

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-2
July 10, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

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

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Government Affairs Manager, Naomi Levi-Garcia**

Public Speaker(s)

**Craig Collar, Consultant
Henry Isler, Consultant**

Agenda Item H-2 [12:19:14 p.m.]

Staff update on proposed Little Gables and High Pines/Ponce Davis annexation applications, including next steps and timeline for final consideration. (Sponsored by Commissioner Keon)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item is Commissioner Keon's item, annexation, H-2. Commissioner.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, Naomi Levi-Garcia will introduce this item and we also have the City Attorney's outside counsel and the consultant to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Naomi the floor is yours.

Commissioner Keon: Welcome back.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Thank you. Thank you. Good afternoon Mayor and Commissioners, my name is Naomi Levi-Garcia, Government Affairs Manager. We have an annexation update for you; we could pull up the PowerPoint. We also have our consultants here, Henry Isler and Craig Collar and Charles Wu has also been assisting with annexation in my absence. So, I've passed out a copy of the chart. This is our timing chart; it does not have specific dates linked to it because so much of this process belongs to Miami-Dade County, so it's really difficult to try to pin down specific dates and I know you had some questions about the timing. So, the current status of our annexation applications both for High Pines/Ponce Davis and for Little Gables is that it is being reviewed by County staff, they are giving their comments to the applications and it will be going to the Planning Advisory Board. We don't have a specific date for the Planning Advisory Board, but we are hoping that it goes on September 24th.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

Ms. Levi-Garcia: We don't have a specific date for the Planning Advisory Board, the County Planning Advisory Board, but we are hoping that the applications are taken together and go on September 24th.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Staff review has taken place or what?

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Staff review is taking place, it's underway.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is taking place.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Um huh. And then as you can see there, a number of steps after the Planning Advisory Board that has to take place before the applications go onto a community election; and we anticipate that election would take place sometime in spring of 2020. So, it's a significant amount of time between now and then obviously. We would hope to do a public information campaign to really remind the citizens why this is a good move for them, and of course we'll keep the Commission informed every step of the way.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Have they asked for information? How long does it take for staff to review when it's going to go before the Planning Advisory Board?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Naomi – Henry do you have more information or Craig regarding this process? Both of these consultants have been involved in all of the prior annexations with the County on the County side. So, it's possible that from the internal workings you may be able to provide some insight into this process.

Mr. Collar: Yes, Craig Collar, 1680 Michigan Avenue. Currently the coordinator, which is in the Budget Office for annexation, goes out and requests comments from all County departments for comments on the annexation request. He is somewhat dependent upon those departments responding back to him. So, there is an uncertain period of time and the coordinator communicated to me that he was hopefully going to try, no guarantees in this process, because we are not in control of it, that it would be on September 24th. There is an actually mailed notice...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry, September to be on the Planning Advisory Board.

Mr. Collar: Potentially. I don't want to put this date out and then suggest that's going to happen then, because it may not; and part of the problem of course is, even when he gets that material back, he has to send mailed notice to everyone within the area and outside the area. So, no guarantees on that September 24th period of time. We are hopeful. I have communicated to him on a couple of occasions that we really would like to have this heard on that date, but there are no guarantees.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Since there are no constituents here, except the City of Coral Gables, isn't staff the tendency to sit on it and not do anything?

Mr. Collar: Well, they do get processed and staff, we hope would be responsive. I don't think that they necessarily sit on it and don't do anything. I don't believe that's a policy, but there are about 15 different departments, I understand that are reached out to, so it's somewhat lengthy process to get those comments. But, we are hopeful that they will get them done and that we can get it in a timely basis. But, we'll stay on top of them and remind them on a frequent basis how important that this is to the City.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: I remind you there is no Planning Advisory Board meeting in August.

Mr. Collar: Correct. There on their August break, but I'm hopeful that that should be sufficient time for them to get the reports.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can you go there and sit in their lobby till they tell you they are going to look at it?

Mr. Collar: I can go there and I have gone there and I have spoken to them personally and I've worked with County staff now and previously in my role as an Assistant County Attorney.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Keon any questions?

Commissioner Keon: No, thank you. I just wondered where we were in the process and it looks like all three of these areas are moving along together, is that right?

Mr. Collar: Well the plan is, we hope that they go together; potentially the Little Gables is somewhat ahead in the process, because it was filed earlier. Potentially Little Gables could go first, if they don't have all the time completed to get High Pine Ponce/Davis. Now if the Board feels that well, we really don't want it to be heard from the PAB separately, we can make a request when one is ready and the other is not, we want to push it off, if that's the desire of the Board. The impression I've gotten from the Board is, you want to move as quickly as possible and if they can come. If they don't come together at the PAB, they may well come together when it goes before the County Commission Committee. So at some point, I believe that they will ultimately meet up.

Commissioner Keon: I would think you have the staff review, then it's just administrative to send out whatever. I would think that this annexation ordinance preparation will take some time and that would be a little longer period of time, yes?

Mr. Collar: Well, if I were doing it, it wouldn't take as much time, but I think the ordinance prep is not as long as it seems. It's a kind of a standard format. I think the issue will come down to negotiating the interlocal agreement. We may have some challenges there, but the ordinance preparation shouldn't take too long. It's prepared by the County Attorney's Office. Henry do you have anything more to add or have I said something that is inconsistent with your experience?

Mr. Isler: No, I think you're right. I think the ordinance, as Craig said, is fairly straightforward; there are some nuances they'll have to put in. But, the real key time is going to be the third line there where the City Commission is going to consider the interlocal agreement, prior to that we would have negotiated on your behalf to make sure the interlocal agreement has a number of aspects and including a transition period that the City would like to see for the services, if this is successful. But, I think that's going to be the key road here is working out the interlocal agreement, then of course the election, very important. That's going to be the key part.

Commissioner Keon: I would like to see the timing for the mail ballot election of registered voters doesn't go out in the summer when people are away and people are travelling and whatever else. I really would hope that it would be at a time where you anticipate in general people are home. People travel all the time, but they don't leave for a long period.

Mr. Isler: I think I counted up the days a while back, I'm sorry, I counted up the days a while back and I got to the mail ballot election about February 2020.

Commissioner Keon: That's what I was just looking at...

Mr. Isler: And I believe...so that's kind of where...[inaudible].

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Following this timeline, it looks like the election would take place in spring of 2020.

Commissioner Keon: Yes. OK. Thank you.

Mr. Isler: That would be a good time, as far as having everybody here.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

[End: 12:29:10 p.m.]