stating that his involvement has been quite inspirational; further thanking Coral Gables High School and our City's Parks and Recreation's **Director Fred Couceyro** in making it possible for citizens to participate,

thus bringing said initiative forward].

This Agenda Item was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 17

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

City Clerk Item No. 18

F. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

None

City Clerk Item No. 19

G. BOARDS/COMMITTEES ITEMS**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-27**

- G.-1. 08-0101** Economic Development Board minutes of January 16, 2008 requiring action regarding alternative energy vehicles and parking.

Attachments: [minutes 1-16-08 excerpts](#)
[EDB cover 2-26-08 action](#)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD THAT, THE CITY ENCOURAGE ITS CITIZENS TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY VEHICLES IN THE CITY, AND TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY WAIVE ALL PARKING METER AND MUNICIPAL PARKING CHARGES, BOTH ON STREET AND OFF-STREET, WITH A THREE HOUR, ON-STREET TIME LIMIT PER PARKING OCCURRENCE, FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ELECTRIC VEHICLES (NEVS).

[Note for the Record: **Richard DeWitt, Esq.**, Chairman of the City's Economic Development Board informed the Commission that the proposed legislation (two resolutions- namely Neighborhood Electric Vehicles and placement of bicycle racks in the downtown area, which resulted from a roundtable discussion by Mayor Slesnick in connection with the "Greening of the Gables" initiative; further urging the City Commission to support this agenda item, thus encouraging the use of neighborhood electric vehicles, along with the waiver of parking fees (i.e. meters and parking lots) for a period of time, as more particularly referenced in the aforementioned Resolution.

Mayor Slesnick asked the City Manager to articulate the alternative recommendation from the administration, whereupon City Manager Brown stated that Parking Director Kevin Kinney has recommended that the City recognize those vehicles that the City is going to consider as green first, in the office, thus giving them a discount to park in the Off-Street Parking lots initially, before opening up to tracking same in the meters through on-street parking, wherein the City could effectively control the demand and capacity of same.

Parking Director Kevin Kinney further explained his recommendation, stating that the issue is the scope of the program; the challenge is how do we manage it; further stating that by opening up the parking of electric vehicles to on-street availability, creates a class of people that do not fall within the controls, is problematic; further reiterating the suggestion that he would be supportive of an initiative wherein we can control demand and capacity.

Commissioner Withers queried of Chairman De Witt as to whether said legislation also addresses motorcycles, as well as some smaller vehicles that has a fuel

economy of 50 miles to a gallon; further inquiring of the administration whether or not as the motor car industry moves forward into the field of energy efficient vehicles in meeting the green criteria, will said vehicles also be eligible for said discount; further noting that a hybrid vehicle does not fall within this classification; further suggesting that the City might consider the assignment of parking spaces for same.

Chairman De Witt responded by saying that the aim of said legislation was to encourage conservation, targeting electric vehicles only; further recognizing the fact that the City is encouraging the usage of energy efficient vehicles and is sensitive to our environment.

Mayor Slesnick suggested that maybe one should combine the two classifications, highlighting what we do know right now, electric vehicles as the focal point of green vehicles, and accept the City Manager's recommendation to grant reduced permits from the Department of Off-Street Parking; further acknowledging the value of **Commissioner Wither's** comments, by urging the Administration to address such issues as where does one curtail the number of electric vehicles? How does one define them? What do we do?, etc.; further noting that said green vehicles have to be licensed by the State of Florida.

In response to the number of residents driving said electric vehicles in Coral Gables, **Commissioner Cabrera** stated that **Bill Holly** drives one; further noting that there is a second one in his immediate area; further pointing out that in Key Biscayne the green electric vehicles are quite prevalent].

A motion was made by Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2008-27. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 20

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-28

- G.-2. 08-0128** Economic Development Board minutes of January 16, 1008 requiring action regarding bicycle racks.

Attachments: [minutes 1-16-08](#)
[minutes 1-16-08 excerpts](#)
[EDB cover 2-26-08- bike racks action](#)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD THAT, THE CITY ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF FREE PUBLIC BICYCLE RACKS IN COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS AND OTHER PUBLIC GATHERING AREAS AS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER CABRERA TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE USE OF BICYCLES AS AN APPROPRIATE, RESPONSIBLE AND FUN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF TRANSPORTATION.

