

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item 2-2
February 25, 2020
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 Jorge Fors, Jr.

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Arts and Cultural Specialist, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

June Morris

Agenda Item 2-2 [a.m.]

A Resolution approving updates to the annual Cultural Grant (Recommended by the Cultural Development Board – Approval/Denial Vote: 5 to 1)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'll take 2-2 - A Resolution approving updates to the annual Cultural Grant (Recommended by the Cultural Development Board, 5 to 1 – presentation.

Ms. Cathers: Good morning Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Commissioners, Catherine Cathers, Arts and Cultural Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Department. And today, we also have June Morris, who is speaking on behalf of the Board and Leslie Pantin who are here today in support of this resolution. As you know, the Cultural Development Board meets annually to assess the Cultural Grant process and they met in January of this year, and they both thoroughly over the current process and gave recommendations. This year there are some minor and more significant updates. They are encouraging greater oversight of the process, so all we've been doing informal

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correction period, we want to formalize that with due process for greater completion of all the forms and process the information. The Cultural Grants guidelines as they said will also reflect minor updates. You have a copy of the draft for this upcoming process for the grant. And then also, they will like to be considered the benefit of the timely distribution of the grant funds to coincide with the beginning of the arts program season, right now its retroactive, and would also align with the City's budget process, approval process. So, besides aligning more with the City's, it would also align with regional, local and state processes. And within the guidelines you'll see the timeline that we are proposing, which would start with our workshop in April of this year. June would you like to.

June Morris: Sure. June Morris, I'm Vice Chairman of the Cultural Development Board, and I'm here representing the Board this morning, and I'm here to assure you of our careful consideration and in voting to alter the schedule for selecting grant applicants. We feel its so important for Coral Gables to align with the regional and state funding process for selecting grants for performing art groups. The calendar in North Miami Beach and Miami-Dade, for instance, has a selection process in the spring; and this allows small entities that rely on these funds so heavily to get their money at the very start of the cultural art season in the fall. Currently, we begin the selection process in October and last year we did not complete it until December, and that meant that groups performing in the Gables got their much-needed funds half way through the season. So, on behalf of the Cultural Development Board, I urge you to approve our vote to alter the grant selection schedule so that we can vote on the grants in the spring, prior to the City's annual budget process in July. The selections we make rank the applicants and are not a promise of a definite amount, based on the City's budget in July, the money is then given out. Thank you.

Ms. Cathers: So, what the Board will be recommending to the Commission in late spring early summer, would be an approval of the scoring and the method of a distribution. So, the funds themselves would not be disbursed until after October in alignment with all the other items that the Commission proceeds the budget process.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Are there any questions? Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Moved and seconded. Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

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Commissioner Fors: Yes
Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)

Ms. Cathers: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

[End: 9:21:17 a.m.]