

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item 2-1 and 2-2
November 13, 2018
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, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Mark Trowbridge, President of Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

Agenda Item 2-1 [5:48:34 p.m.]

2-1: The School Community Relations Committee minutes of October 19, 2018, requesting that the City Commission increase the board's membership from seven members to eleven members to fully cover the eleven schools under the board's purview.

2-2: A Recommendation from the Sustainability Advisory Board requesting that the City Commission increase the board's membership from seven (7) members to nine (9) members, to include a representative from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and the University of Miami.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: 2-1 – School Community Relations Committee requesting that the City Commission increase the board's membership from seven members to eleven to have representation from every school in Coral Gables. I'm very much opposed to that because that will create districting, that will create people pushing for their own schools, as opposed to educational needs of kids in Coral Gables and that will just create an unworkable board. Everybody will be talking about their school and it just doesn't work. We have districts in other cities where people talk about their district and no other item and I'm very much opposed to this.

Commissioner Mena: But the appointees are not necessarily like...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But, they will be – they will be representing other schools.

Speaker: But, they are not necessarily affiliated with the school.

Commissioner Mena: They are not necessarily parents of that school.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, they would be.

Speaker: No.

Commissioner Mena: No. No.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I would like to defer this, because in the meeting with Sam next week...

Vice Mayor Lago: Sam is my appointment, he is very capable, you can meet with him. He's awesome.

Commissioner Quesada: Sam is awesome. Sam is great.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. And, we have 2-2 – Sustainability considering members to nine members to include a representative from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and the University of Miami. All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed.

Vice Mayor Lago: "Doctor" Trowbridge.

Mr. Trowbridge: Very quick Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very quick.

City Attorney Ramos: In order to have 2-2, there needs to be a change to the ordinance. I'll bring back an ordinance on First Reading in December.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Trowbridge: So, first of all, thank you very much for supporting our permanent voting seat on the Sustainability Board. When the Board was first constituted, the Chamber did have a seat at the table and then that changed. So we are thrilled to have that back. We already have our appointee, who has been attending those meetings for the last several months to keep her up to speed; and obviously, we have been in a long standing partnership on a number of sustainability issues related to polystyrene and plastic bags and so, having a formal seat at that table with a vote is critical to us. So, thank you for supporting that and Miriam will on work on that and we will be back to support that as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed – likewise.

Mr. Trowbridge: At the third reading or we at the fourth reading, thank you all very much.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mark thank you as always. Thank you for being here all day, I appreciate it.

[End: 5:50:44 p.m.]