

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-1
February 13, 2018
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
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-1 [9:22:32 a.m.]
Mayor's Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor's Comments. I want to for us to take note that a very, very, very distinguished resident and citizen of Coral Gables, Robert Fewell, died this past week at the age of 96. He leaves behind several local legacies. As you admire many low-rise Mediterranean style building, you should know that many were a result of his renovations, including some in Alhambra Circle. Several non-descript buildings in downtown benefit from his investments adding charm, color, and archways as a major property owner to make them better. He made the first Mediterranean Irish Pub, John Martins, which is a local landmark. Another legacy is Fewell Park, which he donated to the City at the southeast corner of Granada and Coral Way. When the last vacant lots at the historic intersection became available, he bought the lots and gave them to the City for partnership, so open space would be preserved and it is a beautiful park. Also, when the Coral Gables Museum desperately needed additional gallery space, it was Mr. and Mrs. Fewell that donated over \$2 million dollars to build the additional gathering space and now we have a beautiful public showing. A successful real estate professional and businessman, he had a

great love for Coral Gables and we are grateful for his generosity. And, I have asked the City Manager to arrange with the Fewell family for us to have an appropriate tribute to Mr. Robert Fewell and the Fewell family for their contributions to Coral Gables sometime in the near future -- Madam City Manager.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, I attended the viewing last week on behalf of the Commission and the City of Coral Gables. I shared that with his daughter, Carol Fewell. They are having a celebration of life today, unfortunately during Commission, but I said that it was your intention to announce at this meeting an invitation for the family to return, so that you can present a proclamation on the City's behalf.

Commissioner Quesada: Mr. Mayor thank you for putting this on the agenda. I just want to say what an amazing human being. He was so great for our City. Not many people realize, but he actually flew airplanes and took pictures for real estate purposes many decades ago, so he has a great collection of aerial photographs of Coral Gables in the past. I think it would be great if we can, as part of the tribute, if maybe get Coral Gables TV involved, maybe do some videos of some of the pictures that he took in the past. I'm sorry?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I agree with you that we will have an appropriate tribute.

Commissioner Quesada: I know that Coral Gables TV does a great job with that, so maybe working with Historic Preservation Department, Cathy you guys can figure that out. I just want to say he was always great to deal with, he was always a pleasure.

Commissioner Lago: If I may Mayor. I had the pleasure of meeting him just a few times. When I got elected he was already a little bit older, very soft spoken gentleman, and he always was interesting, a few times that we did speak, he always talked about Coral Gables and about leaving a lasting legacy. The guy was a class act. So, I appreciate the Mayor putting this on the agenda. Anything like Frank said anything that we can do, if we can put together a memorial to recognize this individual. The legacy that he left to the City of Coral Gables is one that needs to be emulated by as many people as possible. He was a true gentleman. So thank you.

[End: 9:26:00 a.m.]