

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting

Agenda Item H-1

January 27, 2009

City Commission Chambers

405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Maria Anderson

Commissioner Rafael “Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.

Commissioner Wayne “Chip” Withers

City Staff

Interim City Manager, Maria Alberro Jimenez

City Attorney, Elizabeth Hernandez

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

City Clerk Staff, Billy Urquia

Public Works Director, Alberto Delgado

Public Speaker(s)

Burton Hersh, Representing the B.I.D.

Mari Molina, Executive Director of the B.I.D.

Javier Salman, Architect, Corzo Castella Caraballo Thompson and Salman, P.A.

H-1 [Start: 11:09:20 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables authorizing the expenditure of funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 from Miami-Dade County General Obligation Bond Project No. 156-70661, Miracle Mile Streetscape Improvements, for the development of a Master Plan for right-of-way improvements consistent with the conceptual plans developed by the Street Design Committee established by the Business Improvement District for Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida. (Deferred from the January 13, 2009 City Commission Meeting).

Mayor Slesnick: Madam City Manager.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Yes, we are on H-1: A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables authorizing the expenditure of funds in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 from Miami-Dade County General Obligation Bond Project No. 156-70661, Miracle Mile Streetscape Improvements, for the development of a Master Plan for right-of-way improvements consistent with the conceptual plans developed by the Street Design Committee established by the Business Improvement District for Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida.

Commissioner Anderson: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I'll second it.

Mayor Slesnick: Moved by Ms. Anderson, second by Mr. Kerdyk. Mr. Delgado.

Mr. Delgado: As you are aware, the Business Improvement District established a Street Design Committee to develop and provide recommendations for street improvements on Miracle Mile and Giralda. They made a recommendation before this Commission back on November 18th and after a lot of effort, several months of hard work, they developed that plan of action. As a result of that effort, the BID developed a document defining the streetscape design services needed to implement this plan. This document is included in your package and it's under the title, "Downtown Coral Gables Business Improvement District Streetscape Design Services"; but the BID is requesting today is that the City hire [inaudible]...which is an engineering and architectural consultant, which is covered...[inaudible]...to develop this Master Plan, and this Master Plan will include the following items in your package that you have: number one, the full implementation of the design problem, and also will include four steps of the design phase, and if you look in your package, this scope of work will take the City up to the last phase of that particular project, which is the development of construction documents; and we'll include as part of the Master Plan, all that is required for the zoning amendments; all the civil and traffic engineering involved in this particular project; all the treatment of surface areas identifying all the materials to be used for that project; all the A.D.A. requirements; drainage calculations, and grading for drainage; traffic calming devices that are specified in this plan; traffic [inaudible]; traffic markings; the utilities – location locating all the utilities in the area; lighting and furniture specifications; dining pavilions; street signage; preliminary cost estimates, this is very important, because they need to come out with a very good cost estimate for the continuation of the project; and all the other things surrounding the actual Master Plan. In addition to that, they will have to prepare drawings that will display all the peripheral areas of the Miracle Mile, all the utilities, all the paseos, all the connectors, and the parking garages on the Mile; all the way that the solid waste handling is going to be by relocating all these dumpsters in the alleys; and all the parking garages connectors and signage, so that people will be able to get to the parking garages. All of this work will take, as I said before, to the [inaudible] of the construction documents, it would be the final documents that would be prepared, so that we can go for bidding and also the construction phase.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Mr. Delgado, are they, you said that they are going to go ahead and price out all these different things that we are doing throughout, both on Giralda and Miracle Mile, correct?- and they are going to, I assume that they are going to price those out on a piecemeal basis, for instance, its going to take a few hundred thousand dollars to do this, its going take a million and-a-half dollars to do that, and so forth like that, is that correct?

Mr. Delgado: And that's why the construction document is something that once they have established that and all the committees meet again and decide what would be the scope of work, then we can choose from that menu which items are going to be in the construction documents; if the project have to be done in full, in part, or if sections of the Mile are going to be addressed in a given project...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: And I guess they would also recommend logistically which one, how we would proceed if we decide not to proceed all at once?

