

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-2
November 14, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
Deputy City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-2 [1:41:07 p.m.]

A discussion regarding the City's potential action plan relating to damaged swales as a result of Hurricane Irma.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next is a discussion regarding the City's potential action plan regarding damaged swales as a result of Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Lago: Just briefly, I imagine you're -- you have received several emails in regards to what is our plan for swales. I have spoken to the City Manager and I have spoken to staff in regards to this, and I've told people, again, much to my dismay, that the residents are in charge or responsible for the swales. My case in point, I have a pretty significant swale that I'm going to have to revamp now after the hurricane. But, I want to make sure that we're all on the same page and that we're sending out a message of some sort, because I'm getting a lot of emails in regards to this. So, I don't know if anybody recommends we -- you know, we put the information out there in some form. I think there's a lot of mixed messaging right now in reference to who's responsible, the City, the resident and what should we do moving forward.

Commissioner Quesada: Alright, so here's my -- here are my thoughts on this. We have all these swales, some have been damaged, some have not. A few things. The way I see it is, essentially, we have three options. We do nothing. We give some sort of credit to property owners. Or number three is we hire a vendor to go out and re-sod some of those swales. Each one of those choices is going to cause some sort of problem.

Commissioner Lago: Of course.

Commissioner Quesada: If we decide to do nothing, we're going to continue to get people and residents be concerned that, hey, we had all this damage related to trees and storing of debris, and it's destroying my swales and it's been very expensive. We've heard that one -- we've heard that concern already. If we decide to give a credit -- if you credit -- so, not everyone's swale was damaged and some swales look great again. One side of my house -- I'm on a corner, so one side is great; the other side is dirt. There are going to be some people that have no problems that we don't give a credit to who are going to say, well, that's not fair. And in the last situation, if we have a vendor do it, we're going to have other concerns of hey, they didn't do mine as nice as the other side or they missed or they -- you know, something got messed up. So, each solution is fraught with problems. I'm, honestly, open to all of them. You know, I had a very informal conversation with the City Manager about this and said, well, what if we credited everyone --

\$100, what's the math. It adds up very quickly to some serious, serious numbers that we will not get reimbursed from FEMA, so that's going to come out of our reserves. So, just keep that in mind. Look, I'm open to the conversation. I'm glad you bring it up, because we've all had that conversation with residents. I don't know what the right answer is. I would love to do as much as possible, but is it the most financially responsible thing to do and what's the right way to do it if we're going to do it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think -- I'm sorry.

Commissioner Lago: No, no, go ahead.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: In 1986/87, we passed a resolution that we would not cut the grass on swales anymore. The City used to do it. And, we passed that resolution and there was some reaction at first, but people realized that it was their responsibility. I agree that our trees, in many cases, have destroyed swales, and in many cases, the cleaning of the streets did push the debris onto the swales and destroyed swales. But in many other cases, that didn't happen and the swales were destroyed by either backyard debris being put by the neighbors themselves on the swales or other people from outside the City or elsewhere putting the debris on the swales. I don't think that there's an easy solution for us. And whatever we do, if we decide to give the \$100, that will add up to a heck of a lot of money and it will not be fair. It will not be fair because if I took care of my swale or I didn't have the trees in the back of my house or I have a smaller house in North Gables that didn't suffer damage, I don't get \$100. And, somebody who has \$1,000 worth of damage to the swale is only going to get \$100. I think it's something we really have to think hard. And, I'm glad you brought the issue up, because it's something that, you know, we shouldn't solve today, but we should discuss with the City Manager and with the Finance people and see what we -- you know, what is the pleasure of the Commission to do.

Commissioner Lago: No, no, and I -- go ahead, Mike.

Commissioner Mena: No, I was going to -- and I think if -- correct me if I'm wrong -- in some instances where we had a huge tree on the swale that just completely uprooted the swale; I think we are committed to...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Thank you, Commissioner.