[Note for the Record: **Chairman De Witt** stated that this item has to do with putting up public bicycle racks in the downtown area; further stating that said installations would enhance the downtown area and encourage people to take their bicycles downtown.

Commissioner Cabrera stated that he began working on this issue approximately one year ago; further noting that he has discovered that the City already had a bike design; further stating that he was proceeding with an assignment requested of him by Public Works **Director Alberto Delgado**, to identify on a citywide map those areas that are in need of bicycle racks; further sharing with his colleagues that he has found a donor to give the City money for the purchase of same; further adding that he has found a company that will sell said racks at a discount price; further explaining that said racks are a standard size, as recommended by the **National Association of Bicycling**, considered as the most effective type of bicycle racks-further describing same as an “upside down U;” further noting that a prototypical bike rack resembles a hitching post; further pointing out that because of said design, most people do not realize that it is a bike rack; further noting that because of said design creates the potentiality for damage to the top tube of the bike; further responding to **Vice Mayor Kerdyk’s** inquiry as to location of same, stating that most bike racks are in the public-right-of-way (intersection, etc.); further responding to **Vice Mayor Kerdyk’s** inquiry regarding whether bikes are allowed on the sidewalk, and if so, whether one should change same, or encourage people to use the roadway, instead stated that if one is desirous of riding a bike on the sidewalk, one can, however one must abide by the pedestrian laws; further stating that in Coral Gables, we have an ordinance prohibiting same. **Vice Mayor Kerdyk** urged his colleagues to encourage public outreach to promote public understanding regarding why cyclist must be on the street. **Commissioner Cabrera** suggested that we should have a curb cut to prevent cyclist

from jumping the curb, or avoiding the need to get off said bike; further pointing out that the majority of the people who ride their bicycles on the sidewalk are delivery people from our restaurants, who quite often are in a rush to deliver their respective goods; further informing the Commission that the City is financially able through said donor, to purchase approximately 30 bike racks.

Mayor Slesnick suggested that maybe the City should contact some of our privately owned plazas to ascertain whether they would be amendable to installing bike racks].

A motion was made by Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2008-28. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 21

H. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-29

H.-1. 08-0130

Resolution accepting the bid of Miami Skyline Construction Corp., in the sum of \$109,600.00, as the lowest and most responsive bid for the replacement of the fence at Salvadore Tennis Center, Coral Gables, Florida

Attachments: [Salvadore Park Fence Replacement Cover Memo](#)
[Salvadore Park Fence Replacement Resolution](#)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF MIAMI SKYLINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., AS BEING THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BID, IN THE SUM OF \$109,600.00, FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF FENCE AT SALVADORE TENNIS CENTER, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA.

[Note for the Record: A copy of the verbatim transcript of Agenda Item H-1 is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Withers, that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2008-29. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

City Clerk Item No. 22

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-31 (As Amended)**H.-2. 08-0132**

Resolution accepting the bid of Welch Tennis Courts, Inc. in the sum of \$132,499.00, as being the lowest and most responsive bid for the light fixture replacement at Salvadore Tennis Center, Coral Gables, Florida.

Attachments: [Salvadore Park Light Fixtures Replacement Cover](#)
[Salvadore Park Light Fixtures Replacement Resolution](#)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF WELCH TENNIS COURTS, INC., AS BEING THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE BID IN THE SUM OF \$132,499.00, FOR THE LIGHT FIXTURE REPLACEMENT AT SALVADORE TENNIS CENTER, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA.

[Note for the Record: A copy of the verbatim transcript of Agenda Item H-2 is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted as amended by Resolution Number 2008-31. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

City Clerk Item No. 24

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-30

- H.-3. 08-0133** Resolution accepting the bid of Miami Skyline Construction Corp., in the sum of \$300,800.00 as the lowest and most responsive bid for the renovation of eight (8) clay courts and conversion of five (5) existing hard courts to clay at Salvadore Tennis Center, Coral Gables, Florida.

Attachments: [Tennis Courts Conversion Cover](#)
[Tennis Court Court Conversion Resolution](#)

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF MIAMI SKYLINE CONSTRUCTION CORP., AS BEING THE LOWEST AND MOST RESPONSIVE BID IN THE SUM OF \$300,800.00, FOR THE RENOVATION OF EIGHT (8) CLAY COURTS AND CONVERSION OF FIVE (5) EXISTING HARD COURTS TO CLAY AT SALVADORE TENNIS CENTER, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA.