Mr. Delgado: That's right. We have here today with us Burton Hersh representing the B.I.D., which a part of his committee we have Mari Molina, also from the B.I.D., and then also we have Ramon Castella and Javier Salman from the firm Corzo Castella Caraballo Thompson and Salman, which is our Engineering and Architectural Consultants.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: If I may just add, the Master Plan that is planned for part this project, is an important part of this whole, what can I say, development of the Miracle Mile Streetscape. With this information we will be able to apply for grants, we'll be able to potentially assess owners, if that's in fact the route we are going to take, and more importantly it will help us form part of the State/Federal stimulus package, based on information received today. This project does meet the State and Federal stimulus package, its an ideal project based on what it would bring to our community, the type of work that's involved, and the whole effort of trying to stimulate the economy. So we are asking for consideration of this project.

Commissioner Cabrera: What's your time frame for this?

Mr. Delgado: This plan is supposed to be done in four months, and then after there will be three months away to complete construction drawings and finalizing the project. So four months will take through this process, which will be the implementation of this plan, going back to the committee and determine what would be the scope of work, given an estimate; and then after that construction documents can be completed in three more months.

Commissioner Cabrera: And that construction period, have you already set a target date?

Mr. Delgado: Not yet because if we have the construction...once we have the estimate, we will determine if we have -- what would be the funding mechanism that we are going to use; if its an assessment project, if we have to (sic: fish) for money from the stimulus package, if that's approved. So all of these factors have to be considered once we complete this Master Plan; construction drawings, then we will specify how the construction is going to be done; if its going to be done at night, its going to be done in what period; so that's when we are going to determine when the construction is going to take place.

Commissioner Anderson: There are a lot of steps before that especially, as I think, getting property owner approval, figuring out funding mechanisms, and how that's going to work, that's going to take almost as long, I think, to figure out because there are going to be some issues.

Mr. Delgado: But that can be done concomitantly with the construction project; once we determine the scope of work, the estimate, how much money we need for the project, we would check if the stimulus package is something that is going; if its something that we can count on that money, then we will determine that, if not we will have to go to the assessment process.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Let me just say one thing; apparently this is something that is coming out of the General Obligation Bond, this two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), is that correct?

Mr. Delgado: That's correct.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So its not coming out of the Operation Funds or anything like that; let me just tell you, I'll support this because it is coming out of the General Obligation Bond, and because we want to get some documents ready for the Federal Government Stimulus Plan, so that we can possibly be engaged in that; but if we are thinking about going to the commercial property owners and assessing them, which ultimately will assess the tenants, that's a dead deal guys, I mean, in this market its gone for you know, not six months, but it might be gone for a while longer. Now again, our emphasis is to try to get some other people to pay for it, but we want to be realistic....

Commissioner Anderson: Oh no, I agree with you, that's a really strong....

Mr. Delgado: Keep in mind that we still will have from the General Obligation Bond; we still will have one point two million dollars (\$1,200,000)...

Commissioner Anderson: That's why we are trying to figure out, because that money....

Commissioner Withers: This is going to be what?- a ten million dollar project at least?

Mr. Delgado:...it will end up that much...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: That's why I wanted it split up too...

Mr. Delgado: Also, we will have some money from the impact fees, we had a meeting yesterday with the County, and they are willing to pay for paving and drainage also, so that would be another component in that project.

Commissioner Anderson: No, I agree, there will be a lot, especially in these economic times there won't be any...we need to find the monies to figure it out.

Commissioner Withers: And that was a concern I voiced, and I know I upset Ms. Molina when I said it, even though I support the concept; I don't see this thing...if we don't get this economic stimulus package it's not going to happen, that's number one. Question on the construction drawings – is that part of the two hundred thousand?

Mr. Delgado: No, no...

Commissioner Withers: Who is paying for the construction drawings?

Mr. Delgado: The General Obligation Bond still will be paying for that.

Commissioner Withers: So you are still going to come to us for more money after the two hundred thousand.

Mr. Delgado: Yes, exactly.

Commissioner Withers: How much is that going to be?

Mr. Delgado: Once we define the scope of work, then we will be able to determine how much more would be the construction drawing; the original estimate from C3TS (Corzo Castella Caraballo Thompson and Salman), was three hundred and eighty thousand (\$380,000) all inclusive, now they are dividing this in two sections of two hundred thousand dollars, and the construction drawings will be like two hundred thousand dollars more.

Commissioner Withers: Well, you said three-eighty.

