

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-5
July 26, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-5 [4:42:22 p.m.]

Discussion regarding the dog park at Chapman Field
(Sponsored by Commissioner Slesnick)

Mayor Cason: Let's do this one first. Let's do the Chapman.

Commissioner Slesnick: This is regarding family...dog park...[inaudible – off mic]...and I was approached by...City of Pinecrest. Chapman Field Park is owned by the County, but it is considered in Coral Gables City limits...[inaudible]...they have taken about 3.6 acres and made them into two separate dog parks; one is 1.9 acres of...and one is 1.7 acres...currently its accessible...The County has already spent a lot of money on this with gates for both of them and sidewalks and meandering paths; and what the City of Pinecrest was proposing or one of the Commissioners there is to have the Gables come in with some token amount and Pinecrest come in to make it more habitable because there aren't many trees there or benches or water supply or drinking fountains and so forth. There is water in pipes but not fountains. And next year the water and automobile access is going to be addressed by the County in their budget to increase access. So, I just wanted to bring this up that if possible it would be great to have Coral Gables

pledge some amount, Pinecrest would pledge some amount and just come in here – can you switch the pictures, there we go. Its very open – this is a very large dog park its 1.9 acres, and then the smaller dog park which looks – that’s still the large one and sidewalks out there, and there already some benches, they could use some more benches, but they need more trees basically and some smaller landscaping and again, water fountains. So, I would just keep going, is that it?

Mayor Cason: So they are not asking us to do anything other than some shade.

Commissioner Slesnick: Either we could donate trees and put them in or just appropriate a fixed amount of money, \$5,000, \$7,000. They asked for \$10,000 altogether to do the park.

Mayor Cason: But are they going to do the – who picks up the pooh?- they do that? We don’t get involved in that.

Commissioner Slesnick: We don’t get involved in the maintenance of the park. We just need to put in more trees to make it – it was very, very hot out there, it was like 90 degrees and just steaming out there and you need some more trees in there, and they have asked that – they are trying to get native trees like Fichus and Gumbo-limbo’s and Oak trees.

Mayor Cason: Maybe also the benches could be donated by the Foundation as you heard this morning.

Commissioner Keon: I had asked the Manager if – have you checked with the County or do they intend to do more work there or are they done?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: This does not -- what Commissioner Slesnick is asking does not conflict with the County’s plan. So the County does have a longer term plan for continued improvement, but I don’t believe the trees and the other issues that they are talking about are included on their...

Mayor Cason: And we expect they’ll be Gables residents down in the south part will use it?

Commissioner Slesnick: Well this right now is out in the middle of nowhere, but the County is going go approve the access to it. Its down near the canoe, where you put your canoes into the water, so it will be used more.

Commissioner Keon: Well the issue is we have no dog parks, we have no dog parks in the City of Coral Gables, so this makes the dog park accessible and available to residents that live in the

south. There is another one they are looking at, at Matheson which could take care of this area, but that will take care of the south.

Commissioner Slesnick: This is not open yet, but they are going to open it soon, but again it needs a lot of trees.

Mayor Cason: What we need to know is what kind of trees and what do they cost so we know how many trees we can buy.

Commissioner Slesnick: I'll talk to the City Manager maybe if we just had a fixed amount, just up to a certain amount whether we put the trees in or just give money for the project, and I'd like to propose about \$6 or \$7,000.

Mayor Cason: I'm in favor of \$7,000.

Commissioner Keon: Yes, that's fine.

Mayor Cason: OK - \$7,000.

Commissioner Keon: Unanimous?

Mayor Cason: Unanimous.

Commissioner Lago: So ordered?

Mayor Cason: So ordered. OK.

[End: 4:46:51 p.m.]