[Note for the Record: A copy of the verbatim transcript of Agenda Item H-3 is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2008-30. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

City Clerk Item No. 23

I. CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

- I.-1. 08-0137** Pending Litigation Report

Attachments: [PENLIT.2 26 08.pdf](#)

[Note for the Record: City Attorney Elizabeth Hernandez stated that the Commission has received the Litigation Report, which included only one update, namely the filing of amendments to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure; specifically proffering comments on page 7 of said document; further noting that the Florida Supreme Court has requested that all interested parties must file said comments by April 1st, 2008; further stating that she will be preparing the filing of said comments for timely submittal on behalf of the City of Coral Gables, Miami-Dade County and the local government section, as well as the Florida Municipal Attorney's Association].

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 25

J. CITY CLERK ITEMS**None**

City Clerk Item No. 26

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Anderson: Just a few things. The month of February at the Farmers Market was really special. We had our first series called the "Conversations on Coral Gables", and underneath in the Palm Garden underneath the covering you had four speakers; first one was our own City Architect, who spoke about Mediterranean architecture; the second one was Chuck Bull, who spoke about downtown; the third one was Arva Parks on all of Merrick's - most of Merrick's unpublished or really kind of obscure projects that would surprise a lot of people; and last week we had Dr. Jack Parker, an environmentalist from a long time from FIU and Professor Emeritus, and it was nice. It was attended by regular crowd maybe ten - twelve (10-12) people, informal setting, and I wanted to thank the Development Department. They did a fabulous job in getting the word out and making people feel welcome on a quiet Saturday morning, maybe we'll do it again next year. I had a question asked that I didn't have an answer to; Dr. Parker was asking about what our building code do to foster energy efficiency and energy independence like solar water heaters and things like that; and I didn't have an answer, and I was hoping Manager if you could prepare a memo, and let us know.

City Manager Brown: I shall.

Commissioner Anderson: And I wanted to congratulate the Communications Department, the fabulous employee of the year video was just incredible, that was really neat, and a great way to honor our employees, so congratulations.

Commissioner Withers: It was phenomenal.

Commissioner Cabrera: Can I get a copy of that?

City Manager Brown: Yes you can. As a matter of fact after this Commission meeting we are going to play it for ten minutes, and the only reason I can't play it on the air is because I would have a copyright problem.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK.

Commissioner Withers: It's pretty cool; you'll get a kick out of it.

Commissioner Anderson: That's it for me.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Cabrera.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thank you. Recently at a Farmers Market, I had a senior citizen give me an excellent idea, what I consider to be an excellent idea that in fact the Manager and I were standing together when we heard it. As a policy the City of Coral Gables charges or gives residents the ability to conduct two garage sales a year, and there is a permit cost for those garage sales something like thirty-five dollars (\$35) per garage sale, and this senior citizen said, you know, sometimes for us senior citizens it's a bit of a hardship to have to pay seventy dollars (\$70), especially when we are about to downsize or we are about to move somewhere else, or we are in a situation where we've lost a member of our family which often happens. So what I was going to ask the Commission this morning if they would support me in giving the same type of courtesy that we give our seniors with false alarms and that is not to charge them; and what I'd like staff to do is come back with a proposal or a resolution suggesting a way to give seniors sixty-five (65) and over the ability to have these two garage sales a year without having to pay the thirty-five dollars (\$35) permit fee; and I think the way you craft this, it has to be very creative so that its not abused because obviously the first concern that comes to mind is what happens when people realize they can do this for free and they go to seniors and say, let's make it a neighborhood sale; and we'll use your name or your address so that we can get a free permit. So I would caution staff that however we go ahead and frame this and create it that it's done in such a way that only applies to that senior's home and not the entire neighborhood.

Mayor Slesnick: Ralph, while we are doing this, if we could, if you would want to think about the fact of wanting to redefine seniors for these, I mean, sixty-five is just not in our vocabulary today. I understand that sixty-five years qualifies you for certain things, but it's just, these are not the elderly people you are reaching out to do good things for, I mean.

Commissioner Cabrera: Give me an example.

Mayor Slesnick: I'm just saying seventy or seventy-five is more of the older person who you are talking about.