Mr. Delgado: That's right, and this is two hundred, so it's close to two hundred thousand.

Commissioner Withers: OK, so why aren't we voting on the entire four hundred thousand dollars now?

Mr. Delgado: Because we need to identify – once we complete this, based on the estimate it will determine how much we can do.

Commissioner Withers: I understand that Alberto, but this Commission has to know that this is not a two hundred thousand dollar vote today; this is a four hundred thousand dollar vote today, and I want Ralph, Don, Maria, and Bill to know that this is not a two hundred thousand dollar ask, this could be...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Might be six hundred thousand...

Mr. Delgado: No, two hundred thousand dollars more.

Commissioner Withers: I don't know, Ralph, Don, are you OK with that?

Mayor Slesnick: I need to have that further explained.

Commissioner Withers: Well, what he's saying is the first...we are not going to do the study and then stop, we have to do the construction drawings...

Mayor Slesnick: With the study we need to be able to redefine the next step, which might not be another two hundred, it may be one-forty.

Mr. Delgado: Exactly, that's correct.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: There are some aspects of this – the ability to do a Master Plan will provide us both components necessary to get the job done. Some of these components deal with alley improvements, which in fact we already have some already to go, which won't be a cost associated with the design of those; also some pass-throughs, this simply allows us to identify those improvements that we have to take to the next step, like the sidewalk, the drainage,

the street paving, definitely those will need construction drawings, but there are some components of the project, amenities and things of that nature that won't require construction drawings, but form part of the project. So we do want to take the next step, but you are right Commissioner, we will be back for some costs associated with the construction drawing in the future, but I wouldn't throw out a number at this point, because I really don't know what items we'll be designing for that purpose.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Let me drill down on this a little bit further. The stimulus package is what we all sit up here and say that we hope we can get a part of; now we don't know exactly what the framework is or anything as far as that stimulus package goes, but as I understand it, they want "shovel-ready" projects; define to me "shovel-ready", what does that mean?- does that mean drawings in place, does that mean everything ready to go?

Mayor Slesnick: The closer the better.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: The closer the better.

Mr. Delgado: The closer the better, you know, they said that projects that can start in six months and can be completed in two years, that's the parameters that they established.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So essentially what Commissioner Withers is saying is correct, we are going to have to do the study, and then to be "shovel-ready", we are going to have to go ahead and have these plans completely ready to go.

Commissioner Withers: We are going to have to permit, which is another two or three months, so I mean we could easily be eight months to a year putting this together, if you are saying that its three months-four months; three months for the construction drawings, another couple of months for permitting, we could be a year down the road, and we are going to spend four hundred thousand dollars to do this?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: And by the way, have we totally concurred that we want this parallel parking on Miracle Mile?- have we gone ahead and made that vote of how the plan is going to be drawn?

Mr. Delgado: I think that this, they can probably...

Commissioner Cabrera: Well you know we haven't concurred on that.

Mr. Delgado: They have gone to all of these public hearing meetings that they established, and they discussed that, so that is something that...

Interim City Manager Jimenez: On the November 18th meeting, the presentation was made by the B.I.D. and their landscaping subcommittee; it is our intention to move forward with the parallel parking as presented unless I hear otherwise.

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, I appreciate you bringing this up, maybe its time for mediation, because here's what's going to happen; I could see this not be brought up again so that's why I commend you for bringing it up. This will be highly emotional by the merchants and perhaps some property owners and who knows, even some citizens, and at the end of the day we are the ones that's going to get the e-mails, and we are the ones that's going to have to respond to this issue, so I would like some sort of decision from this Commission if we move forward with parallel parking; now if you all feel differently please speak up now.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: But when do you want this decision, I don't want to make it today.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, absolutely not; I think there needs to be a lot more information disseminated.

Mayor Slesnick: [Inaudible – off mike]

Commissioner Cabrera: It maybe, it maybe Don, but Don its interesting, you bring that up, you thought it might be a part of the study; Chip brings up the fact that this not going to be two hundred thousand, its possibly going to be four hundred thousand, and he asks you and he asks me, and I'm sure Maria and Bill how they feel about it, well now all of a sudden I feel the same way you feel, and you said I want more information; so I want more information not only on the expenditures, but I'm ready to vote on two hundred thousand dollars today, because here's what I don't want to see happen; I don't want to see this thing become stagnant, and we lose an opportunity to move forward with the issue; but I also want everyone involved to know that there will be a second round of monies, and this Commission is not prepared to give those monies away today.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: As I understand it, the second round is working drawings; working drawings is when you are going to go ahead and execute the drawings, they've already made the plan for, and they are making the plan for parallel parking.

