

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-2
June 10, 2014
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Pat Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

Interim City Manager, Carmen Olazabal

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

City Attorney Intern: Harrison Wittels

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-2

A Resolution supporting Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage programs for feral cat population management and authoring the execution of corporate grant requests to finance Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage projects. – Commissioner Pat Keon

Mayor Cason: Let's move on to item F-2.

Harrison: Is that Commissioner Keon's item?

Mayor Cason: That is right.

Commissioner Keon: F-2 as Commissioner Lago said, we have all gotten calls about feral cat populations or cat populations or cat populations in the neighborhoods and there always seems to be someone that is and there always seems to be someone that is feeding them and there happens to be a group of neighbors that suffers with them and would not like them there we know that the

animal control from the County – we know that animal control from the County really doesn't involve themselves in this issue unless you trap them and you bring them to animal control and then they generally euthanize them, and what happens, what we've seen the studies have shown that even if we move some of the feral cats from a particular colony other cats move in. The colony sort of once it's established a place for a colony to groove in and so you never actually deal with the issue of reducing the feral cat population significantly, and the bans on feeding are not enforceable. The cats remain in the territory, they continue to reproduce and you also have a population often of sick cats with parasites and whatever else. So I am very grateful to Harrison, who has Craig said is an intern in Craig's office, that he has been involved in the rescue of animals for a very long time and informed us of some of the programs that could be available to us, and as a result of that we worked with Harrison and Craig to put together this resolution which is a trap and neuter program for the City of Coral Gables that is financed through a grant that we will apply for. We already had a discussion about the application of the grant what this will do. The good thing about this program is that if we do this as a partnership with the cat network, which we are applying for a grant funds to do, the cat network actually goes to the area where the colony of cats are. They track them, they spade and neuter them and vaccinate them on site, and they do release them, so you don't have an immediate reduction in the cat population, but you will no longer, those cats will no longer produce and if their life span is may be 2 years within 2 or 3 years you should start seeing a significant reduction in the cat population.

Commissioner Lago: Commissioner just a quick question. I have an issue similar to this in my neighborhood. Do they track after they've been neutered, do they track them and see if the population has changed or diminished?

Commissioner Keon: I think they seem to rely on the neighborhood to stay in touch or we would set up where they can stay in touch with us and say there seems to be an increasing population in our neighborhood. We have them go back out, they collect them again the ones that are spade or neutered they maybe would vaccinate or take care of, but any ones that are not spade or neutered they would then spade or neutered those.

Commissioner Lago: Because you know where this is a great opportunity both with F-2 and F-3, these resolutions, and Craig do you remember when we had a conversation in reference to that 3-acre parcel of land on San Amaro?- which is a wooden pine land right there, that's privately owned and I've been speaking with the owner on a multitude of occasions, and one of his main issues is the fact that is parcel of land has been overrun with cats.

Commissioner Keon: It is.

Commissioner Lago: It's overrun with cats and then the neighbors obviously, they have the right to complain because that's their safe haven, they go around the block and they hang out and they eat and do other things like defecating on people's cars...

Commissioner Keon: On their patio furniture.

Commissioner Lago: On their patio furniture. Let's be sincere and then obviously, what do they do?- they run back to the safe haven of the 3 acres.

Commissioner Keon: That should be our first target.

Commissioner Lago: That literally should be – I know that's 3 blocks from my house, but that would be spectacular because we could offer some sort of resolution for this individual who's been having to deal with Code Enforcement because he has no way of resolving the issue of these cats that do not belong to them, but have taken over his piece of property.

Commissioner Keon: And some people go into that neighborhood and they put out feeding trays and so they are feeding the cats on his property and we can't seem to enforce any action.

Mayor Cason: What would be the point of contact, it would be to go on the webpage and if you see your neighborhood has a lot of cats and you ask...

Commissioner Lago: That's a great idea.

Mayor Cason: Because you have to have a citizen input – 20,000 homes and 220 miles of street, so we really need the citizen input on this.

Commissioner Lago: Maybe we can do something like on E-NEWS. We could put out a bulletin stating or on the webpage stating if you have any issues in regards to feral cats or stray dogs, please contact the following number.

Mayor Cason: Right, sounds good.

Commissioner Keon: That would be a great idea, but we will – all what this resolution does is it gives us the opportunity and a plan for dealing with feral cats in our community, so we will – it authorizes the City to apply for the grant and to partner with Cat Network to have them come on site. One of the big problems with the county's program is that the County does not trap, so you have to trap the cats and take them to the county, and so often it doesn't get done. If we do this

with Cat Network they actually come in, they trap them, they do everything, so I really would like to thank Harrison for his work on this.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you sir.

Mayor Cason: And I'm sure you'll make a motion.

Commissioner Keon: And I'll make the motion.

Commissioner Lago: And I'll second the motion.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon makes the motion and Commissioner Lago seconds it.

City Clerk

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 1:08:12 p.m.]