

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-4
December 8, 2015
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 Items H-3 & H-4 [Start: 1:40:40 p.m.]

H-3: A Resolution redesigning Giralda Avenue between Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Galiano Street from road right-of-way to City of Coral Gables property; renaming this area Giralda Plaza; directing the City Manager and City staff to modify all maps of the City to reflect this change in designation, apply to Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser for a separate folio number for such parcel, and to record this resolution in the public records of Miami-Dade County, Giralda Avenue, between Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Galiano Street has been the successful host of “Giralda Under the Stars,” a bustling fresco dining and live entertainment destination since 2009.

H-4: A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida issuing a Zoning in Progress in accordance with Article 3, “Development Review,” Division 7, “Moratorium,” Section 3-703, “Zoning in Progress Request” and 3-704, “City Commission Zoning in Progress Resolution Review and Decision” for the consideration of Zoning Code text amendments to protect and enhance the

character of the 100 block of Giralda Avenue, known as “Restaurant Row” on the property legally described as Section L, Block 29; Lots 21 – 37, Block 33, Lots 3 – 24, Coral Gables, Florida, providing for an effective date.

Mayor Cason: H-4, City Manager.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We are going to ask Ramon Trias and Charles Wu to assist with this. This is a Zoning in Progress that we are recommending. No one in the City is talking about this development in the 100 block of Giralda right now, no one has gone to DRC, no one is at Planning and Zoning Board, it’s the perfect time to initiate this measure. H-4.

Mr. Trias: The City Manager explained it very well. We have prepared an attachment, but its just the very first draft; nobody has seen it yet, staff needs to review it. I anticipate that we are going to take this proposed language to the Planning and Zoning Board as soon as we can; and I think that the idea is to see if we can keep the scale of the buildings to a reasonable size, probably three stories at the front and see if we can enhance the quality of the space.

Mayor Cason: Any discussion.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Do we need a vote on it? I think it’s a great idea, considering that street, I think it gives a lot of character and charm and once we fix it up it would even be nicer; and I’m still looking forward to the day we can hang the lights over the street...it would be nice at a low level.

Commissioner Slesnick: Aren’t we doing that on Giralda?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: That’s H-3 also. So we’ve got two items here and H-3 moves the Giralda right-of-way in the 100 block only to City, allowing those lights that you are talking about, allowing that establishment of the square; and H-4 initiates a Zoning in Progress because what makes that 100 block so special is that intimate scale and this helps preserve that.

Mr. Trias: Perfect – and the attachment explains the current conditions and the future goals.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So I move to approve H-4.

Mayor Cason: On H-4 we have the Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Mayor Cason: And Commissioner Slesnick seconds. City Clerk.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: (Stepped out of the room)

Mayor Cason: Yes – And H-3.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I move to approve H-3.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes the motion.

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Slesnick seconds. City Clerk.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 4-0; Commissioner Lago absent)