Commissioner Mena: Fixing that, correct?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, the -- we lost...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Replacing the tree, yes.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Three hundred trees, plus an additional 40 ficus trees. And those ficus trees took up a lot.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We're going to go back. We're going to repair, and we will re-sod, and then we will later replant a new tree, but we don't have a schedule for when that new tree is coming. But if you look -- like drive down Granada, there's a lot of raw dirt, because of the number of ficus trees that came down. We're going to come at them. We're going to make sure that they are all removed. We're going to properly re-sod and put back -- what we do want, though, is our residents who have been great partners, to water them, because the grass to really thrive will need to be watered.

Commissioner Lago: I'm glad you brought that up. I want to bring up just two points. I know that -- one of them has to do with this but the other one doesn't. Trash pits, for example. I'm taking advantage of this moment after the hurricane and I'm removing my trash pit, following all the necessary protocols and redoing my swales so that, again, I don't have grass there anymore.

We're going to plant some low-lying trees. We did that about two years ago and certain residents have taken advantage of it. And, I think it's going to be something interesting that I'm going to do now. So, my swale will not be a community trash pit. I think my neighbors may not be happy about it, but you know, we're going to figure this out. One of the issues that I'm having personally -- and I imagine all of you are also -- as you drive by the City, you see that our staff can't, you know, keep up currently with all the bulk pickup that's out there. So, sometimes, they're late and sometimes -- and we understand that, but residents are also not making it easy on them. They're not. They're...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Making it very difficult.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, they're making it very, very difficult. And, I want to address that point, because I don't want to be the bad guy, but there's got to be a point -- it's got to come to a point where we start helping staff a little bit. Because people are putting out boxes a week in advance and when the bulk pickup -- and it's because they're still in that hurricane mode and I understand that. I understand that, but there's no need to do that because we're already stretched so thin in regards to we're trying to catch up on multiple endeavors. So, are we ready to start with code enforcement with maybe a courtesy knock, you know, a paper saying, listen, guys, we're going back to the standard protocols. My pickup, for example, is Tuesday. You know, please do not put any pizza boxes, you know, storm front windows, you know, refrigerators, mats...

Vice Mayor Keon: And filters.

Commissioner Lago: Air conditionings...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Refrigerators, boxes, yeah.

Commissioner Lago: You know there are some serious, serious items that are being thrown out when people know better than that, because they've been residents in the city for a long, long time. And I'm not saying this because I want to get a thousand emails, but I think we have to work at this collectively as an entire body...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, can I...

Commissioner Lago: Because if not, we'll never get back on track.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I agree with you. And, you bring in a more serious problem than the one I'm going to mention, which is, you know, the trash pits. Has anybody thought about requiring yardmen to take the yard clippings, et cetera, away and not depositing them?

Vice Mayor Keon: I think the issue is more than just the yard clippings, right? It's like, you know...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Vice Mayor Keon: We can now put those things -- you know, they can put boxes. They can put -- I don't know, if their chair breaks...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. I've asked the question about requiring...

Vice Mayor Keon: That's the issue, so, yes, we have.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yard people to remove the yard debris.

Commissioner Lago: I know that Commissioner -- with all due respect, Commissioner Quesada has been talking about this for some time, kind of bringing it more towards the forefront. And

he's been having discussions and really trying to do some research in regards to what is the opportunity in regards to trash pits. I have gotten involved in the conversation over the last two years, and I'm taking measures into my own hands because I'm tired.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They're ugly.

Commissioner Lago: I'm tired of it. And, when you talk about being the City Beautiful, my trash pit, to be honest with you, is probably about a circumference of five feet, you know. So, I'm going to get rid of it and I'm going to take all the necessary steps. When my Tuesday pickup comes, I'm going to -- if I do have some sort of bulk pickup, I'm going to put it on my driveway. Everything has to be nice and organized. But the process that you mentioned, Mayor, has to be studied holistically. It has to be a significant analysis of what options we have here in the City. I mean, do we go the route of Miami-Dade County, where they have multiple bulk pickups? What do we offer to the residents? That's our greater discussion, which I'm dying to have.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, yeah.

