

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-3
October 28, 2025
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 Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Manager, Carolina Vester
Parks and Recreation Director, Fred Couceyro

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-3 [Start: 4:43 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission directing City staff to install a flagpole and fly an American flag at each City Park. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Alright, F-3.

City Attorney Suarez: F-3 is the resolution of the City Commission directing city staff to install a flagpole and fly an American flag at each city park.

Mayor Lago: All right. So, this has changed a little bit uh since we put it up. Maybe the Vice Mayor wants to excuse me, the Vice Mayor, maybe the ACM wants to come up and talk a little bit about it. You want to come up. I think I was the last one to have pre-agenda because I moved it from eight in the morning to late in the afternoon.

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Assistant City Manager Vester: And I invite the Parks Director up here as well, if you have any questions, but what we're proposing. We do have about 11 sites currently between parks and facilities that already have the American flag and a pole. We did look at some priorities in for size of the park, as well as public exposure to the park, and specialty parks to prioritize those that really should look at intending to have a flag there. So we're proposing Coral Bay Park, which is a larger size park, Ponce Circle Park, which there is a project in the future, Ingraham Park, JC Park, Phillips Park, Sunrise Harbor, which was renamed the James and Salley Jude Park, and then this is a smaller park but because it is named after Staff Sergeant Carl Ennis and it's also a Veterans Memorial Park, it really should have an American flag, and then we also have the Kerdyk and Family Park.

Mayor Lago: Yeah. I also wanted to you, I would like to put it where it's very, like you can see it where it's very visible. Again, like for my colleagues, if there are any parks that they think that we should put one, I thought maybe on Blue Road or maybe on the one on Alhambra where you get a lot of traffic, I mean it'd be beautiful. And part of this legislation is, you know every six months just like we do with the Whiteway Lights, we need to do a report, we need to follow up, because I know we're going to get calls; like Mayor Thomson called me about one of our flags, you know, being on the ground or being torn, we get calls about it all in front of City Hall. It's not that we're not following up and maintaining. It's just that there's wear and tear, there's wear and tear. We got to be on top of that. It's a big deal and I know it's a lot more work for staff, but I think it's important.

Commissioner Fernandez: One of the suggestions that I had was maybe we can incorporate it somehow into the city entrances. I think that would be a nice feature to have and something in that Flagler Section, whether it's Rotary Centennial Park or that new area that we got right at the entrance where we still haven't put an entrance feature, but maybe we can put a nice flagpole with some landscaping and start cleaning that area and making it nice, but i think there's a phenomenal idea. Obviously, if we're having the flag overnight it has to be lit, so we would need lighting. The other thing I wanted to bring up is maybe there's a way of incorporating the AEDs that we've been trying to place somewhere, maybe there's a way we can incorporate them into the flagpole itself so that we can have them available in the parks that we've been trying to place them at. Just food for thought.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, since we're broadly discussing locations, regarding the Flagler District near the entrance there, I mean there is an entrance feature that's been discussed and planned, so I'm going to suggest that we do it holistically. It is also a site where there's a potential tree to come in as a donation. Again, I think we do need to have a holistic discussion and regarding AEDs, the other thought that came to me is, and I'll ask staff to report back to us at a different point in time, are there areas where you think there should be additional, those lightning sensor warnings

Parks and Recreation Director: Lightening detectors.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yeah, that is exactly what I was trying to say.

Parks and Recreation Director: So, we can look at that.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Look at that and it was a suggestion.

Parks and Recreation Director: What's actually a couple of the projects that were just named a couple of parks were just named are undergoing projects, so it's it'd be a good time to integrate them in the project like the entranceway when we get to do that project and also Rotary, we're in the process of getting started on that, so we can add that as well, and those if you're building them into projects and the electric and the lighting is a lot easier.

