

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item: Mayor's Comments**  
**April 10, 2018**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

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

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark**  
**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**  
**City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman**  
**Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**  
**Public Works Director, Ed Santamaria**  
**Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item 9:25:10 a.m.]

**Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Now we have Mayor's Comments – and I'd like to talk about art, artists and residents, program notes and also change a little bit the way we dedicate our money to art. There is in the United States an artisan resident program where artists are invited for a time and space away from their usual environment to be with us, to be amongst us, and to experience life in a new location and integrating elements of that experience into their art. Coral Gables is one of the earliest, one of the early craft centers in the United States and is a historical leader showcasing the importance of art in a community. And I would like to suggest that we have, we open our very, very vigorous Art in Public Places to also encourage professional working artists throughout the United States and abroad to come to Coral Gables, funded by the new developments that are taking place; see properties where they can live and work and we have to look if there is any; and also developer's properties; and private property as part of a

development agreement, maybe encouraging art galleries in the new developments, instead of their dedicating or spending whatever. I want to say a figure, \$100,000, just a figure for a sculpture or a piece of art, maybe they can subsidize a gallery for five, ten years, and attract galleries back to Coral Gables. We used to be a center of art galleries in Coral Gables in Miami-Dade County 20 years ago and we lost that and we should try to bring them back. So artists accepted in the program would donate some of their art to Coral Gables and the galleries would be established in some of the new developments that are being built here. Dona would you like to say a few words?

Preservation Officer Spain: Only that I fully support this idea. I think it's a great idea and anything that my department can do to get it going, I'm happy to do.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I love the idea. I think its spectacular. Question is, I mean cost, we've got to think about – so you are saying to fund it through development projects?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Instead of requiring “Merrick” project, every project is called Merrick, so instead of donating \$150,000 or \$500,000, let's have them make a space in their project available through a gallery and subsidize it. Charge instead of \$30 a foot, charge \$10 a foot and dedicate part of that \$150,000 to...

Vice Mayor Quesada: So every new project would have a gallery in it.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Sir, are you suggesting that there be an option?- because today they can build art, they can incorporate art in their development, or they can donate a check; and what you are saying is that we'll add another option on how that art in public places...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right, right, right. I encourage that.

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's a very cool idea.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They would welcome this and having some, instead of a sculpture that would be there forever and people would like it or people not, have an art gallery and I think it's a very worthy option to give them.

Preservation Officer Spain: I'm all for it.

City Attorney Ramos: Dona we'll work with your office to look at the twist to the ordinance.

Commissioner Keon: You know when we were looking at when we approved 33 Alhambra there was a great deal of discussion about 33 Alhambra, because the ground floor there are a number of workspaces, so there is a space downstairs on the ground floor that certainly could work as a gallery, and there is a studio or one bedroom apartment that is part of that where an artist could live, could work in the City and live there and actually paint downstairs...

Preservation Officer Spain: That's a perfect example.

Commissioner Keon:...and I think it was, yes, we had talked with them about possibly marketing those spaces to artists, to galleries. So I think it could be a very interesting idea for that project in particular because of the way those live/work spaces are laid out. I don't know where they are on their contribution, I don't know where they are in the permitting process, I don't know where they are with their contribution to art, I don't know, but I think it would be, it could be an interesting place to start.

Preservation Officer Spain: I agree. That's a perfect project for that because its already set up.

Commissioner Keon: Because its already set up that way.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Of course.

Commissioner Keon: And we had that discussion with them at the time that we were approving that development.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good. Don't go.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I just want to make sure that a lot of times we have a lot of good ideas that come up here and then it takes some time, so what are the next steps?

City Attorney Ramos: We need to look at the Art in Public Places ordinance to see how we tweak it.

Preservation Officer Spain: There would be a text amendment that would go to the Planning and Zoning Board.

