

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item K – Discussion Items
February 28, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item K – Discussion Items [1:17:54 p.m.]

Mayor Cason: Let's start with Commissioner Slesnick in terms of discussion, any items?

Commissioner Slesnick: I'm fine, thank you.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Lago: Just for staff, I had the pleasure of attending the HOA for MacFarlane this past week, they mentioned crosswalks for connectivity in regards to the new community center; and also just to put it on your radar, it's been brought to my radar for the first time. I also went to the HOA of Gables by the Sea this past week and they brought up the issue of alligators and that they are becoming more and more aggressive and they are concerned because, I guess, I'm just telling you what they told me, that there has been a few dogs that have gone missing.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, I spend a lot of time at Gables by the Sea, my parents live there.

Commissioner Lago: They mentioned that to me. They said that you have been very involved....

Mayor Cason: How many dogs have you had when you were there? (Laughter)

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, a few dogs have been eaten by alligators and killed by alligators over the years. It is what it is.

Mayor Cason: Protected species.

Vice Mayor Quesada: The problem is it's a protected species, so the Florida Fish and Wildlife, when you call them, when you call the State Department on this, what they tell you is, OK, well unless they have actually hurt a human being we can't do anything about it.

Commissioner Lago: I just wanted to bring to your attention, I'm not saying I'm going to go out there and start wrangling alligators, but more importantly, in reference to the HOA for MacFarlane, can somebody do me a favor and call Ms. Prime and just have a simple conversation with her in reference to exact locations and the issue is that as the new community center is going to come online you also have a lot of children that are in the area and as a result of Carver and walking up and down Grand.

Commissioner Keon: You know the other thing that we talked about at one time and maybe Naomi could have a discussion with the County on it is that, there are no sidewalks in the area, because of the way it was planned, it is just swales, so there are no sidewalks, but under – there is a CDBG allocation if they are still an eligible track for Safe Paths to Schools, where they can provide sidewalk at least one side of the street with some crossing opportunities that would help cover those paths to schools, and maybe we should look into that and be in touch with Commissioner Suarez' office as a request under that, and if not, maybe we could actually look at with our sidewalk program being able to provide a walking path through the neighborhood, because the vast majority of those children walk to school that live in that neighborhood and there are a lot of cars that come through that neighborhood, taking children that don't live in that neighborhood to school, so there is a real mix of pedestrian and car traffic in the community, so maybe we can work with them to work on a safe path to school for the residents in the community itself.

Mayor Cason: Any other items?

Commissioner Keon: No, that's it.

Mayor Cason: Alright – with that meeting is adjourned.

[End: 1:21:08 p.m.]