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, I'm flexible with that. You know why?- I use sixty-five because that's when you are Medicare eligible, and from an insurance standpoint, I'm an insurance person, so sixty-five has always been for me....

Commissioner Withers: I thought you'd move it the other way to fifty-five.
(LAUGHTER)

Commissioner Cabrera: Seriously, the reason I asked him to give me an example was, I didn't know direction he was going, so I wasn't trying to be disrespectful, I didn't

know how you wanted...

Mayor Slesnick: I look around our City I just see that you know when we talk about more elderly people who we want to give a helping hand to and reach out, its really more elderly people as opposed to just those who reach Medicare age.

Commissioner Cabrera: If it's seventy or seventy-two and-a-half.

City Manager Brown: The lady that we spoke to talked about elderly couples who were clearing out their houses and were downsizing.

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, let's face it they were loosing their spouse...

City Manager Brown: If that's the goal and that's the target audience, then the number can move.

Commissioner Cabrera: Can be higher; you know, if it needs to be seventy or seventy-five, I'm perfectly comfortable, I understand what Don is saying and I could see why he would want to move that up, and I certainly don't have any problem with that. You want to take yourself out of the...

Mayor Slesnick: Later this year I could quality for a free garage sale permit...

City Manager Brown: We'll bring something back.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. I appreciate that.

Mayor Slesnick: And I'm not sure I need that.

Commissioner Cabrera: Anybody else has any issue with this? No. OK. The owners of Parisosa Bakery who are merchants at our Farmers Market every Saturday are really going though some serious hardship, and I'll tell you what's happening to them; they are immediately impacted by the construction of the entrance, the business entrance to Coral Gables on Ponce de Leon in the 800 Block on Ponce; and while I realize it's not a City construction project, it is being done by the Coral Gables Garden Club. I'd really like to see some sort of a timeframe because I'm not exaggerating when I say this, this particular bakery could potentially be going out of business just because parking is a nightmare. The project is simply not moving, its stalled. I don't know if there are permit issues, or what is causing these delays, but they are really at a point that they are panicking and really feeling the economics, the hardship of this construction project; and you know the sad thing is that project is to augment and beautify the area; and it could potentially do away with the longest standing bakery or business in that immediate area. Next to them there have been probably in the last

three years three or four years restaurants, and then you've got that eyesore across the store which used to be my father's gas station many, many, many years ago, and today is a Mexican restaurant. I don't know maybe its not even a Mexican restaurant anymore, its closed, its been tried and failed and here, the bakery has always done well, and here we are, when I say we, we are not doing this, but somehow someway I think we need to take a little ownership of this and try to help these good folks.

City Manager Brown: Let me contact the builder and the Garden Club and see if I get in the middle of it and move it along.

Commissioner Cabrera: Mr. Delgado, do you have an update for us on this?

Mr. Delgado: I have good news. The project was actually on hold because they found that they were excavating for the foundation for the columns, they found a duck fan over there which is like electrical, major conflict over there roaming across the street.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thought you were going to tell me they found Jimmy Hoffa's body.

(LAUGHTER)

Mr. Delgado: And they notified Florida Power and Light, and Florida Power and Light was very slow in providing the information. Finally Friday they determined it was an abandoned thing, you know, but they have to go through a lot of things to determine that was the case. So looks as though they are moving along as yesterday, Monday, they began working again, so they are moving along. So hopefully, this shouldn't take that long to complete and to do because the work really is not as big as people think that it is. It's just putting two columns over there.

Commissioner Cabrera: I know, I know, but I've driven by and these people can't get patrons to park anywhere nearby.

Mr. Delgado: Those holes area open that's why they have to do all of this traffic...

Commissioner Anderson: They were also impacted when they were building the building next door, terribly; they had their awnings ripped.

Mr. Delgado: Good thing we have intervened in the project, even though its not our project, we will have somebody to go and do this, and I just had a conversation this morning with Touric Construction, which is the owner of Touric Construction. He is the contractor that is actually doing this pro-bono, and I already had conversation with him to expedite the work.

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, you know, I'm glad Ms. Anderson brought it up about the construction next to them; they went through the construction that she just outlined; they went through the trolley stop issue where we removed some on-street parking, and now they are having to go through this issue, this is about the last nail that their coffin needs. Mr. Manager, would be kind enough to have someone from your staff contact the folks at Parisosa Bakery and at least make them aware that we discussed it today and that we are aware of it, and that our Public Works Director gave us an update, and the light at the end of the tunnel is nearing.

