

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-2
January 14, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Director Historic Preservation, Kara Kautz**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-2 [9:19:19 a.m.]

Mayor's Comments – A discussion regarding the progress on the Fink Studio

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor's Comments – discussion regarding Historic Preservation. I have asked that this be deferred for the next meeting. There is a Historic Board meeting tomorrow and I don't want to affect that, and I would like to give people the opportunity to appear. A discussion regarding the progress on the Fink Studio. Anybody here?

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: Good morning.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning.

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: Ana Alvarez, the architect is unable to attend this morning, so I asked her for a quick update of where we stand. They are finishing the pre-design phase, should be done by the end of January. Had to resolve some ADA issues and survey issues.

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The conservator, who is on their team has been doing the conservation specs, working on those plans. We are meeting with the tenant next week to sign, to begin the interior build-out design for them. So once that happens, we'll have a better estimate of when we can finish the design development phase, but I'm guessing by the end of February.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is the design development, does that have the construction plans?

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: Yes. It's the beginning preparation of those, so they can approve them, make sure everything works, make sure ADA is covered, all the zoning issues...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Kara, can you give those plans to a contractor for him or her to start work?

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: No.

Vice Mayor Lago: No. May I just ask.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm concerned about this, and I'm concerned about and I've heard a lot of good things about Ana Alvarez, but maybe she is too busy for this project, as evidenced by the fact that she couldn't be here today and we would have made whatever time certain to accommodate her schedule. Maybe she's too busy and maybe we need somebody else not Ana Alvarez who maybe again, congratulations to her, too busy to do this project.

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: I don't believe that's the case.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well why don't we have it. Dona Spain said that this was a very simple inside project, because they would just be tearing down walls, etc.

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: Correct.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why doesn't she have it at this point?

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: She was waiting for the lease to be signed, the tenant to begin their interior buildout design, but she's been working on all of the historic aspects of it that the City is responsible for. So, the exterior, the interior, the common rooms, we are responsible for the conservation and preservation of that aspect and that's what she has been working on.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I want this project started and completed by May of this year.

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Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: Construction-wise?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes – everything. And Ana, two months on the project doing preconstruction plans doesn't help. Maybe we need somebody else. Mr. City Manager would you look into – I asked you in our weekly meeting how this is going and I'm always told that she's working on it, but if its not that complicated, according to Dona Spain, then maybe she's too busy, which is wonderful for her, but not for us.

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: I can ask her to be at the next Commission meeting, if you would like for her.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, I would. Yes, I would, with the plan, if possible.

Historic Preservation Assistant Director Kautz: OK. Will do.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. I'm very upset at this. I'm going to suggest that we get somebody else if she can't do it on time. Alright. Thank you. I'm sorry, it's not your fault.

[End: 9:22:34 a.m.]