

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-4
August 22, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-4

Discussion regarding addition of landscaping on Valencia Avenue.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto F-4. If I could on F-4, and my two items, F-4 which is discussion regarding additional landscaping on Valencia. Can we just try to make it as quick as possible, because there's a lot of things and I want to make sure everybody gets home on time.

Public Works Director Diaz: Billy, presentation F-4. Good evening, Hermes Diaz, Public Works Director. So, a few weeks ago, the Mayor and myself at his request, we made a...at Valencia and he asked me to look into figure out a way to put some bump-outs or put some additional landscaping on Valencia. I know that's something that Vice Mayor Anderson also, something that she brought up before. So, at the last Commission meeting, we were asked specifically were directed to go ahead and see how this would be feasible. This is what we came up to, something relatively simple. The idea is, you've got two parking spaces in between the driveways at the city parking lot. Rather than keeping the sidewalk...because you've got a 20-inch waterline on the area where the swale will be, and then you've got some powerlines, so we are moving the sidewalk and there's a...coming up. So the idea is to put a bump-out right in front of the parking lot and then a

City Commission Meeting
August 22, 2023

couple of triangular bump-outs on the south side of the parking lane, which will kind of mirror what's already in the western side of that area, and one of the things, we've actually got a survey so we chose locations where the drainage will be impacted where some water runoff goes in opposite directions, so that won't be an issue; and there's a little bit of...that needs to be designed with more detail, but in essence that is the entrance in between the two driveways in front of the parking lot. Those you're looking at medium size trees and again, the sidewalk shift will create a planter on the north side. It will also blend in, just a little bit of a landscaping strip on the parking lot side, so you are getting a little more of a green space. And you see the two parking spaces in that area that will be lost. And then we're thinking in this area potentially couple of...that kind of tree or anything we consider...

Vice Mayor Anderson: Anything that has shade will be wonderful.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes. And then on the other side, on the south side, something that will mirror what is existing already at a couple of locations, couple of bump-outs with some oaks, or any other tree that will be desired where you could put something a little bit larger there, because you don't have the same type of conflicts. That's an additional blow-up. We'll maintain the 8-foot sidewalk, two...additional planting space, a little bit of ground coverage, especially in front of the parking lot. That parking lot is kind of barren, so I think it will help the look.

Mayor Lago: I think its important because there is no shade on the other side, as you can see, its pretty hot, when we talk about heat island effect. When we walk that area its also an opportunity for a median in the middle. I think its pretty big. Obviously, I'll leave that up to you.

Public Works Director Diaz: What, I'm sorry.

Mayor Lago: A median – some sort of thin...

Public Works Director Diaz: There's no space.

Mayor Lago: No space, okay. We didn't finalize...we talked about it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Years ago, with the other project I was working on, they had for a really skinny thing, that was...

Public Works Director Diaz: And it will come with the space some of the parking on the side, because the bump-outs – when you get to the corner its already built out, they have a valet with some parking space and then you have the other landscaping on the other side. It's not really – without loosing parking space, I don't think you can get anything there significant, but we're looking at something that mimic, you've got three triangular bump-outs on the south, we're adding a couple more to the east and the other one in the middle. If we want to add more, obviously it will come at the expense of additional parking space and then you're looking at impacting the drainage,

*City Commission Meeting
August 22, 2023*

so the cost will go up, but it's a possibility. The locations that we chose were the ones that they will have the smallest impact. You're looking at a loss of four parking spaces in the block with doing this. And approximately, we anticipate the cost of construction about \$60,000 to do this work.

Mayor Lago: Okay. I really appreciate it. Present it to the Manager, as you just did, see if there's any interest to move forward with this project. I think the residents will really like it. They are the ones that obviously brought it to my attention.

Public Works Director Diaz: We'd like to get direction from the Commission, whether this is something they'd like us to proceed with design and moving forward with.

Mayor Lago: Commission, brought it before you. What would you like to do?

Commissioner Fernandez: You need action from us today then?

Vice Mayor Anderson: I obviously, would like to see some trees. The suspect is in custody on the...

Commissioner Fernandez: Okay. So, I'll make a motion to, I guess, instruct staff to move forward with the plan.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Let's move forward with the plan.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And if you could, look around the corner there on Fernando, there's just a need for like one or two more...

Public Works Director Diaz: We'll take a look at the bump-out that's already there. We'll take a look.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I have no objection there. So, I'm going to step out for just a minute.

City Clerk Urquia: All in favor.

All: Aye.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for the support.