Commissioner Lago: But I haven't had, out of respect for Commissioner Quesada, which has been working on that. And I'm a proponent of that. So, whenever you're ready, I'm ready to have a discussion, even though it's a very tough discussion to have. But, right now...

Commissioner Quesada: Whenever, the next meeting.

Commissioner Lago: We need to have a discussion about bulk pickup...

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Commissioner Lago: Because bulk pickup is out of control. Peter, I don't know if you have any options.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It is out of control, yeah.

Commissioner Lago: I don't know if you...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We've had -- in the past -- we've worked 90 -- we've worked over our weekends. We've taken away four times -- we've taken one month's work in one...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And so, excuse me, Peter. I think they know that the team has worked really hard.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, say it again.

Commissioner Lago: I feel bad for these guys.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: What they're saying is how can they help us educate the public, so that we move from...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Warning to compliance.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I understand.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Say what you were going to say. You picked up what? Say it...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We have picked up...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So it's in the record.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: A month's worth of bulk pickup in a week and a half. It has been four times the volume, four times the normal volume. We are -- tomorrow, we are -- and MR will put in the news that the normal pickup procedures will start Monday. We're also going to have that in the Herald on Sunday, so that we can...

Commissioner Lago: Can we -- can I interrupt you one second? May I? I'm sorry. Is there any way or -- my colleagues agree, let's spend a little money and let's send a letter to the residents' home and say, listen -- you know, on the letterhead and, you know, very appropriately state the fact of what's going to happen and put them on notice that we're going to move forward and we're starting to cite people if they're, you know...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We're putting...

Commissioner Lago: Putting out bulk trash a week before.

Vice Mayor Keon: I would rather than...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And what about cardboard?

Vice Mayor Keon: Even than cite them, I would rather we go out and pick it up and charge them.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, okay, fine.

Vice Mayor Keon: Let's just charge them.

Commissioner Lago: Fine.

Vice Mayor Keon: Just charge them for the pickup. I mean, when people put a bunch of trash out there...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No more cardboard boxes.

Commissioner Lago: I don't think we have the manpower for that.

Vice Mayor Keon: If not...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: They will be advised tomorrow.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Tell me about cardboard boxes.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We are going to put that out tomorrow in a weekly -- the weekly report that MR does. And, we are also going to -- on the Sunday paper, put a note that the normal pickup will start -- not normal, but the normal procedures will again start on Monday, so that we don't have a sofa on Segovia.

Commissioner Lago: Can you do me a favor?

Commissioner Mena: But, haven't we sort of done that already with October 30?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, we did that.

Commissioner Mena: You know.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Well, we've been a little lenient up to now.

Commissioner Mena: No, I know we have and I understand that. I agree with that to a degree.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And, we have picked up -- and I think -- but we picked up a month's worth in a week and a half.

Commissioner Mena: Right. I just want to make sure the messaging is different, because we already sort of said that for the 30th. So, I think the messaging this time needs to be a little more...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: That enforcement...

Commissioner Lago: That's what I said.

Commissioner Mena: Assertive.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Compliance and enforcement will begin.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, enforcement and...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Enforcement. Enforcement will -- not normal, but that the enforcement procedures and the normal pickup procedures with enforcement will start Monday.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Commissioner Lago: Can you also do me a favor in that letter? And, I appreciate that Commissioner Mena mentioned that. We've got to be a little more assertive and talk about compliance and what we're going to do in regards to penalizing people who break the law. I really need -- I want to make sure that we notify people that -- stop putting cardboard boxes out

in trash pits. That's all recyclable. Look at Commissioner Quesada. Commissioner Quesada received -- I mean, he lives his life online and gets so much stuff. He's even mentioned here before that now he's -- now he recycles a lot more. All that is recyclable. Take the pressure off the system and don't just dump it in the trash pit, you know, where that just sits there for five days.

