

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-5
June 12, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Planning and Zoning Director, Ramon Trias

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-5 [12:13:05 p.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, Article 5, “Development Standards,” Division 8, “Docks, Wharves, Mooring Piles and Watercraft Moorings,” clarifying the distance of unobstructed, navigable water; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date (05-09-18 PZB recommended approval, Vote 4-0) (Changing the Zoning Code to allow forty-five (45) feet of unobstructed navigable water in the waterways north of Miller Road, as requested by the Waterway Advisory Board at their 02-07-18 meeting) (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Quesada)

City Attorney Ramos: An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, Article 5, “Development Standards,” Division 8, “Docks, Wharves, Mooring Piles and Watercraft Moorings,” clarifying the distance of unobstructed, navigable water; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. This is on First Reading. It is a public hearing item.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, this was my item and actually the resident who first brought this item to my attention is actually here in the crowd. But I think this is a way, because we have some waterways that are a little bit more narrow than others, but those narrow waterways sometimes makes it a little more difficult for a homeowner to improve a dock or remove unsightly or problematic dock, and obviously we have more than 40 miles of waterway in the City of Coral Gables, so it's important. So Ramon, if you can give us a brief analysis of this so that we can move on it.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Very simple. Right now there is only one rule for the navigable waterway, which is 75 feet. What we are saying is that that works in the southern half of the City, but north of U.S.-1 and with one block that's listed specifically, but also there is a narrower canal, it should be 45 feet. Nothing is being changed in terms of the width of the dock or anything; it's simply the space in between.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, I want to be clear because I had received some phone calls, we have received some e-mails. There is going to be no negative impact on any homeowner on the water anywhere within the City. Actually, it's giving more benefit to those homeowners that live on the narrow portions of the canal to be able to modify their docks.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: What happens now is that you would have to get a variance and a variance for five feet for minor little things.

City Attorney Ramos: Also it's important to make clear that the Mahi Canal site specific should remain untouched, they are always as they have been.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Yes, 30 feet for Mahi.

City Attorney Ramos: Correct.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I will move the item for approval.

Commissioner Lago: Second.

City Attorney Ramos: It's a public hearing item sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anybody wishes to speak on this? Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Lago: Yes

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“Development Standards” Division 8, “Docks, Wharves, Mooring Piles

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Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes
Commissioner Keon: Yes
Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes
(Vote: 4-0)
(Commissioner Mena: Absent)

Vice Mayor Quesada: Thank you so much.

[End: 12:15:07 p.m.]