Mayor Lago: The reason why I said Blue Road is because it's a beautiful brand-new park on the water that's going to look really well, and I like the idea of the entrance features too. Again, it's going to be impossible to put them at all, but let's put them in the prominent ones. You know you have Coral Way, you know you have, we'll be having that house on Bird Road, that'd be amazing. You're going to end up having something on Prado, the entrance on 37th Avenue and Alhambra. You know there could be four or five that we can put them on, and I think it would be something that again would be well done. They don't have to be huge flagpoles. They can be something tastefully done.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, the reason I brought up the lightning detectors is because FPL put a nice, beautiful cement pole across the street from me, it became a wonderful lighting rod. Within a month it got hit, a direct hit, and it blasted out some of the cement there. So, we're putting in flagpoles, I don't want them to necessarily be the next lightning rod and let's at least get people out of the park.

Commissioner Fernandez: I've lost four palm trees this year.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I mean it's just we do live in the lightning capital of the world, so staff thank you for all your hard work. I love the idea of the flagpoles though.

Mayor Lago: Can I have a motion.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll move it.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, you had something, Commissioner Lara, you wanted to say something.

Commissioner Lara: I think you already addressed it.

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Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Fernandez: Actually, this is your item you should move it.

Mayor Lago: No, that's fine.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Fernandez: Second.

City Attorney Suarez: Just to clarify. So, because as drafted, Mayor, as you mentioned, was at each city park in the year. So do you want it to be the specific parks that were named today

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Attorney Suarez: Do you want to just be up to staff.

Mayor Lago: Yes. I want it to be the specific parks that were mentioned, along with Blue Road and Alhambra

City Attorney Suarez: Okay.

Mayor Lago: And the entrance features that we mentioned. There was one on 37th Avenue, the new space, Coral Way, there was which one did you mention.

Commissioner Fernandez: Prado, Granada.

Mayor Lago: And I think that we may find, if you see things that are tasteful that are that you say, oh this is an easy one to do that get a lot of drive that people go in front of, I think it would be nice. You know not saying that I want to put -- the intent was to put them in every park, but I also understand a hurricane comes, the maintenance, you know I want to make sure we stay on top of these, because we're talking about potentially about 20 so far.

Assistant City Manager Vester: And we will look at lighting to see if we can do solar because that would be helpful, so we don't have to raise and take down the flag every single day. We're going to try that at the Girl Scout House over at Ruth Bryan Owen Park, there is actually a flagpole we found out that needs some repairs, so we're going to do that one first and see if we can do the solar light and maybe that way we don't have to worry about electricity in those parks.

Mayor Lago: To give you an idea. Look, I bought a flagpole, I have the foundation there in my office. I've been meaning to do it to install it at the Women's Club for like three months now. I've completely dropped the ball. It's my fault. I'm going to get it done now with some of my shell guys. The flagpole, the installation is going to cost me, the whole thing is going to cost around \$10,000.

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Again, no electricity, I'm paying for that myself as a gift to the Women's Club. I don't think it has to be of that magnitude. It's a really big flagpole. It can be something, again, a decent size and it can be something beautiful, and I would love to have in every park, but I also want to make sure that we do it, we start staggering it, like I'm not asking to do it in the next year, all of them. Maybe we can do it over a two-year period. We can do half now over the next year, 2026, and then the rest in 2027. I mean the Ennis Park, I mean makes complete sense, right.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I would say, the bigger the park, you know tall poles work, the smaller parks maybe a smaller pole so you can actually see the flag.

Mayor Lago: I completely agree.

Assistant City Manager Vester: We can provide an update in a future meeting, if you like, to allow staff to kind of draft a plan and put something together.

Mayor Lago: All right. No issues.

Parks and Recreation Director: I also would like really quick, a little unrelated, but related, Ennis Park Veterans Day at noon, as we're looking to do the dedication. So, I just wanted to let you know and put it all out to the community and it is the park right off of Tiziano and Old Cutler. So, noon on Veterans Day.

Vice Mayor Anderson: On Veterans Day and staff will send me, make sure it's on my calendar.

Assistant City Manager Vester: I think we just got the notice via email.

Parks and Recreation Director: Notice is coming but I just, while we're talking about Ennis Park, I wanted to note it here that we're doing it.

Mayor Lago: Perfect.

Assistant City Manager Vester: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

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(Vote: 5-0)