

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items I-4 and I-5
January 8, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Frank Quesada**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Arts and Culture Specialist, Catherine Cathers**

Public Speaker(s)

John Adams

Agenda Item I-4 and I-5 [9:42:56 a.m.]

I-4: Cultural Development Board Meeting of November 6, 2018

I-5: Cultural Development Board Meeting of December 14, 2018

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And now we have Boards and Committees, they are requesting no action from the City Commission and...

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor those items were approved by the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, but I'd like to make a comment on I-4 and I-5, the Cultural Development Board and the Cultural Development meeting. This is not about the Board or about the meeting necessarily, but it has to do with process, procedure. I've been very committed and I think the Commission has been too, to make Coral Gables the City of art and a City that is proud of its art heritage and its art acquisitions. You look at Giralda, you look at our courtyard; on the courtyard I have a comment – David Haze, a great sculptor, his son who is handling his work, lent us that piece there, which I think everybody is satisfied with about a year and-a-half ago; and in November he said, or late October he said that he wanted it back, because they were going to

auction it off in Connecticut. The price \$50,000 and they are going to auction it off and I convinced him to consider donating it to or selling it to the City of Coral Gables at a very preferential price; and he very graciously accepted or agreed to that and will give it to us for \$25,000 out of art funds, not out of public funds or tax dollars or anything but art funds. And I talked to our person in charge of this and she said that yes, that they would take it up to the Cultural, I mean to the Arts Panel, this is in November. It came up at this Commission in December, as you will remember, and it was going to be taken up at the Arts Panel; and I called yesterday to find out what had happened. The Arts Panel is going to meet at the end of January, if so, and it will be taken up at that time, and I think that's very objectionable. I think that for three months when somebody wants to donate a piece of work to us, an art piece to us, and beaurocracy, our beaurocracy is stuck in the timing and whatever. If it's an art council and they are concerned about art, maybe they could have a phone meeting or something, but I think it's not proper and not right to delay things in this way, because it impairs our ability to acquire art. Also, the Art Council is there to determine what is good art and what is not good art for purposes of the City of Coral Gables and not to determine adequacy of that art. The Cruz Diez crosswalks which were acquired by us, the permanent installation of a Cruz Diez crosswalk, \$168,000 Art in Public Places funds, again, no public money will be used for this Art in Public Places funds. They objected to it because we may have \$168,000 expenditure, we may they have to spend \$18,000 a year refreshing the crosswalks. I said I'll raise the \$18,000 – no, no, we may have to spend that, therefore they turned it down twice. I very much object to this and in this case having to wait from November to January, to the end of January to accept a great piece of art, which has been with us for a year and-a-half. This is not something that nobody has seen before. Every time that we have a Commission meeting, we go out there and it's on television, it's on Facebook, it's on whatever, and I just find the procedure very objectionable.

City Attorney Ramos: Mr. Mayor, if I might speak to process.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

City Attorney Ramos: So unfortunately, the Sunshine Law does not allow for telephonic meetings. Why they didn't take it up in the December meeting, I don't know, unfortunately the department director is on Jury duty today and so she would be the one to speak to that, in either event.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Maybe they could call a special meeting, in three months they could call a special meeting.

City Attorney Ramos: Certainly. In either event, we could have a resolution on the next meeting, even if it's before the time when the committee meets, but you will have to waive the process, because when we spend money from the arts fund there's a process in the code, certainly the

Commission is able to waive that process much like we do for procurement matters, for example, but we would have to put a resolution, that's properly noticed on the agenda in order to do that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'd like you, that someone move that we at the next Commission meeting, waive that and move to acquire this and not have to wait till this "supreme board" meets in late January.

Commissioner Keon: Is there an opportunity, is there the possibility that they can meet before the next meeting?- Can you meet before the next meeting? I think that there is a desire by this Commission to follow the process and have respect for your board and the people that serve on it and whatever else, but it does need to move in a more timely manner than it seems that it has. So whatever the reason it didn't, I don't know and at this point it doesn't make a lot of difference, it didn't. So, within the next two weeks can you come back to us on this issue?

Ms. Cathers: Absolutely. The Arts Advisory Panel is scheduled to meet on the 23rd in two weeks.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's unacceptable.

City Attorney Ramos: Our meeting is the 22nd.

