

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-4
February 12, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton
Landscape Director, Brook Dannemiller

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-4 [12:22:12 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, authorizing the City Manager to extend and amend an agreement with Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Inc. to continue participation in the Million Orchid Project, as initially authorized in Resolution 2014-52.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next is a resolution of the City Commission authorizing the City Manager to extend and amend an agreement with Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden for the Million Orchid Project.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Very quickly. The City entered into an agreement with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in 2010, no, 2014, for a five-year program to install a quarter million orchids around the City. It's been going slower than that, so Public Works staff has asked that we extend the agreement with Fairchild to allow time. And Brook has a presentation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wait, wait, wait. Do you have pictures of anybody putting any orchids or pictures of orchids?

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes, we do right now.

Landscape Director Dannemiller: We have four pictures.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can I see them?

Landscape Director Dannemiller: Yes, they are coming up right here. So this is our Miracle Mile, these are the younger, new oak trees, installing them. We also have the larger ones like the...oak trees and those are the four images, and we finished all these oaks last summer. So we only do it during the rainy season, because they need some water to establish. We do it during the dry season then they dry out and they don't establish as quickly. We've also started to have Fairchild at the Farmers Markets, handing them out to Coral Gables residents so that they can put them on their property. The issue we've been having is getting volunteers, it's hard to get volunteers to come out every Friday during the summer when it's hot and it's rainy, mosquitos. So it's a way to get volunteers by distributing at the Farmers Market and doing it that way.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It's been moved by Commissioner Quesada, is there a second?

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Commissioner Keon: How long does it take for those orchids to establish themselves in the tree after they...

Landscape Director Dannemiller: Usually in the rainy season they'll attach and some flower within a year, but usually it takes about two, three at most.

Commissioner Keon: Two to three years.

Landscape Director Dannemiller: Yes. They are pretty happy coming out of Fairchild...they had some as quickly as one year.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

[End: 12:24:10 p.m.]