Commissioner Mena: Or we need -- but we need to address our recycling, because...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: People are not educated in that respect.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, but -- no, but part -- I think part of the problem is, frankly, like nowadays, people get, frankly, more boxes in a given week than -- really -- than fit in that little bin that we have.

Vice Mayor Keon: Every day is Christmas.

Commissioner Mena: I mean, really. I mean...

Commissioner Lago: I break them down.

Commissioner Mena: Some people get...

Commissioner Lago: I have five bins, Commissioner. Five bins.

Commissioner Mena: Right. But, I think a lot of people don't.

Commissioner Lago: I know, I know.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: I'm just saying -- but I just get five bins. And, you're a hundred percent right, but I just -- when you drive through the city like -- and you see all those boxes, I mean, the mountain of boxes at someone's house, that just -- it pains me to drive by because I'm just like I want to get out and start breaking them down. Like Rhonda Anderson literally takes boxes around her neighborhood to her house. She's an attorney. For Christ's sake, that woman has a practice. She goes around and picks up all the boxes around her house.

Commissioner Mena: But, I think the fix is going to be addressing the bins that we're using for recycling.

Commissioner Lago: We're working on that now.

Commissioner Mena: Because we need to...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We are working on that. We're looking at some larger bins. We have -- we're looking at the logistics, how do you pick them up and looking at the different methodologies of doing that to get the larger bins. If we get something very large and you have to take it outside and put it back in, then our production is going to come down because it takes longer. So, we're working on the logistics now. Gables News will have it tomorrow.

Unidentified Speaker: Good.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And, it'll be very clear concerning enforcement, and it'll be in the paper on Sunday.

Commissioner Lago: So, we have -- we've told our staff, our code enforcement staff that beginning on "X" day, they are to start knocking on doors and, you know...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Beginning on Monday.

Commissioner Lago: Beginning on Monday.

Commissioner Mena: And, we're going to issue warnings or straight to...

Commissioner Lago: Well, what does this -- this is my -- what does the Commission think is appropriate? What do you think? Tell me.

Vice Mayor Keon: Well, I don't think like for one box. But you know, when people like clean their garage on Saturday afternoon and their pickup isn't until Thursday and the neighborhood has to look at all of that garbage for a week, you know, I think you should go. When somebody throws out a mattress...

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I agree.

Vice Mayor Keon: You know when somebody throws out their couch -- I mean, I think there's a difference between -- and I guess there's some level of judgment that has to be used there, but it's...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I think what we will...

Vice Mayor Keon: You know, and people -- that kind of stuff -- I mean, you know, or people throw out, like, I don't know, a whole array of paint cans or things like that. And for one, paint shouldn't go out there anyway, but you know, I think when it's egregious, you should go -- nobody should have to be subject to looking at it. I really think that that's an issue of warning people...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It is so unsightly...

Vice Mayor Keon: And telling people...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: For the City Beautiful to have that.

Vice Mayor Keon: And everything else that, you know, I think you go pick it up. I mean, we go pick it up anyway because if you call in and you say, like, oh, my god, there's like on the street across from Publix, on (INAUDIBLE) there, there was like a mattress and a sofa and two like big arm chairs or whatever. And you know, we called -- the City goes out and picks it up anyway. They go out and pick it up anyhow. And the people in the city know that -- you know, and so what. I don't care because if it's unsightly, they're going to pick it up anyway. I know during the hurricane -- who did I call? A neighbor called me on Santamaria, because somebody was moving out of the house and they were -- was it a year ago? I called and said, you know, two of the neighbors on Santamaria have called me and said the people are like actively emptying out this house, and they're putting everything, you know, at the street. And, I guess I called Cathy and she called Code...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Let's say Code paid a very clear visit...

Vice Mayor Keon: A very clear visit.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And at the end of the day, it was all gone.

