

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item K
March 12, 2024
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, Amos Rojas, Jr.

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item K
Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor, you have any comments before we close.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes. The Garden Club is going to have its annual fundraiser at the museum on April 19th. Their fundraiser is a VIP period of time, starting at 6 p.m. If you go on the Coral Gables Club website and you would like to attend the event at the museum, it's going to be spectacular. So, we'd appreciate your support. The Garden Club has done historically a lot of wonderful things for this city in its 100 years of existence from entrances to of course, gardening projects as well. In fact, the statue in front of this building was a Garden Club project. Help support the Garden Club, come on out. Let's have a good time.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Castro: This weekend, I believe Saturday and Sunday, they are showing the Little Mermaid in the Actor's Playhouse, it's a children's play. If you have time, swing by and join them. Another thing I wanted to mention is, I've been working with the City Attorney's office and
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Jennifer from Planning and Zoning on some door-hangers and requirements for community meetings when it comes to developments that are over 20,000 feet, so we can get more community input. That will be coming next Commission meeting, just mentioning it. That's it.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Menendez: Just a recap. On Sunday at 5 p.m., at the Miracle Theater, we showed and hosted ET, the Extra Terrestrial. Every ticket was reserved. It was a packed house. I've never seen so many toddlers at one movie in my life as a grandparent. I think the age range was from 2 to 92. It was an amazing mix, and it goes to show you what being able to come together in a family setting, because when the movie ended in the climatic John Williams music hit, the place erupted in cheers. And I haven't been to a movie in a while where that happens, and it just goes to show you that as a city, as leaders, we can offer, thanks to staff, so many wonderful experiences for families, kids, even seniors, and I hope that's a tradition that we're able to continue on for many, many more years.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Fernandez: The weekend of March 1st, I think our city shined. Our staff from Parks, from Public Works, Police, Fire, were all out at the numerous events that we had throughout the city that weekend. Everybody had a smile on their face, very receptive to those who are coming up with questions. I think it was a good moment and a good shining moment for our city. I know Fred has left, but I believe this Saturday at the Farmers Market, we will have a pickleball clinic for those who want to learn about pickleball. There will be a pickleball court out there, so I believe there's a sponsor who will be sponsoring the clinic. So, if you haven't checked on our Farmers Market, we still have at least three weeks left. It's a great event, activities for the family, and plenty to check out in the outdoors. Look forward to seeing you there. We have a five-week break, so wishing everybody a safe Ramadan, Passover, and Easter.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. My points are simple. Through the Manager and his office, we need to really address the Coral Way Entrance Feature on Red Road, along with the 8th Street and Red Road Entrance Features. Those need to be pressure washed. I would appreciate it if you could get staff to address those issues. Make sure the lights are working and the fountains are clean. I also want to make sure that the parking garage across from Books and Books is also addressed, that we have that pressure cleaned, because it's starting to look a little not Coral Gables. We also have an opportunity that I've been working on, as a result of Burger Bob's and the construction. I'd like for your staff to meet with Mosaicist, Mosaicist and Ray Corral, our big philanthropist here in the community, very involved with the Coral Gables Community Foundation, and we're working on potentially putting a nice entrance feature for Burger Bob's, using mosaics, and it would be something that if staff is interested, it can be done in different colors and it could be something that's a nice entrance feature for Burger Bob's. Right now, is the appropriate time, as we're moving forward with the construction, we can start coordinating that donation, if it's something that is the will of the Commission. He generously offered and we've been talking about it for some time now and I want to put it in front of the Commission as an opportunity to leave something beautiful, as

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we conclude on Burger Bob's. With that being said, it's been a nice meeting. I wish all of you a wonderful five weeks. God bless.

Commissioner Fernandez: Before you adjourn. On that item, on the mosaics, this is a historic area, so I think it should come to the Commission for approval if we do go forward with that. I think I would like to see anything that goes forward on that, make sure we get community input on what the design is going to look like.

Mayor Lago: So let me be clear. This is not for the exterior, as you are aware with historic buildings, you can do what you like on the interior of historic buildings. We're talking about an entrance feature when you walk through the front doors. You can have like a nice little mat that says Burger Bob's in a design element. It's not for the exterior of the building. We're talking about on the floor, something pretty simple, pretty benign, and it's something that he offered to donate, but if the Commission is not interested in it, you can talk about it with the Manager, and he can schedule a meeting with Mr. Corral. It's not an exterior mosaic, it's just a simple mosaic for the entrance when you walk in, it can say Burger Bob's, it could say the City of Coral Gables, you can have the city's emblem. I just thought it would be something beautiful since he is probably one of the most respected mosaic installers that I've ever heard of, and he does some incredible work. I think it would be beautiful for the interior, the interior of Burger Bob's.

Commissioner Fernandez: I think we did go through a lengthy process, Commissioner Menendez did with members of the community on the design, so I think if we're going to be changing that or even if it is a beautiful mosaic on the interior, I think we should go back to that committee, because I know that was a lengthy process and there was a lot of animosity from members of the community as to what they wanted it to look like. I don't want to throw things off at the last minute with a major change. I'd welcome it. I just want to make sure that they are included in the design process, I guess.

Mayor Lago: Again, we're talking about something benign, like a placemat, something simple, but if you don't want it, it's okay. It was his offer. Anything else?

Vice Mayor Anderson: Since you brought up the mosaic. He's going to do a piece over at Coral Gables Elementary School, not on a historic wall. He's done another one over at Carver Elementary and brought in folks from, Deena recommended a landscape architect that have put in butterfly plants, so you have the mosaic next to the butterflies. It really energizes, quite nice.

Mayor Lago: You can do a beautiful mosaic that looks like this, that is the City of Coral Gables seal. It can be something very benign, it can say Burger Bob's. Talk it over with the Manager and if it's an interest to the Commission, we move forward. It was just a very generous offer by a gentleman who has given a lot to this community, and he would like to leave his stamp or assist in a beautification opportunity for Burger Bob's. Not on the wall, its not the entire floor, because that would be beyond expensive, but its just something a simple entrance feature, like a doormat, when you walk in it could say something very beautiful and very well done and it could be something that, let's say something as simple as Burger Bob's was started on the following day and was renovated on the following day and celebrating its centennial. It could be up to staff, it could be

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up to a committee, but at the end of the day, this is something that is very, very benign. Wishing everyone the best. Thank you very much.