Mayor Slesnick: They better make some alternate plans.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Well, I know, we need to vet the process right now.

Commissioner Cabrera: I gotcha, I gotcha, I was only talking about the money part; I wasn't taking about the parallel parking part. So I hear what you are saying, and I don't want to give anyone the indication that all five of us, because I have said to Ms. Molina, I've talked to her about my concerns with the change of parking, and I've always said to her, look if at the end of the day the majority of the stakeholders want this, and if at the end of the day we can show that we have plenty of other available parking, we've got the right signage, and we've got the right ingress and egress, and we have the right way to communicate that this is available, then I'm prepared to support it, but that hasn't been shown to me yet, and it hasn't been shown to you or any other members of the City Commission; and I love the brochure, and I love the way they are informing and educating, and I love their Q & A because in their Q & A they talk about parking, but I need more information to give a final decision, and I don't know how you feel Bill, but I want to be one of the final decision makers on the parking.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Oh for sure, that's why I brought it up about parallel parking; I mean, I think that's one of the hot buttons, if not the hot button; and again getting back to my understanding of the situation was that when we go ahead and engage this firm, that they were going to draft a plan; the plan as I understood, and please correct me if I'm wrong, was going to be parallel parking on Miracle Mile, am I wrong on that?

Mr. Delgado: That's correct.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So that's correct. So what we are making a decision today...

Mayor Slesnick: Unless we change it.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Unless we change it, unless we start discussing it, we are making a decision right now when we engage the architectural firm to go ahead and draw parallel parking, and that might be the best thing since slice bread parallel parking, but I want to make sure its vetted in the public, in this forum so that we have the opportunity ultimately make the decision like Commissioner Cabrera said.

Mr. Delgado: And Commissioner, keep in mind that in addition to that, they will also carry all the recommendations that the parking employee provided as far as the paseos, and the connections between the parking garages and the Mile so that they will be implementing all of this peripheral improvements that will carry people from the Mile into the parking garages, which will be presented in public hearings; they are going to have a series of public hearings, its like the Charrette type of thing, which they are going to be showing those signage, those paseos, those connectors and all of the things will be taken care of in this Master Plan, not only is the signage, but the public hearings.

Mayor Slesnick: I think the B.I.D. would like to address this issue and I'll be glad to have them do that. Burton, Mari, both...

Ms. Molina: Good morning, I'll turn it over to Burton in just a second, but I do want to remind everyone that we did spend the course of a whole year having public meetings and having the issue vetted. Unfortunately, I should have videotaped them, or I wish I could replicate them, but we certainly have the minutes from those meetings and the constituents that were there; like any other thing I think we put one hundred people in the room and ninety-nine will by the end of the session agree, but you always have one or two that will disagree and really hope that...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I appreciate that; I really do appreciate that I know because I followed along; but the problem is when we make a decision the buck stops here with us; and ultimately the fact is as long as the other Commissioners understand that we will readdress this at some point, then I'm OK with it, but it sort of seems like the cart's before the horse here. Why would we want to engage an architectural firm, if we're not a hundred percent sold on parallel parking, because that's a main component of the overall plan, am I right or wrong Burton?

Mr. Hersh: It's correct. Just to bring in a little history and just review where we came from. In September the B.I.D. formed a Streetscape Committee, which in turn retained consultants from the University of Miami to come up with a design concept; that design concept reviewed different ways of parking, and in the end it did recommend parallel parking. The parallel parking concept was fully approved by the B.I.D. and the B.I.D. Board. It was also taken to the Economic Board, the Chamber of Commerce also approved it, the Board of Architects approved it, the Planning Board approved it, the Parking Board approved it...

Commissioner Cabrera: And when did we see it, and when did we see it?

Mr. Hersh: And you saw it November 18th (2008).

Commissioner Cabrera: And when did we approve it?

Mr. Hersh: I don't know that you came with the final...I don't know that the Commission...

Commissioner Cabrera: But that's the point, that's kind of the point.

