

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
March 14, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner James Cason

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Arts and Cultural Specialist, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items H-1 [2:08 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission approving amended Cultural Grant guidelines and process.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk moving onto 11:30 time certain, before we go to Public Comment.

City Attorney Suarez: H-1 is a resolution of the City Commission approving amended Cultural Grant guidelines and process.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. First off, sorry is in order, I apologize for having you wait so long for 11:30 time certain, but thank you for being here, both of you.

Ms. Cathers: No worries. So, good afternoon, Catherine Cathers, Arts and Cultural Specialist with the City of Coral Gables. So we came before the Commission at the last Commission meeting for some direction and comments regarding our cultural grants process for the upcoming year; and as directed we met with you Mayor, Vice Mayor, and the Commissioners and compiled those comments. We made some updates which the Deputy City Attorney will be reviewing and we also presented them to the Cultural Development Board, who did make a motion recommending

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approval of those updates. The Vice Chair Nina Burgos was here earlier, unfortunately she had to leave, and she may be available on Zoom, I'm not sure if there are questions that she can address on behalf of the board. Otherwise, I'm going to hand it over to Stephanie.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you Mayor, Commissioners, good afternoon. As you know, we all met with you and as Catherine discussed, we looked at the guidelines, the scoring system and the requirements for participation in the Cultural Grant Program. The long and short of it is, we have added some bonus points to the scoring structure to account for those organizations that are based, as verified on Sunbiz or other ways in the City of Coral Gables, those who provide events that are free to the public that are seeking funding for those free events, and those organizations who have smaller operating budgets as defined by relevant IRS codes.

Mayor Lago: You took into consideration the comments by Commissioner Menendez and I think it was, I'm not sure which one of my colleagues talked about the free events, I don't know if it was me.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes.

Mayor Lago: I can't remember.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: You all had great ideas. So those are all incorporated here with the free events.

Mayor Lago: I just want to make sure they are memorialized, because they're important.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes. They were all great ideas. So they are all involved in there and we are also going to ensure that the reporting, the fiscal reporting that happens interim and at the end of the grant process are appropriately sworn statements that they are being provided that way, and there were a few other minor tweaks in the guidelines to the names of stuff or a couple of other interim steps that the board thought would be helpful. And I believe Catherine presented these revised guidelines to the Cultural Development Board last week, and they were supportive of the changes.

Mayor Lago: I don't have any other comments. I think we're ready to move the item, anyone. Can I get a motion.

Vice Mayor Mena: I'll move it.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Mayor Lago: Are there any public comment or anything to address.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir. Ms. Maria Cruz has requested to speak on this item. No public comment Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Perfect. Close the public comment.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Cason: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)