

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-5
May 23, 2023
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 Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Public Works Director, Hermes Director
IT Director, Raimundo Rodulfo
Communications Director, Martha Pantin

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-5 [5:05 p.m.]
Discussion regarding an online portal for all current City projects.
(Sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto G-5.

Commissioner Fernandez: Discussion regarding the online portal for all current city projects. It's an idea that I had, I believe it was at the Town Hall or it might have been at the last Commission meeting about possibly having a portal so that residents can have a place where they can go and get an update on what the status of projects is. I think it's good, not just for the residents, but also for the city's perspective because people have a place to go, and they can see that there's a realistic timeline of construction. So, I think, director, you were working on something already.

IT Director Rodulfo: Yes Commissioner. We worked with Communications and Public Affairs team, and we put together one page and we got the information from Director Hermes Diaz, and this is the page.

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Public Works Director Diaz: So just a little bit of reference. In the past, we've done websites for specific large jobs, and those websites have been overall, something very simple and the purpose is to have a conversation here whether that would be acceptable and actually the Doral website is very similar to that, just very straightforward information and just to kind of get your input whether that's okay, you want more, you want less.

Commissioner Fernandez: I think that's perfect because it provides basic information people can see that there's progress, when we're expecting completion, and people can find the information there, and if they have more questions they can always reach out to the city, but I think this is a good place for people just to go and get the details of what they are looking for. The other question I had is, can we put possibly the diagrams of what its going to look like or link?

Public Works Director Diaz: Not every project has a...

Commissioner Fernandez: The ones that do, obviously.

Public Works Director Diaz: The bigger jobs, sure. We have to discuss about the ADA issues.

City Attorney Suarez: Yes. We have to make sure that everything that's on there is ADA accessible and then there's also some site plans for city buildings and whatnot that are confidential. So, we have to be cognizant of that as well.

Commissioner Fernandez: I guess whatever is public facing.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, for the projects who are sufficiently that maybe they do have a rendering, maybe we can include the rendering with that information as well.

City Manager Iglesias: We have had some media issues putting plans on, which our director can discuss that. So, it would be...

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'm going to ask you to scroll back up. I noticed that the anticipated construction completion date has been moved now for Salvadore dog run. I haven't received an update from you all. It takes another month – Salvadore dog park.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: The communications previously were mid-June.

Public Works Director Diaz: I'm so sorry. I don't know why I said July. At the last meeting, I said July and then it is June.

Vice Mayor Anderson: It is June. Okay. Okay.

Public Works Director Diaz: It is June. That's my mistake.

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Vice Mayor Anderson: The dogs are in the back seat going like this, is it here yet, is it here yet.

Public Works Director Diaz: 100 percent.

Vice Mayor Anderson: The owners are like that too.

Public Works Director Diaz: And when this came up the last time it was the same thing, so yes, yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. Okay. I even get tarred and feathered after this meeting because...

Commissioner Menendez: And I get feathered and tarred as well, so yes, please, correct that.

IT Director Rodulfo: We'd like to add that we have a financial transparency photo that has information about all the CIDs, the Capital Improvement Projects with cost information too, the Smart City Hub and in the Finance Department page too.

Communications Director Pantin: Today we went ahead on our cover we put news for the city, we put that this was available and Raimundo and I are looking for other avenues of how we could make this more prominent and possibly change with tiles, etc., so this is just a start. We're looking at other ways to showcase this.

Commissioner Fernandez: Can people access it?

Communications Director Pantin: Pardon me.

Commissioner Fernandez: How can people access it?

Communications Director Pantin: Right now, it's on the Public Works page, that's why we have it in the news section, so that people can click there and see it, so that it's more visible, but we're looking for ways that we can do it with greater visibility.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor. How come we can't put it where it says Development?

Communications Director Pantin: Pardon me.

Commissioner Castro: How come we can't put it where it says Development. I know there are city projects, but there's no city projects – where it says Development.

Communications Director Pantin: Yes. Actually Raimundo brought that to me today to change and to put developments to change it around, so that's what we're looking with our developers, site developers to see how we can look for a way to showcase this in a better format on the home page,

but that's why we went ahead and today put it in our news section so that people would know that this was available already.

Commissioner Castro: So, what is the criteria being used right now to determine what projects get posted on that tab, where it says, the DRC tab in Developments.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, may I answer. DRC – those are projects that are large and come in for DRC review, and those are generally the larger projects.

Commissioner Castro: So, can we not post more projects on it?

City Manager Iglesias: One of our vertical small projects like these are not DRC.

IT Director Rodulfo: We are talking today with Director Pantin to have that style that says Development, that says Projects, then it goes to the page, and we have Development, we also have city projects, construction, transportation, finance.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Anything else for the order before we move onto G-6.