Mr. Hersh: The point that I would like to make is that it has been completely vetted with...

Commissioner Cabrera: And I'm OK with that and appreciate that, but you know, he's absolutely right, and at the end of the day I can't refer people to the Economic Development Board and tell them to call them, and e-mail them. I mean, I have to deal with the issue, that's why mediation may be appropriate. We are going to have to fast track Ms. Anderson's project.

Mr. Hersh: What I'm saying is that we are bringing it to you after it has been through so many reviews, so many approvals, and for final approval it is before you, and may I also say that during the design process we had three public workshops.

Commissioner Cabrera: That's wonderful and I admire and respect the information that you are giving us, but as I said before, in almost eight years that we serve together, I can say this very honestly without any reservation everybody here takes a real active role in their jobs, and everybody here studies the issues, and everybody wants more information, and everybody wants to make an informed decision, so the point here is I know very little about it other than having the opportunity to meet with the B.I.D. Director, and having you come up here and make these kinds of presentations, I really know very little about the outcome of all these wonderful meetings that have taken place in a public forum.

Mayor Slesnick: What if we do this; what is the cost of having the architects?- it seems to be one issue and one issue only; I mean, everything else has to go on, the signage has to go on, the improvement, the drainage, the "dah dah", the paseos, doesn't matter what kind of parking you have paseos; how much more would it be if the laid out two alternate parking plans, one for parallel and one for modified angle parking?- which was...

Mr. Delgado: It's a major undertaking because the modified parking changes completely the grading of the road.

Mayor Slesnick: OK, I accept your...OK. I'm trying to find a way forward here Alberto. If we approve the two hundred thousand to move into this project, can they not address the exact parking until such time as the City Manager agendas us to take a vote on the parallel parking? I mean, at some point we have to make a decision at some point.

Mr. Hersh: You have to settle with a design.

Mr. Delgado: It would be an additional cost to design....

Mayor Slesnick: OK, here's what we are going to do; I'm going to ask the Commission to make a motion and to take a vote on the proposal before us, which includes parallel parking. If it fails we are going to have to then decide what to do next; so that we now know that a vote for this motion moves this project ahead with parallel parking; a vote against this motion means that we are now in a quandary of what to do next, and we'll decide that. So, I mean, I think that brings us to a head and we can decide.

Commissioner Withers: I just want to add, what is on the stimulus package; I know you are reporting on it on the next item.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Yes sir.

Commissioner Withers: What is the window of opportunity on this because we are looking short; I mean, are we looking a year down the road?

Mr. Delgado: No, no, actually if we can approve this today and we can move along, even we can expedite the development of proposal...we can expedite it, my plan is that we can have in six months, I will say if it is OK with the stimulus, so a complete set of drawings so that we can bid it out within six months, we can complete this phase, this is the plan.

Commissioner Withers: What I'm saying Alberto, so we bid it out, we go to the RFP with a contractor, it takes six weeks, we're at eight months to a year.

Mr. Delgado: Which we are within a completed project in two years, that's what they ask us, complete in two years.

Commissioner Withers: Complete the project...

Mr. Delgado: Yes.

Commissioner Withers: You mean, bid it, build it, complete it, we can't do that.

Mr. Delgado: Yes, completion of this project will take like a year. So suppose that we break ground by the end of this year, we still have the full 2010 to complete the project.

Mayor Slesnick: Well, if you get the cash up front from the Feds, who cares, I mean, you complete it when you can, but the question is that you are asking Chip, is when is this money available?- and that's going to be a very short window, a very small window; and they either will accept this project in its current state, they are not going to wait six months to see the drawings; we are going to have to convince them that this is quote, "shovel-ready" to our definition, and I mean, no, no, I'm saying, I don't think that all the projects that are going to be presented to these relief bailout plans are going to have an actual shovel sitting around...

Commissioner Withers: I understand.

Mayor Slesnick: We actually should present the museum if that's the case, and get extra funding for the museum because that is not only shovel-ready, it shovel-working.

Commissioner Withers: The shovels are already working.

Mr. Hersh: But may we make a point?

Mayor Slesnick: Let me just finish my thought Burton, then you can make a point. I think if we are doing this vote today with thinking that this is a way to capture this bailout money, I think we are making a big mistake.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Say it again.