City Attorney Ramos: Correct, it's the Zoning Code, so it would go through that process and then come back to you for two readings.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And then to the Cultural Board support by acclamation. Having been a co-drafter of the Art in Public Places, there are provisions that would allow – we could add language to that and I think that it stays, the ordinance itself stays intact and that it just adds another important option.

City Attorney Ramos: That's correct.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And Vice Mayor, I've been accused, unjustly of course of being persistent in somethings that – believe me, I will be persistent in this.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I think it's a spectacular idea. I really do. I think it could be something unique, think about every new project having a gallery in it. Its almost like going back to our hay-day when we had all the galleries and it's a sustainable way to do it.

Preservation Officer Spain: No, that's great – and many of the projects that are coming through now have that live/work component, so I think it's a perfect time.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes, it's a great idea.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: On a different subject, if nobody else has any comment on this. Where are we with the TDR?- we discussed it at one point, the transfer development rights to some properties here on Biltmore Way and it hasn't come up.

Preservation Officer Spain: I believe Ramon is better able to answer that question.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Ramon will you?- is Ramon there?- yes. Ramon will you tell us where that stands?

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: What was the question Mayor? What was the question?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The question is where does that stand? We discussed it and I haven't heard anything more after that.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: The transfer development rights.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The transfer of development rights expanding the receiving area and...

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: The expanding and receiving area beyond the Ponce de Leon to the other --- yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes – Biltmore Way.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: That has been discussed, that has not been prepared or taken to the Planning and Zoning, yet if you want to expedite it...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: When will that be taken or can you expedite it?

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Sure – sure we can do that.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Commissioner Lago will say at the same time transfer development rights for open space.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Preservation Officer Spain: Those can be done at the same, easily done at the same time.

Commissioner Keon: OK. When though?

Commissioner Lago: Why don't we add it to the initiative's track and maybe we can add to the Mayor's initiative tracker and it could be something that we can bring up, and I'm willing to make a resolution. I'll make a resolution, I'll make the motion that this be brought before us the first meeting. I'm going to start motions, I'm going to start doing motions and a lot of resolutions and I hope that the Commission will support me on this that basically forces the hand of everybody in this room and we are going to start doing schedules, construction schedules. I do them every single day. So what I'm going to do, is I'm going to do a motion today that this come back to us, both items that we discussed that they be brought before us in the first, by the way I'm fair, as you were saying, I'm persistent, but I'm fair. That this be brought to us the first meeting in May. So that gives enough time to make sure that the open space and the TDR, potential expansion, the footprint be provided to us. I know it has to go to P&Z...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes. It has to go to another Board.

Commissioner Lago: It has to be brought to us. Let me amend my motion that it has to be brought to the P&Z for review and I want to see some traction and I want to see that its actually moving in the direction that it should be moving.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And we want a status report the first meeting in May.

Commissioner Lago: But I want it before the P&Z.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: May Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Lago: Yes sir.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias:...that's the request.

Commissioner Lago: Perfect. Does anybody second my motion?

Vice Mayor Quesada: Second.

Commissioner Keon: I just want for clarification. Is it going to the P&Z for their meeting in May or its coming – so it's the May meeting? No, that's all I'm asking, that what you said.

Commissioner Lago: Listen, by the way, I'm super flexible. If anybody wants to amend it and do it maybe to the following one, I'm willing.

Commissioner Lago: No, no, no. I just want to make sure I understood what you asked. That it goes to, that its prepared and goes to the Planning and Zoning Board in May so that it will come back to us either the end of May or the beginning of June, is that...OK. I just want to make sure.

Commissioner Lago: And I'd like to also have that put on the Mayor's tracking initiatives, so he can join me and the rest of my colleagues.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'll second that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed.

City Attorney Ramos: Sorry sir. Would you still like the status report the first meeting in May, because nothing will have happened?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes – status report.

Commissioner Lago: Maybe we can see, maybe in the first week we could probably see just a rough draft of the actual legislation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Another thing that I wanted to bring up was the 25 mile an hour speed signs. We passed this the first meeting in May 2018, 2017, I'm sorry, and every time the contract...the whatever, its been a year and I'd like a status report on that.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I know that we signed the contract March 5<sup>th</sup>, I know that there was a scoping meeting with the contractor. I can see where they are in the production of those signs, and we presented to you all the order of installation, but sir, if you give us a few moments we'll get Public Works in to give you an update on that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. Yes, please. Good morning.

Ms. Keller: Good morning. We had a kickoff meeting last week with the contractor, expect to get an update from him today related to when he will actually start installing signs in the ground. They were given their notice to proceed on Friday, that allows them to begin removing speed limit signs, the 30 mile per hour speed limit signs now, they have their permit; and like I said they will be providing me an update today when the signs will be fabricated so they can begin the installation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: When do you think that will be – a ballpark figure, a ballpark guess.

Ms. Keller: I'm sorry, I can't – I don't know – I don't have that answer for that.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We'll try and get it by the end of the meeting sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK.

Ms. Keller: He was going to get me an update by 9 a.m. today, so I should be getting that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Ok, by the end of the meeting maybe you can have it. Perfect.

Ms. Keller: OK – no problem.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Perfect.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And the last thing I wanted to bring up was the Coral Gables Art Cinema. The elevator in that parking lot – I went the other day and I had to ferry people up to the sixth floor or to the fifth floor, because the elevator didn't work and you told me, Madam City Manager some months ago, that we were in the process of replacing the elevator, where are we on that?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Director Santamaria do we have an update on the replacement in Garage 2 of that elevator? Not the elevator in the Cinema, but in the parking garage itself.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Good morning Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the Commission, Ed Santamaria, Director of Public Works. We do have a matrix established for the refurbishment and for the improvement of elevators citywide and that is something that is in the budget for next year.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But that elevator is particularly critical. We have an Art Cinema, we have Books and Books across the street, it's a six story garage and the elevator doesn't work half the time.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Understood sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That one is particularly...

Public Works Director Santamaria: Yes.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And there are two elevators and the conclusion was a replacement needs to happen. I thought a company came and provided some bids on it, so you might have some additional update within your office as to where we are with it, because clearly having no access to the sixth floor from that, we understand the urgency of it. I think there is a more aggressive schedule than the matrix.

Public Works Director Santamaria: That is a priority for us sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK, but what does that mean?

Public Works Director Santamaria: It means that when it comes to replacing elevators that would be at the top of our list.



Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, but is that 2019 budget year, 2020 budget?

Public Works Director Santamaria: I would have to confirm that sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That one is particularly critical.

Commissioner Lago: And what is the extent of the repair?

Public Works Director Santamaria: That elevator was undersized for the amount of ridership that it gets and the intensity of use that it gets, especially after the theater concludes a showing and you get a lot high volume, so it over heats.

Commissioner Lago: Have we already commenced pricing out the different subcontractors that could provide that service?

Public Works Director Santamaria: I know that we have done that with – we have an ongoing procurement process with...Krup and Otis Elevators for maintenance and specifically the Public Safety Building. I have to look into where we are with the procurement process for...

Commissioner Lago: Maybe what we can do to appease the Mayor and his very valid concerns and so do I, especially when you talk about issues like ADA and the elderly using that garage. Why don't we start getting ahead and kind of working in tandem with Procurement so that we can hopefully procure this when the funds do become available? I don't want to start working on it when the funds become available then start procuring this. Maybe we can start now working with pricing out four or five different elevator companies. You mentioned a few, there is Konig, there are a litany of other international firms that are here in South Florida, I've used them on multiple on my projects. Maybe we can start that procurement process which is going to take a few months and once the funds become available we are ready to go.

Public Works Director Santamaria: I'll have a discussion with Procurement to see how we can advance that.

Commissioner Lago: I think that will save us some time.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Agreed.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you.

[End: 9:40:10 a.m.]