City Manager Brown: I shall.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thank you so much, appreciate it. Oh Mr. Delgado, don't leave, come back, my next item is right up your alley. Wanted to just literally thank you for taking care of the - are you the department that's taking care of the railings, or is that Dan?

Mr. Delgado: We are, we are, Public Works.

Commissioner Cabrera: You are - OK. I didn't realize how many railings are damaged.

Mr. Delgado: A lot.

Commissioner Cabrera: A lot; and I wanted to thank you for that. Do you see a timeframe for completion?

Mr. Delgado: What we are doing is that we are working with the welding shop, automotive, they only have one welder, and that person is actually taking care of the emergencies there, so anytime that he has spare time, he is coming to do it, that's why they cannot tell you exactly how long its going to take, but if there is no emergencies in the welding shop at the automotive, this guy can be available to us and we can complete the work. Parts and everything has already been ordered, they are already here, so it's a matter of labor.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, I'll tell you this, there is a member of the Cabrera family that's monitoring the railings every Saturday; so I just wanted you to know that I have to respond to him each Saturday after he tells me that nothing's been done.

Mr. Delgado: But if it wasn't for the body shop, the guy is available all the time, we can say a couple of weeks, three weeks its not more than that, but if not, it might be delayed because of that.

Commissioner Cabrera: I'm going to tell him to call you directly.

Mr. Delgado: OK.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. So expect a call from him; and you think I'm tough, he's really tough. Thank you sir.

Mr. Delgado: You're welcome.

Commissioner Cabrera: Commissioners, I wanted to tell you that I recently asked the City Manager to contact the Coral Gables Country Club because I was contacted by a resident not more than a week ago, and told that the Country Club was somehow allowing the Coral Gables High School water polo team to utilize their pool for practices three days a week. I had no concerns with that because I think that's certainly within the rights of the Country Club to do that. What became a concern for me was the resident then said when members complained to the Country Club management staff, they were told that this was being done at the request of the City of Coral Gables. So I then contacted Ms. Lubin. I think the City Manager was out of town; she contacted the Club; she was unaware of this, when the Manager and I finally spoke he was unaware of it. So I just wanted you all to learn that not only did I get that from one resident by the way, I ended up getting the same story from a second resident, and once again the comment was that the Coral Gables High School water polo team is using the pool three days a week at the request of the City of Coral Gables; and I did get some complaints by members that apparently swim there and they find it to be somewhat uncomfortable while there is a high school water polo practice or game. I don't know, I don't know what it is. But again, I'm not questioning their ability to do this or not do it, I think it's certainly well within their rights to do something like that, but I am concerned when the City of Coral Gables is brought up as being the culprit for this action.

Mayor Slesnick: Ask Parks if they had been asked.

Commissioner Cabrera: I asked the City Manager's office, is Parks aware of any of this? - no. So Parks and Recreation is unaware of this. I'm also going to ask the Manager to provide us with a public update as to what's happening with the Coral Gables Country Club, and this is my official request of you to provide us with that update; and I'd like to know exactly what the conditions are as they exist today. I know financially where we are, but I'm very interested in also knowing where the City and the Club is. So, Mr. Manager if you could do that at some point in the not too distant future.

City Manager Brown: First meeting in March.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. Last but not least, with regards to the Country Club, like

the rest of you, I read a couple of weeks ago that their air conditioning system might be in fact going through some problems. I asked the City Manager's office to investigate if there is a problem with the HVAC system at the Club, because the last thing that I would want to see is for us to have an unpleasant summer surprise with a broken air conditioning system, and the damage it can do to a club, or for any structure to have that kind of a problem. I think there that there is some responsibility that the Club has to own up to fixing the system, if in fact there is a problem with it, but this could become a very costly issue if it's not addressed. So, I did ask the Manager, and I'm not sure if he briefed the rest of you, but I did ask him as a favor to my office to investigate the conditions of the air conditioning system.

City Manager Brown: We'll be preparing a memo and I'll get that out to everybody. We've been out twice to the Club to review both maintenance contracts and the condition as to how far we think it can go, and I'll get that to you.