Vice Mayor Keon: And, told them that they need to move it all back into that house and don't dare -- and don't...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Code went back to make sure.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Vice Mayor...

Vice Mayor Keon: And the people did.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I...

Vice Mayor Keon: So, I mean, I would...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wednesday, after the hurricane, I drove by your street and I counted 17 mattresses in a three-block...

Vice Mayor Keon: That was because of the rental apartments.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Fine, but...

Vice Mayor Keon: And, it was because -- I'm sorry, not rental apartments. It was the condos on the north side of the street, because the bottom floors of them all flooded. But I have to tell you, to Waste Management's credit...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Keon: Waste Management...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They picked it up.

Vice Mayor Keon: Came out and I mean...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, they picked it up.

Vice Mayor Keon: They had a conversation with Cathy as to how they could do it and whatever else and they cleaned up. It wasn't just mattresses. There were chairs...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, there were -- yeah.

Vice Mayor Keon: And, kitchens and...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Cabinets and...

Vice Mayor Keon: Everything out there.

Commissioner Lago: So, when do we start...?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: What we were thinking about was providing a warning for the minor offenses...

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And tickets for the egregious offenses.

Commissioner Lago: Perfect.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: May I make a suggestion?

Commissioner Lago: I agree with that.

Commissioner Mena: I agree.

Vice Mayor Keon: Write a ticket? I mean, I really -- I would just go pick it up and charge them. And you don't have to lien them. You can put it on their tax bill. I mean, we have those things with garbage and trash pickup anyway.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, so what are we going to do?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We will -- Gables News will have the message on tomorrow. We will have the message also on the Sunday paper. And we will, next week, start code enforcement...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Saying what?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Enforcing our normal procedures. If it's egregious, we will ticket. If it's minor, we will provide a warning.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, good.

Vice Mayor Keon: I also think -- and I've talked to Peter about it, as well as, I think, Ed Santamaria, that there is no reason that in -- when they're picking up the trash, that they have to drop that bucket the way they do and that they have to take a crater out with them. You know, this is an issue of training the operators of these machines to be able to -- because if you -- you will look at other operators for other things. They can pick up debris without hardly affecting the -- whatever is underneath it. So, there's no reason that this -- we should be seeing this. I mean, this is...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I agree.

Vice Mayor Keon: Truly a training issue that, you know, you have to put together some sort of a program to train the operators to, you know, be more careful. One, it's very hard on the

equipment. It's very hard on the equipment. They run the equipment too hard. We end up having to replace equipment, because of the way the equipment is being handled and everything else. They -- even garbage trucks and everybody else, but particularly with this. They need to be trained to be able to pick up trash without digging a hole. And I said to you, if there is some sort of an incentive, we know that, you know, if you can go through and not have to fill a trash -- you know, one of those pits and you don't have to do whatever and you can maintain, you know, the aesthetic of the city, you know, in the process of training them, I think you should set up a reward system. I don't care if it's, you know, a cost saving, you know, revenue share with them or something. But a lot of it is a matter of training. And I really believe you can do it. They're just used to having done it this way for so long that it just gets over and over -- and the minute there's a pit there, it becomes a receptacle for doggy bags, where I think if it's -- you know, if we don't have a pet and, you know, you maintain a nice-looking swale, I don't think you're going to get all this other trash. So, it -- you know, other things thrown in it. So, I mean, I really would challenge you to challenge your operators to learn to be able to pick up that trash without digging a hole. And you know, the other people -- is there -- how many people are on a truck?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Two.

Vice Mayor Keon: Two?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Two, and there are two people -- and the people picking up the...

Vice Mayor Keon: And the people picking up. So, between all of them, you know what, somebody needs to learn to rake up too.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I think these are good feedback. We're going to work on that...

Vice Mayor Keon: I think you should work on a program.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: As it relates to trash pickup and bulk pickup, we have resumed. We will begin enforcement on Monday.