Mayor Slesnick: I don't think that this vote is going to give us captured bailout money, I don't see that. If this project sells, it'll sell on its own merits as we already perceive it, because our vote today for two hundred thousand isn't going to make or break in the time limits that are being given to us; the project is already there and its being described, but whether we start this next step of the process, this isn't going to give us the bailout money.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So what are you saying?- you saying...

Commissioner Withers: You are saying present the project the way it is, and see if it is affirmatively received...

Mayor Slesnick: I think this is a very important vote, but I don't see it; when I vote yes or no, I'm not going to vote yes or no based on whether it's going to give us bailout money or not, I just see it as an important vote for the future of our City, that's all.

Mr. Hersh: My point relates to your discussion.

Mayor Slesnick: OK.

Mr. Hersh: The way we have set this up; the way that the B.I.D. has proposed that this should be done, and the way that this is being brought to you, is you can deliver the package in pieces based on how much money you have, so what you are asking your designers to do right now is go out do all the thinking and document the solution to the design, all aspects. Then based on

how much money you have, whether it be a million dollars that you have left over, and another two-ninety that you find down the road, or the whole ball of wax, you can actually execute this thing in blocks, in sections of blocks...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I agree, that's why I asked the question.

Mr. Hersh:...this thing is set up so that it's completely flexible, so you are not tied in to the full thing, that's the beauty of how it has been organized.

Mayor Slesnick: If we move forward today, and its planned around the parallel parking, my question though is, based on trying to be responsible for the citizens money and everything, a year down the road, the planning is done, the drawings are in, cost estimates are made, how much more expensive would it be for this Commission then to vote 3-2, let's give it a close vote, that we don't want parallel parking and we send them back to the drawing board to redraw some kind of modified angle parking?

Mr. Hersh: Well, we've been debating parallel parking for five years-six years now; the B.I.D. has gone out and done exhaustive studies; we have...

Mayor Slesnick: No, I'm not saying that we are not going to approve it, I'm saying what happens if it is?- I mean, you are talking to five political entities up here...

Mr. Hersh: I didn't understand the question.

Mayor Slesnick: How much is it going to cost us if we change our minds at some point in time in the future about the parking....?

Mr. Hersh: It will cost, it usually cost to do over what it cost to make in the first place, maybe...

Mayor Slesnick: OK, are you telling me that this component to the plan is so intrigal to the plan that it would be a whole new re-do?

Mr. Hersh: Absolutely.

Mayor Slesnick: OK.

Mr. Delgado: Another thing that they are bringing to the stimulus package, we are preparing letters, cover letters for each project, in which we are going to tell what would be the economic impact as far as labor, all the factors that they are going to be looking each one of those projects; and that would be good to say that this project the citizens are already spending money in the design of this project, and that would be part of the component, that this project is already moving, because remember this stimulus package may take three-four months to be approved by the Senate, by that time we probably will be over completed with this phase.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Let me just tell you how I feel. I'm not against the parallel parking, but I can't vote for this until I have a meeting here, so that we can notice all the people that have

property on Miracle Mile, that are tenants, so that we can make a decision up here. I can't support this, if that's going to be the motion.

Commissioner Withers: Want a public hearing on the parking, that's what you're saying.

Mayor Slesnick: Let's make it very clear; can I ask though for a motion to approve this agenda item so we can vote on it.

Commissioner Anderson: Can we as part of that ask for all the minutes, because I know I went to one of those meetings, and in general there was ninety-nine percent approval of it, so I don't have a problem with it.

Mr. Hersh: It was overwhelming.

Commissioner Anderson: It was overwhelming and that's just me.

Mayor Slesnick: Maria would you make a motion to approve this item? You don't have to vote, would you make a motion to approve this item?

Commissioner Anderson: I will do so.

Mayor Slesnick: And Ralph, can I get a second?

Commissioner Cabrera: Sure.

Mayor Slesnick: OK. We have a motion and a second to approve the item as presented to us as H-1, which is the approval of an amount of up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), to move ahead with the Miracle Mile Streetscape Improvement development of a Master Plan, and we now know that it has been disclosed that this particular item included parallel parking; and that if we later determine that it was not parallel parking that was our interest it would have to be redone, basically. So we are going to vote on this motion that will lead us to where we end up. Mr. Clerk.