Commissioner Cabrera: The reason I brought all these issues up with regards to the Country Club, is not that I have this vendetta; I just believe very strongly that these issues need to be very transparent. We need to bring them up in a Commission setting, and they need to be transparent so that all our citizens understand the things that we are dealing with, with regards to the Club. If I offended any of you, it was not my intention; or if I brought something up that you didn't wish to talk about, it was not my intention to do so, but I'm going to make it a point that we continue to remain a transparent type of government. Speaking of updates and transparency, I'd like the Manager also to give us an update on the Building and Zoning Department. We haven't received one in quite some time; its typically Vice Mayor Kerdyk that will ask to hear an update as to what's going on, but I'm most interested in not only knowing what's happening with the department, I want to see what improvement commitments are being made and carried out, and most importantly I want to know what's happening in terms of the staffing issues. We've have two of our Assistant City Managers heading up the Building and Zoning Department, and I believe that you have done some sort of a search; no, search is the wrong word, you posted the job and you've had applicants you've interviewed...

City Manager Brown: Yes.

Commissioner Cabrera: And I'd like to get some sort of update as to where you are in that process. I think you were down to eight (8) finalists, and potentially I think you might be down to as few as two or three.

City Manager Brown: That's where I am right now; I've not made my mind up yet.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. And I'd like to come back to the Commission with some thoughts on that particular position as well before, probably at the next City

Commission meeting I intend to bring it up, so I just want to prepare everybody on that. And last, but certainly not least, a couple of Commission meetings ago, I had asked the Manager's office about Police patrols, and the Manager said that he would certainly get back to me if there had been any changes. On February 20th, we received a memo from the City Manager's office that was actually written by Chief Hammerschmidt regarding the area patrol, and it's a two page memo. It basically outlines changes that have been made by the Police Department, and those changes were implemented on January 7, 2008, and based upon what I have read, these changes are fairly substantial. We've gone from twelve (12) zones to two areas, and a different format for patrolling our City. I'd like to get some sort of a formal report by the department. I read the memo, it was a very well written memo; I understand many of the rationales, much of the rationale for doing this. I also will tell you that I'd like to see how we are going to measure the effectiveness of this new program. Obviously crime statistics are going to tell us if its working, or its not working; but I think there are ways to also measure the effectiveness of something like this based upon the deployment of resources; the deployment of staff. So I would like to see a formal presentation by the department on these changes, because these changes if you read the memo, I think, are very positive for the most part; but there are also major, major changes to the way our City has patrolled its borders and the entire community. And in fact the memo starts off by letting the reader know that for years the Coral Gables Police Department Uniform Patrol Division deployed its officers in one particular format. When you read something like for years, well I'm kind of interested in knowing how many years we've been...

City Manager Brown: Well I can tell you that the change that he refers to was implemented by Chief Hammerschmidt when he came, and that was from platoon to squad; so we've been from squad since the Chief got here probably ten months after he got here, and now he's making a change from -- squad is still going to do it, but they are going from zones to areas. And I'll have them...

Commissioner Cabrera: And I appreciate that, and in the first paragraph it also indicates that history has proven the old system to be an ineffective use of our scarce resources. Again, I'd like to know more about that. You know what happens, I mean, I'm not in law enforcement, and I don't claim to know much about police work, but our citizens get wind of this kind of stuff and they want to know more about it because it impacts their daily life, this is public safety; this is really quality of life. So that's why this is a large enough change in the way we do things that it should be brought up and discussed and presented by our professionals so that we can better understand it, and then we can turn around and better represent what in fact we are trying to do to improve the quality of life of our citizens. That does it for me today.

City Manager Brown: We'll have a formal presentation in March.

Commissioner Cabrera: Alright. Any questions about the items that I've discussed - OK, very good. Thank you.

Mayor Slesnick: Bill.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Thank you very much Mayor. Let me digress and say Commissioner I appreciate you bringing up the Building Department. I think that's important that we find out exactly what's going on, transpiring in that department. I was contacted by a resident regarding a application for a class two permit on a property on 4041 LeJeune Road; 4041 LeJeune Road is south of U.S.-1, and the class two permit is running a business from a house, and where that is significant for the City's purposes is basically 4041 LeJeune Road sits right across the street from Coral Gables, and I think that our Building Department or our Zoning Department needs to be in contact with the City of Miami to find out exactly what that application says; and if there is a request for a business usage there, we need to strongly oppose that in my opinion. I think that's...