Vice Mayor Keon: Right.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: The enforcement officers will have discretions on what constitutes warning and what constitutes and immediate ticket, and we'll move ahead. I think a later discussion that you all may want to have will be trash pits in general, recycling in general and how that can all play out.

Vice Mayor Keon: Well, but I think starting from today...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We'll...

Vice Mayor Keon: You can begin to look at training those operators or put a program into place to train the operators to be able to pick up without creating a pit.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: One thing that we're doing is -- that we're in the process of doing is providing a GPS in all the equipment and also a camcorder in all the major equipment. And, that was a great training tool in Miami, because you can physically see how a truck is operating, if it stops too -- if it's accelerating, not accelerating and how the trash is being picked up. It's a very good learning tool, and it's a very good training tool. So, as soon as we get that in all the vehicles, I think it will help quite a bit. It also looks at the maintenance of the equipment. It looks at how the person's driving. In other words, the overall operation of that

piece of equipment. And in addition to that, the GPS in knowing where it's at and how long it's been at -- so, I do think we realize that and we're in the process of doing that. And, I think it was a very good teaching tool, because if something is going on, you can visually see it. You can visually show a person what's going on. And, it was a very good training tool in Miami, and I think it will be -- the Public Works director is looking at that now to establish that in all our equipment, and certainly, in all the large trucks.

Vice Mayor Keon: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

(BREAK IN AUDIO)

Commissioner Quesada: We didn't -- with the last item, we went on a tangent. I don't think we realized. It was about swales. We didn't answer the question.

Commissioner Lago: I left it up to the Commission. I wanted to have a discussion, because -- I know we didn't answer the question...

Commissioner Quesada: We got into bulk pickup and we never -- I turned to Mike. I said, did we finally make a decision on -- so...

Commissioner Lago: I think the comments that the Mayor made and that you made also in reference to \$100 per household and the amount of money is -- I mean, it's a little bit excessive right now currently with what we're facing after the hurricane.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah, okay. No, I agree with that. I just -- I wasn't sure if...

Commissioner Lago: My swale is a disaster.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah, so is mine.

Commissioner Lago: And I'm going to rip it all out, as per Brook's guidance, and you know, plant it and get rid of -- I'm going to pay out of my own expense and it's not going to be cheap.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: My swale is beautiful, but...

Commissioner Lago: I know.

Vice Mayor Keon: I think you should let them -- your swale is beautiful. My swale is particularly beautiful. I don't have one. I think that we should move forward with, you know, the plan already to replant the swales where they're -- you know, where the trees were taken out. That is truly the City's responsibility and, you know, it is the dry season. Hopefully, the kind of grass that we use is the St. Augustine grass -- is that right? -- that you put on them. They have runners. They will fill in, you know, if they're watered and if they're taken care of. And you know, once the wet season returns, we can take -- you know, go back and address it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, but I thought...

Vice Mayor Keon: I think right now it's just...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I thought we did -- we...

Vice Mayor Keon: I don't know the -- I don't think there's an answer.

Commissioner Lago: I just want to be -- I just -- all of us want to be on one page...

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: And, the City put out a statement of some sort...

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: So, that we can refer and have staff refer to that, because I know that staff is also getting these questions.

Vice Mayor Keon: Right.

Commissioner Lago: So, this is the staff's -- this is the City's position in regards to this and this is what we're moving forward.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have to be careful. A hundred dollars per home in Coral Gables, that's 3 or \$4 million. So, we have to be very, very careful what we decide to do.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And you know, I thought that we had concluded by saying that we had to study this carefully and think about it.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Keon: I think we can put out a statement that we are going to go forward with replacing the grass where...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The ficus trees and those who -- yeah

Vice Mayor Keon: Where the trees were down in the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Keon: Swale and the destruction to the swales caused by the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Keon: City trees that they'll be planted and sodded and that's the statement we'll put out.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: Are we fine with that?

Commissioner Mena: Alright.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.