

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-4
October 23, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller
Public Works Multi-Modal Engineer, Mark Brown

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-4 [1:49:57 p.m.]

A discussion regarding bike racks on Miracle Mile

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Item J-4, bicycle racks.

Commissioner Lago: How you doing sir? Good to see you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Identify yourself first.

Mr. Brown: Mark Brown, Public Works, Multi-Modal Engineer Public Works. We've prepared a couple of renderings for you of bike racks on Miracle Mile like you had requested and I'll take you through it right here. OK. Here the rendering locations relative to the curb line on the Miracle Mile. So, we have a rendering within a parallel parking area. We have two renderings near a tree planting and we have another rendering near that triangle bump-out area, between the two parallel parking areas and I'll take you through it. So, here's the triangular bump-out area

with bike racks with bikes as you can see and without bikes. You can see minimal impact; you know not a whole lot of visual clutter...they kind of blend in.

Commissioner Lago: You know what has a lot of clutter and that has a massive impact is that concrete light post that's right there, that's absolutely horrific. I just can't stop steering at that, forget the bikes and the bike rack. Look at that pole.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead. Look at that.

Mr. Brown: Bike rack near the parallel parking area with bikes and without.

Commissioner Mena: Sorry – this is...

Commissioner Keon: They added additional bike racks on the Mile.

Commissioner Mena: No, no, no, but the fire one, I guess you are saying was off of the corner and this is different.

Mr. Brown: Right – this would be...near a bump-out area and this would be near a tree planting.

Commissioner Mena: OK.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: My inclination would be to make it as unobtrusive as possible. We just spent what, \$24 million dollars beautifying this area and that looks ugly in my opinion.

Commissioner Lago: Can you go back to the one before. I think you put some planters, kind of to give it a...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Put the bicycles in there.

Commissioner Lago: Keep going to the next one – next one – next one, you going the wrong way.

Commissioner Keon: The one that was in front of the Miracle Theater.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. City Manager what do you say?

City Manager Iglesias: We can have the City Architect offer his opinion...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is that the City Architect...

Commissioner Lago: Can you talk to me about those planters that you added?- shielding effect of some sort.

Mr. Brown: Sure.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's very ugly right there.

Mr. Brown: That's the bike parking area within a parallel parking space, using one parallel parking you had recommended.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It is but its ugly.

Mr. Brown: We did add two planters to help it blend in to help beautify the area, so we have with bikes and without.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. Yes sir – good afternoon.

Commissioner Lago: Sir, how are you?- Carlos how you doing?

City Architect Mindreau: Good afternoon. Carlos Mindreau...that e-mail regarding the installation. I think that we went through a lot of actually planning Miracle Mile and Giralda, several years in development and drawings, two years in construction practically and \$24 million dollars, I think I just heard the Mayor, and they created a really beautiful work of art; and I think that we have to be very careful how we touch that and how we increase that, because you open the doors for four bike racks and the next person is going to want another issue, a newspaper stand if they were to ever come back. Before we know it, Miracle Mile would be back to what it was, the typical downtown city center, city street with a clutter of signage, boxes for this, displays of various kinds. We already have Art in Public Places, which has been approved for the Mile when we get to that point of selecting the artist. We have four kiosks that are part of the original CooperRobertson plan that are coming in there. I think we need to step back and look at it, not only as a mall, but as a work of art which it is, and it's really beautifully done. That was my opinion.

Commissioner Mena: One of the concerns I had and I don't know if Ed or Jessica has this kind of information. After we left the last meeting, like the next day or two days later, it was fresh in my mind. I drove by Ponce and Miracle Mile one day and I just happen to be in the middle of a week day, but there were none of the bike racks on either corner would be used at all, on like a Wednesday middle of the day; and so, my question is, do we have a feel for what our current demand is. I know on the weekends and sometimes special events, obviously you have a lot, but

on a day-to-day, do we find that there is not enough space to park bikes or because when I've driven by them it doesn't seem like they are full the ones we do have.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Obviously on the weekends and special events there is a greater demand, but what it is that we're trying to address right now is, are the bike racks that we have in the right place. So right now one of the issues that we are trying to deal with is, and I'm sure you see it is that people are locking their bikes to the paseo signs, to the plantscaping and that's not where we want the bikes to be parked. So, that's a problem we are actually trying to solve, having the right parking in the right place.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Jessica can I suggest that we look into having the bike racks on Galiano and Salzedo and Ponce.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: At the corners.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, at the corners.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Each and every corner.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Not on Miracle Mile but around the corner.

Commissioner Mena: But we have them on Ponce and Miracle Mile, they are catty-corner, I think, right?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes. They are not on both sides of the street, but we have them on task; and again, it's not so much that we don't have enough, it's just not in the right place.

Commissioner Mena: Why is that not the right place?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Well, I mentioned this before at our last meeting is that people who ride bikes like to be able to see that their bike is safe and secure and it's easier to steal a bike than it is to steal a car, because obviously everyone who drives also wants to park directly in front of the business that they are going to, but it's a matter of security for people who are riding bikes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well we are going to have that issue with racks or not. We are not going to have a rack in front of every store and if you have it 50 feet or 25 feet down the street, they are going to want to park in front of the store.

Commissioner Mena: Do we have a high incidence of bike theft in that area?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I would have to let the police speak to that.

Commissioner Mena: I don't know if you know that off the top of your head.

Police Chief Hudak: Most of the incidents of bike theft in and around the Mile have been in the back alleyways, mostly crimes of opportunity, delivery bikes from...some in the other parking garages and other areas. As far as on the Mile, no. It's obviously in a very public area, so we...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I might make the point that there are more eyes on the bikes when they are on Miracle Mile rather than suggesting that we have people park bikes in the areas where we are experiencing a higher frequency of theft.

Commissioner Mena: Of course, but the corner of Ponce and Miracle Mile where we already have them and they are not being used is probably the highest visibility intersection in the entire City of parking and people don't park there. Again, that's my concern, we have bike racks and people aren't using them but we are going to put more in the face of the opinion, which I respect that there is an aesthetic impact to the streetscape.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Public Works – we were asked to bring some suggestions.

Commissioner Mena: I'm OK with the first two. I didn't necessarily like the one in the parallel – but I'm just concerned that we need this at all.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We are here trying to address an issue that exists as parking bikes locking them to other – and if it's not an issue for Commission then it's not an issue.

Commissioner Keon: I don't care if they chain it to the paseo sign actually.

Commissioner Lago: I thought the presentation this gentleman made was really nice and I thought that the idea the Mayor came up with in regards to using one parking space with two planters, I thought it rather elegant. I think it was very well done. It showed the City's real interest in making biking a formal option for people who want to get out of cars. I think it was very well done with the two planters, there weren't bikes thrown everywhere, its designated for a certain area. Are you not only coming here today because the Commission asked you to, but do you believe that if you build it, like the adage says, if you build it they will come, more people will come and enjoy the Mile on a bike, because if that's the case I support it. I think it's great. I think the way it was designated with the two planters and the bikes in the middle on a parking

spot, one parking spot, looks really good and it was clean. In my opinion it was aesthetically pleasing. What do you want from us? Do you want me to make a resolution and say let's move in that direction...?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We were asked to bring solutions and frankly, if the Commission isn't interested, if the Commission is OK with bikes being parked or locked to the landscaping and the poles, then we are trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

Commissioner Lago: Do you want to see if we move forward like voted up or down in reference to the plan that you provided?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can we defer this to the next Commission meeting as a matter of courtesy to me, so I can look at it?

Commissioner Lago: OK. Perfect.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Absolutely – and if there is additional information that you would like that you are interested in, if we can find that data we are happy to do that as well.

Commissioner Keon: I didn't like the planters.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You didn't like the what?

Commissioner Keon: I didn't care for the planters.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's defer it to the next meeting and thank you very much. Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Good work.

Commissioner Mena: Thank you.

[End: 2:01:36 p.m.]