Commissioner Withers: What address?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: 4041 LeJeune Road, and in my opinion I think that is something that we would be opposed to; it could end up happening, something could end up happening similar to what goes on in Coral Road or Bird Road where there are residences that are converted to offices; and I don't think that is what we want right across in that area there. So I would like the City staff to provide an update of that as soon as possible. The second thing is with regards to the Hammock Lakes situation, the guardhouse; I want to make sure that when we do have them up here, whether it's the next meeting or the meeting following that, that we make sure we notice everyone in the community. I think that the Commission was pretty clear with that indication, but I would encourage staff to make sure that everybody is noticed. That's pretty much it Mayor.

Mayor Slesnick: Chip.

Commissioner Withers: Just two real quick things. I don't know if a letter is in order or just a phone call. But the Dade County School Board has removed the portables at Ponce Middle School. I know we battled with that and they've come through with their commitment. So, maybe just a thank you.

City Manager Brown: OK, I'll do that.

Commissioner Withers: And secondly, Dave, what did we ever do with our grant writer? You know, I kind of just....I keep seeing opportunities to match funds. Are we doing that on our own?

City Manager Brown: We are doing that individually by department; departments that have big grant opportunities, Police, Fire, have grant writers, Public Works has a grant writer, everybody.

Commissioner Withers: OK, a third party, or someone within?

City Manager Brown: Someone within. Frankly, when we had a grant writer, we got a bad taste in our mouth, they promised a lot, they delivered very little; there was an argument at the end, and so we went back to processing grants.

Commissioner Withers: I thought they got us like a million or so dollars on the Police...

City Manager Brown: They got us a cop's grant for eight ninety seven, they said they would guarantee a million; they never did gain the million. So when the contract was over we decided to part ways amicably.

Commissioner Withers: So we don't want that global perspective anymore as far as grant writing?- I mean, if it doesn't - if it's a.... If I remember they only got paid if they performed; you can't agree with them on a contingency basis, but you can pay on a performance basis.

City Manager Brown: Right - and they were to provide a million dollars and never achieved a million dollars, wanted to be paid for a million dollars, I wasn't going to pay them the additional monies.

Commissioner Withers: Nine hundred thousand is pretty close.

City Manager Brown: That's worth a couple more grand, but they said no, we fulfilled our obligation, and we just parted ways. So we've been doing it in-house department by department.

Commissioner Withers: So, you don't want to look at that again or...?

City Manager Brown: Not at this time Commissioner.

Commissioner Withers: That's all I have.

Mayor Slesnick: Dona, maybe you want to know David, Chip mentioned that the portables have been removed; has the old administration building been reopened? I mean, I really think we should find out, because they told me they were on the verge of completing that project, and that was...

Commissioner Withers: I think it has Don.

Mayor Slesnick: That was the building we fought to save.

Commissioner Withers: Yes, we fought to keep. We should have some kind of recognition.

Mayor Slesnick: That was one of the most historic buildings in the area. David?

City Manager Brown: No sir.

Mayor Slesnick: I had this on my desk, I wasn't sure if it was ever brought forward, but again just to point out another, this is Aeropostal, the Argentinean Airlines, that devoted one of their whole passenger in-flight magazines to Coral Gables. Destination Coral Gables - La Ciudad Bella, and it's a beautiful thing, and this came out the turn of the year. I have nothing else. I think it's been covered. I appreciate the good work of this Commission; we've gone through this agenda rather quickly, and look forward to the meeting on March - what David is our first meeting in March?

City Manager Brown: March 11th.

Mayor Slesnick: March 11th we'll be back here in City Hall. I think from the comments of the Commissioners one thing I would say to the citizens is that you can see that Commissioners don't wait until they are at the Commission meeting to address issues. Citizens contact us at all times, we encourage that. We are open to suggestions, comments, observations and complaints, and we will continue to respond as best we can, and we hereby adjourn this meeting.

City Clerk Item No. 27

ADJOURNMENT

[Note for the Record: There being no further business on the Regular Commission Meeting agenda, the Commission of the City of Coral Gables adjourned its meeting at 10:56 a.m. on February 26, 2008. The next regular meeting of the City Commission has been scheduled for March 11, 2008, beginning 9 a.m.]

DONALD D. SLESNICK
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK