

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-3
October 12, 2021
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Attorney/Intergovernmental Affairs, Naomi Levi-Garcia

Parks and Rec Director, Fred Couceyro

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-3 [Start: 11:20 a.m.]

Discussion regarding Miami-Dade County authorizing conveyance to the City of Coral Gables pursuant to Section 125.38, Florida Statutes for the purposes of improving and maintaining Solano Prado as a neighborhood park. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Item G-3.

City Attorney Ramos: G-3 is a Discussion regarding Miami-Dade County authorizing conveyance to the City of Coral Gables pursuant to Section 125.38, Florida Statutes for the purposes of improving and maintaining Solano Prado as a neighborhood park.

Mayor Lago: Yes. I put this on the agenda because after a lot of work, its finally being, I don't want to say given, but we are finally getting this asset from the county. I think its on the county agenda coming up or it was on the county agenda last week. Maybe Naomi can give us a little further guidance.

City Commission Meeting

October 12, 2021

Agenda Item G-3 – Discussion regarding Miami-Dade County authorizing conveyance

To the City of Coral Gables pursuant to Section 125.38, maintaining Solano Prado as a neighborhood park

[Date]

1

City Manager Iglesias: On the 5th Mayor.

Mayor Lago: On the 5th.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: I'm happy to report that on the 5th it passed unanimously. It was sponsored by Commissioner Regalado. The property went through the county's surplus property designation process, and it was initially initiated by the Mayor via resolution here in the City of Coral Gables. It took several months, but from a legislative standpoint its completed the process.

Mayor Lago: And like you said, as you can see right now, real estate is very hot in the city, so anywhere that we can find a piece of property that somebody wants to give us, we'll take it. Any piece of property, we'll take it.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: And Banyan Drive is also making its way through the process.

Mayor Lago: Yes. So, I was able to identify two properties: one on Banyan Drive and one on Solano. These are great pieces of properties, especially the Banyan Drive property is great right on the water. That's the one on the water, right?

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Right – elongated piece of property on the water.

Mayor Lago: Yes. Its very long, but it's a pretty significant piece of property that will make like a nice passive park, nothing too active, but something nice. And I wanted to just also really quickly talk a little bit about what we are planning on doing there in regard to funding for that, Mr. Manager for Solano Prado.

City Manager Iglesias: Mr. Mayor, we are providing our standard at \$175,000 for the park; the HOA is taking that money adding to it, and we are providing the actual drawings at 175, they will do the actual construction and it add whatever additional funds they feel to upgrade it above that level. That's the standard funding that we've used.

Mayor Lago: Perfect. So, this is a long time coming. This is going to be a great addition.

City Attorney Ramos: Ask and you shall receive.

Commissioner Menendez: Can we give her the key to the city, please.

[Laughter]

Mayor Lago: I don't have it yet. I'm waiting for American made keys to come.

Commissioner Anderson: We need another round later today.

Mayor Lago: So, in regard to Solano Prado and Banyan Drive, these are going to be additional parks that are really going to benefit the city and continue to add to our Master Plan. I don't know, Fred you want to say something, you are more than welcome to stand up. Again, this Commission continues to add to our Parks Master Plan to ensure that anyone has the ability to walk within five or ten feet, excuse me, five or ten minutes to a park of their choice without having to get into a car, and this is going to be a great addition to our portfolio.

Parks and Rec Director Couceyro: Yes, and it's a long time coming. We've been working on this for a while now. As you said, the Banyan Drive property has wonderful waterfront, not access, but a good view there.

Mayor Lago: They want to give it away, we'll take it, right.

Parks and Rec Director Couceyro: Yes – exactly. And its also used by a lot of walkers, they use it as part of a trail. So, I think it's a great property; and Solano Prado, I think it's a nice design that we have for the neighborhood. I think they are going to be very happy with it. We've really worked with them hand-in-hand and they've been able to tell us what they want and that's how the design has gone. So, we are really happy with how everything is going. We just need to convey it. It's been a long time coming.

Mayor Lago: Listen, we've been working on it. When I present it to the Commission it's a good thing, so I just wanted to commend Naomi, commend our Parks Department, obviously commend the Manager's office. We finally crossed the finish line on this piece. Now we'll go on Banyan, and it will be another great addition to the city's portfolio. So, thank you on that. Just wanted to give you a quick update on that.