Commissioner Keon: Our meeting is the 22nd. You will have to call a meeting of that board before then and go through the entire process, so that you have something for us on the 22nd, because if you don't have it before the 22nd it seems that the piece will have to be returned.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We will bypass the process and that's the first time it will be bypassed, and probably it won't be the last time it will be bypassed with that attitude.

Commissioner Keon: Right. So, we ask that you have a resolution for us on the 22nd, if you can't then...

Vice Mayor Lago: Is there anything inhibiting the ability for that board to have an emergency meeting, schedule meeting. Is it your quorum.

Ms. Cathers: It is the quorum. We just require the quorum and the process...

Vice Mayor Lago: Have we as staff reached out to that board and requested to see if we could have an emergency meeting?- has that process...

Ms. Cathers: Yes, we can do that. Yes sir.

Vice Mayor Lago: I know we do that. I know we do that. I've served – but have we done it in this case, I just want to find out?

Ms. Cathers: They weren't available to meet because of the holidays; their typical meeting was falling over the holidays.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: This started in late November.

Ms. Cathers: And we've been in contact with the artist as well, so we are having productive conversations and we've spoken with David Haze's family and he's aware that they are meeting on the 23rd, but we can certainly see if they can meet.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I would request that you will have a resolution by the 22nd, which is our next Commission meeting or else let's put in place bypassing the committee.

City Attorney Ramos: Waiving the requirement.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Waiving the requirement.

City Attorney Ramos: Catherine, I just want to clarify. There are two boards mentioned in the ordinance, one is the Cultural Affairs Board, one is the Arts Advisory Panel. Are both going to meet before the 22nd?

Ms. Cathers: No. However, we can meet, I believe, Madam City Attorney, because of the role of the process is the Cultural Development Board, which is also not scheduled to meet before the 22nd, but they are the recommending board to the City Commission. So, I believe it would be advantageous for them to meet to meet to make the recommendation.

City Attorney Ramos: I agree. So, I think possibly in this situation, not having the Arts Advisory Panel meet, but rather the Cultural Development Board. I believe that the ordinance reads that the Arts Advisory Panel is impaneled when necessary, there is some leeway there, Cultural Development there is not, unless its waived by the Commission, so perhaps that's a better way to do it.

Commissioner Keon: And I think particularly since we recognize the artist, the artist is a well-established and well respected artist, all you have to do is meet and you can have the resolution for us on the 22nd.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much. And I'd like to call on John Adams, who is sitting here patiently and the sculpture is forgotten and John you wrote an introduction or you wrote the book. Tell us about it.

Mr. Adams: [Inaudible]...Coral Gables Museum and it's in large part to the support of the Commission in the City and we just wanted you to have the first copies. I hope you enjoy it. I don't want to take up anymore of your time though. Thank you very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's wonderful.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mayor, if I may. Thank you John for being here, I appreciate it. I just wanted to make sure to put on the record, what an exceptional job you and your team are doing at the museum. It's truly incredible, not only the program that you are doing, but the life that you brought back to the museum itself. I was at the presentation when you introduced, at least myself and I think many in that room to this exceptional individual who you've very well exposed in this book. It's an incredible part of Coral Gables history that a lot of us walk by every single day and really had no clue about. So, I think if you continue to do these on a quarterly basis, these exposés, these kind of panel discussions about individuals that are prominent in the City of Coral Gables, I think is such a benefit to the City as-a-whole and I want to commend you, for not only putting this together, but for the amount of time and research that you spent putting this together. Not the book, the book I imagine is exceptional, but I mean the presentation was first rate.

Mr. Adams: We actually have four more books in the works in the next two years.

Vice Mayor Lago: It was standing room only, so I'd like to make sure that we do everything in our power once you have this that we use the City's e-mail and our website to promote the museum, because I highly recommend that everybody have the opportunity, maybe you need to do more than one showing to really enjoy these types of presentations.

Mr. Adams: Thank you Mr. Vice Mayor.

City Attorney Ramos: I'd like to note that Ms. Spain from Jury duty is streaming the meeting and she has assured me that the Cultural Advisory Board will meet before the 22nd.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wonderful – wonderful.

Mr. Adams: Thank you Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor, Commissioners, I appreciate it.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you for your efforts.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you John. Thank you very much. You are doing a great, great job.

[End: 9:53:40 a.m.]