Commissioner Withers: Can I ask one last question?- it will be real quick, Don. Normally – take the stimulus package out of this, if we were voting on spending money to develop a plan, wouldn't we normally have a public hearing or discussion to see the plan, what the plan is, I mean, wouldn't we normally do that?

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes.

Mayor Slesnick: I guess, in defense of the City Manager, I presume that she believes that when we had the public hearing about this plan in November, that we did air it publicly and we did...

Commissioner Withers: But we didn't vote on the...

Mayor Slesnick: I'm just saying how we got here.

Commissioner Withers: So your argument is...

Mayor Slesnick: I'm not arguing with you.

Commissioner Withers: No, no, I'm just saying this, you convinced me when you said a minute ago, that if we are voting on this for the stimulus plan, we shouldn't be voting on it; we should be voting on the merits of the plan, but we really haven't been presented the full blown merits of the plan.

Mayor Slesnick: We were presented with it, I don't think we approached it in such a manner that we stopped at the end and then took a vote to approve; I think that's what Mr. Kerdyk is complaining of is the missing element here, and Mr. Cabrera is agreed that that bothers him too; that we didn't say at the end of their presentation, OK, we've heard the plan, we're voting, we didn't do that; but I think that Ms. Jimenez probably felt that we had listened to it, and nodded our heads, and so she moved ahead to this point.

Commissioner Cabrera: Is that how you felt?

Interim City Manager Jimenez: I'm sorry?

Commissioner Cabrera: Is that how you felt?

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Well – Right. You know, the item that was presented on the 18th had all the details of the public hearings and all that, and I think there was an understanding, but I understand where the Commission is coming from, and our concern right now is to move forward with that Master Plan, again because there are so many components to it, and so that's our recommendation.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. So what do we want to do?

Mayor Slesnick: Well we are going to vote on this motion, which would be up or down on this, and then we'll...

Commissioner Cabrera: But this motion has no bearing, this vote will have no bearing on how we feel about parking issue?

Mayor Slesnick: Oh, it has every bearing. I think if you support the parallel parking at this juncture, you should vote yes; if you do not either support or you feel uncomfortable at this time you should vote no.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK.

Ms. Molina: Can I make one final comment please? Mr. Delgado, if we for any reason don't get the two hundred thousand approved now and start using the County Bond money, the one point four million (\$1,400,000), do we basically lose that?

Mr. Delgado: Well the County has told us that they want to use that account because that's the only funding that has not been touched so far; we have been moving along with the parks, we have been moving along with the other items and this is the only one that is...

Mayor Slesnick: So we are under the gun.

Mr. Delgado: Yes, we are under the gun...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: That's a very interesting question, but is it going to make a difference if we fund it today, or if we fund it a month from now?- do you see a substantial difference of today or a month from now?

Mr. Delgado: We were expecting by the end of the year last year to have the...[inaudible]...because we are already in January, so they were expecting that, so we are kind of under the gun. So we need to...

Mayor Slesnick: Well, before we put a guilt complex on us, I don't remember this being on our agenda before. Maria, this is important.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Yes sir.

Mayor Slesnick: I think it is very, very irresponsible for us to have heard what Mr. Delgado just said and for us not to know what is our position with the County, is it that the money is lost tomorrow, its lost next week, did it get lost January 1st, and we are going through an exercise in futility, I mean, Mr. Delgado has implied that unbeknownst to us, that we either did something by the end of the year, and now maybe this month or maybe next month, I don't know...

Interim City Manager Jimenez: We have met with the County; the County is well aware that we are moving forward, you know, as best we can with the project, that there is a lot of consensus building as part of the project; I have no concern about losing that money.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Maybe we delay it a month or two weeks.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Well I have no concern with losing the funding, obviously...

Mayor Slesnick: I want you to be concerned, if we should be concerned you should tell us, is what I'm saying.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: I understand that. I think we need to make a decision in the next month concerning the project and start using the funds.

Mr. Delgado: We submit a report every month....so by the end of this month we need to report again what happened, that's my only concern; you need to report every month what is the status of the funds, so every month that we pass is a month that we need...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Can I ask Javier one question, since no one has talked to the architect himself; Javier, can you come up here please.

