

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-3
May 31, 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, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Garcia-Serra

Agenda Item G-3 [11:35 a.m.]

Discussion regarding temporary dog park at Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Mendoza Avenue. (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Mayor Lago: We have item G-3 that I want to discuss before we move onto F-3 and F-12. Discussion regarding temporary dog park at Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Mendoza Avenue. Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Anderson: City Manager, do we have an update on that being implemented? We've discussed it in the past.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes. I believe Mr. Serra is here.

Mayor Lago: Sir, how are you?

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Mr. Garcia-Serra: Everything well, thank you. Good morning, Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, hope everyone's doing well and enjoyed the holiday weekend. Mario Garcia-Serra, with offices at 600 Brickell Avenue, representing Location Acquisitions. Location Acquisition is the entity that's under contract to purchase the property at 1505 Ponce and we've engaged with discussions with Commissioner Anderson regarding the possibility of providing a temporary dog park facility on that property, on the eastern end of that property, approximately 7,000 square feet, for approximately a year duration so that the city can utilize that as a dog park. Location Acquisitions, as many other developers have, have understood the importance of open space, incorporating it into their projects, and in this case, incorporating in assisting the city and being able to provide a temporary solution in an area which will ultimately also be a permanent park assuming that the project is approved and moves forward. So, this week, I hope to send that sketch to the Manager and staff, indicating the 7,000 square foot area that we could provide, as well as some basic terms so we can enter into a simple sort of management agreement between property owner and city.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you for making that offer. I'm certain that the community is going to thoroughly enjoy it. I've heard back from a lot of folks. So, thank you.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: The project itself, I think is going to be transformative for the area and provides more open space where there is a lack right now.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Mena: Just want to commend you, Mr. Garcia-Serra and your client, because when we talk about these projects, we often are talking about what public benefit is involved and obviously you guys are sort of paying attention to what we've been discussing lately and other circumstances in the city, and some of the features we are looking to add throughout the city and this is obviously one of them. So, we'll continue to discuss the project, but we appreciate that, this type of idea as being proffered to address a problem that we've been dealing with now for awhile that we'd like to address.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Serious developers understand it. They realize its sort of collaboration, teamwork. Mr. Mayor, you've been sending the message for a long time of the importance of public open spaces, registering people, understand. Commissioner Menendez, we've been engaging in talks about how to potentially improve those parks nearby and so, the collaboration is there, and the teamwork mentality is certainly there. Luckily its no longer, I think a zero-sum game of us against you, or us against them, or whatever it might be. We are trying to figure it out so that off-loading boats, all boats rise with a floating tide and make it a win-win for everyone involved.

Mayor Lago: Thank you Mario. I appreciate that.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you so much.

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