

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item 2-3
October 12, 2021
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

Communications and Public Affairs Manager, Martha Pantin

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item 2-3 [Start: 10:54 a.m.]

A Resolution of the Communications Committee requesting the City Commission to support the creation of a working group for the purpose of organizing and executing events promoting the City's Centennial anniversary.

City Attorney Ramos: 2-3 is A Resolution of the Communications Committee requesting the City Commission to support the creation of a working group for the purpose of organizing and executing events promoting the City's Centennial anniversary. I will note that obviously that's going to take more than one year. So, if you do want to move forward, we'll bring you an ordinance next time, establishing a board for this purpose.

Mayor Lago: Yes, I do. I want my colleagues to give me their input, but like I said before, I've had several organizations reach out to me, including Mark Trowbridge who is interested, along with residents and I think it would be a good opportunity. I don't think this board has to be one appointment per Commissioner. The bigger the better in my opinion, obviously, not out of control, rowdy, but I think that there are a lot of people that really could potentially provide a lot of really beneficial input.

City Attorney Ramos: So, it would be helpful in helping us draft to know more or less what the vision is here. Is it certain staff members, how many members are we thinking, so that we can bring something back?

City Manager Iglesias: Madam City Attorney, I think I'm going to have Martha Pantin work on this. She is very good at working with this, and also, look at the University of Miami to see if they would like to do something joint with us on that.

Mayor Lago: Those are great ideas.

Commissioner Fors: The vision here, I think is almost like a Super Bowl Committee, right, a committee put together to host an event in advance, it's going to be a big to-do.

Vice Mayor Mena: Also, just to be clear, we are talking about more than one event. Its going to be a multitude of different types of events.

Ms. Pantin: I think the committee just wanted to make sure that we started planning already. I know that the University of Miami, who their anniversary coincides with us, has already begun a planning committee. And Miami just recently had in July, their 100th anniversary or their 125th anniversary, and they had a series of events, including lighting up the courthouse and things like that. So, the idea is just to get, to begin working on it, meet with maybe from an internal perspective have different stakeholders involved in it, and then meet with some community people to get their ideas so that we can then develop a plan.

Commissioner Menendez: And I agree with the Mayor earlier said about getting organizations involved. I know for a fact that we have organizations that have been established in the city, maybe not 100 years, but going 50, 60, 70 years, and I'd like to see if we can tap into those long-standing organizations to be part of this, because it's a celebration of their involvement and their community input and support as well. I agree, the more the merrier. Let's tap into the ones that have been around a long time, because I think its appropriate that they celebrate with us.

Mayor Lago: Perfect. So, the Manager's office will bring something back, maybe to the next Commission or the following?

City Manager Iglesias: We will Mayor, and we'll have a chance to discuss with the university to see if we can do it, its both of our centennial.

Mayor Lago: I know you have a scheduled meeting with Mr. Fernandez at the end of October.

City Manager Iglesias: Its right after our Commission meeting.

Mayor Lago: You can take advantage of that meeting, have a conversation with him about the centennial and then potentially bring it back in November at some point.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes Mayor, that would be the meeting in November – perfect.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