Javier Salman: Good morning, I'm Javier Salman with C3TS Engineers and Architects.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think the question is, and you've heard the whole discussion; question is, if we approve the two hundred thousand dollars, and you got started on something, and a month from now we made a change in the parking, which is a prime, or the prime part of this whole plan, how would that impact you.?- and could you start the study before that?

Mr. Salman: There are certain aspects of the project which are not Miracle Mile focused, we can start with [inaudible] for the next couple of week, while the Commission was to get its consensus with regards to the parking, I mean, certainly that is something we could do from a scheduling point of view.

Mayor Slesnick: What if we approve the two hundred thousand dollars today, with the caveat not to do the parking until we time certain set a consideration for final vote like next meeting or something, or the meeting after that, whatever. So we would approve...

Mr. Salmon: That would be acceptable to the process; we can work around and we are certainly her to serve.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: That's what my thought would be.

Mayor Slesnick: Well, let me ask you this, let me ask you this; would you amend the motion to approve the expenditure of up to two hundred thousand for the Miracle Mile Streetscape Improvement Master Plan with this proviso, that the persons preparing the plan are advised not to proceed with any of the parking plans until we consider those specifically and give further direction.

Commissioner Anderson: I accept that. Yes.

Mayor Slesnick: And do you accept that as the seconder, Ralph?

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes.

Mayor Slesnick: OK. The motion now stands that we are considering approving up to two hundred thousand dollars to go move forward with the Miracle Mile Master Plan and seemingly from Javier, that it may include other elements besides Miracle Mile, but the Master Plan, whatever it includes, and that we will set, as soon as we take a vote on this, a time when we will consider a vote of this Commission on the parking arrangements, and that you are instructed not to do anything about the parking until such time.

Mr. Clerk

Commissioner Anderson: Yes
Commissioner Cabrera: Yes
Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes
Commissioner Withers: Yes
Mayor Slesnick: Yes
(Vote: 5-1)

Mayor Slesnick: Now, what is the Commission's desire about moving forward on setting the next meeting?

Commissioner Anderson: Probably a time certain because business interests would like to be here, I'm sure.

Mayor Slesnick: Next meeting?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Within the next two meetings, is fine with me.

Mayor Slesnick: OK, well within the next two meetings depending on how the Manager sees the agenda setting up.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think that's good.

Mayor Slesnick: Will that be sufficient?- and of course at that time and at that hearing the B.I.D. will go first with a full presentation, I mean, this Commission would appreciate an expedited presentation concentrating on the parallel parking, but I think Ralph is right, to focus on the parallel parking you must also go back over, and I know you've done this, but the signage and the paseos and things like that.

Commissioner Cabrera: And to the City Manager's office, if we could then have a very brief recount of all the Boards and Committees mentioned, and all the organizations mentioned and their position on this issue as kind of an outline for us to follow.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Absolutley.

Commissioner Cabrera: Don't need the full details as much as I need to see the outline of their thought process and final decision and/or recommendation.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Absolutely.

Commissioner Anderson: What I'd like also is if we could get a copy of minutes from those public meetings; do you have minutes from those meetings?

Ms. Molina: You know thinking back, we have sign in sheets from all the meetings, and we have general paragraphs summarizing, but we don't have verbatim minutes.

Commissioner Anderson: You don't have any kind of documentation that shows what your constituents have said about the project?

Ms. Molina: I do have a collection of e-mails and letters; I can assemble that as well.

Commissioner Cabrera: And that's because you feel very strongly there's been a lot of feedback on both sides.

Commissioner Anderson: I do, but it's just a question of fact-finding for me to remember what's been said.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, I like that.

Mr. Hersh: And we would like to articulate that for you so you feel comfortable, because I agree, in the end the decision is with this Commission, and it should understand fully all of these issues and what we've done and who we showed it to, and what they said; I support that decision to stop to look at things and so on....

Commissioner Cabrera: Last comment – can we then have the Parking Director here that day?

Interim City Manager Jimenez: Absolutely, and we do have the minutes from the Boards that did review the plans, so.

Commissioner Cabrera: As long as its specific to this issue, I don't mind, but if I have to read through an entire minutes of meeting.

Interim City Manager Jimenez: If it's OK with you we'll summarize that.

Commissioner Cabrera: Awesome, that's great, that's good stuff.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you. We have a vote now for proceeding to go forward with the condition that we will come back with the one issue. Thank you.

[End: 11:50:41 a.m.]