

**Additional Correspondence
received after
11.17.09 City Commission Meeting.**

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:08 AM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Susan, please send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:12 PM
To: 'patricia clarke'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards,
 Don Slesnick

From: patricia clarke [mailto:plhclarke@me.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2009 10:08 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William; Anderson, Maria; Withers, Wayne; Ralph, Commissioner Cabrera
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com; marketing@libertygroup.com
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

12/2/2009

We, the Clarkes, are in favor of outdoor dining at the Country Club. The city originally did not allow sidewalk tables in the business district of the Gables but times have changed and sidewalk tables are now a great addition.

There is a lot of action around the golf course with walkers, skate boarders, golfers, etc. I feel tables outside will not detract from the neighborhood way of life as there has always been excitement of people enjoying the country club in its heyday.

Please consider the addition of outside tables for dining in the new plan for the club.

Thank you,

Pat and Jay Clarke
1001 Sunset Drive
Coral Gables 33143

On Nov 13, 2009, at 7:19 PM, marketing@libertygroup.com wrote:

Our apologies for the duplicate email. However, there was an error in the previous email and we would like to ensure that you receive the most accurate information.

In the previous email the Email Address for Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr. was listed incorrectly. Should you wish to contact him please find the correct email below:

wkerdyk@coralgables.com

Please note that Mayor Don Slesnick's contact information is correct. donslesnick@coralgables.com

Please cc a copy to me at nick@libertygroup.com

Again our sincerest apologies.

You are receiving this email because you have signed up for the City of Coral Gables news updates,
If you do not want to be included in Liberty Entertainment Group news and future updates please reply unsubscribe.

[<LogoCoralGables01_8.jpg>](#)

Dear Fellow Neighbor,

The Liberty Entertainment Group, renown for its restoration of historical properties, is honored to have been awarded this spectacular country club by the City of Coral Gables. As President and CEO, I would personally like to invite you to share in our new vision for the Coral Gables Country Club project, and in particular, the Liberty Café. Nestled in the south side of the country club, the café and restaurant will include sidewalk patios in the midst of lush green landscape overlooking the golf course.

12/2/2009

The café will offer the residential community a casual hospitality venue to compliment the surrounding golf, tennis, swimming and other recreational activities and will feature pressed sandwiches, thin-crust pizza, Italian gelato, fresh pastries, espresso, specialty coffees and will be a fully licensed establishment.

To date, we have received strong community support with our project plans; however recently, we have been challenged with a few issues pertaining to the approval process for outdoor dining.

I look forward to meeting the many fellow community members and appreciate your support in this exciting project.

<aLL_7.jpg>

Below is a link to an online petition that our fellow neighbors setup as well as some letters sent to council.

Online Petition

Please write or email your letter of support to the city commissioners, most importantly to

Mayor Don Slesnick

Contact Information

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 905-460-5220

Email: donslesnick@coralgables.com

Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr.

Contact Information

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 905-460-5220

Email: wkerdyk@coralgables.com

Neither Mayor Don Slesnick nor Vice Mayor William Kerdyk are in favor.

Please cc a copy to me at nick@libertygroup.com

Thank you for your support

Sincerely

<nicksignature_8.jpg>

Nick Di Donato, P. Eng.
President + CEO
Liberty Entertainment Group
www.libertygroup.com

Letters of Support

Dear Mayor & Commissioner of Coral Gables,

After carefully listening to the arguments presented against Mr. DiDonato's proposal for outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club, it would appear that the objections to the outdoor seating is a red herring and that the real objection is to revitalizing the Country Club and all the increased traffic it would bring to the neighborhood. This is a valid objection and should be discussed and debated openly – not hidden behind the irrelevant issue of a few outdoor tables. The City needs to decide whether it wants a busy, successful and profitable Country Club to operate in a residential neighborhood. If the answer is yes – then Mr. DiDonato should be given the powers to operate it successfully. If the answer is no, then the building should be rezoned as a museum, or knocked down and made into a park for example. The third alternative is to send Mr. DiDonato back to Toronto and to leave the Club as an expensive and abandoned eyesore. If we do so, however, it is unlikely that any other developer will wish to follow in Mr. DiDonato's footsteps.

What most of the community wants is a place where we can walk to, to meet friends, relax, and have a quiet coffee or lunch. To compare this proposed small café to The Globe which offers music, a South Beach ambience and central location is entirely disingenuous. I'm sure Mr. DiDonato does not want to risk losing the café during or after the 18 month trial period for the café. My guess is that he'll do whatever it takes to stay under the radar and be a good neighbor. Certainly, the quality of life will not be negatively affected by the addition of a few outdoor tables, especially since the closest house in view of the café is .2 miles away.

If the City does indeed want the Country Club to be successful, then there are two very compelling arguments in favor of the "neighborhood" café and outdoor seating. Without the full-time staff needed to operate the café and restaurant, the Club would only be able to offer service for major functions like weddings and reunions. The local residences again would be shut out and the club would mostly likely return to its mausoleum status. Secondly, without the visual welcome of outdoor seating to invite passing residents into the club, people would not realize that the Club was open to the public and it would remain the closed and exclusionary façade that it has always been.

It was very clear from the meeting on November 3rd that the vast majority of Gables residents, taxpayers and voters are strongly in favor of Mr. DiDonato's proposals. It was equally clear that the small but vocal opposition was limited to the residents of North Greenway. When my friends and I voted for you Mr. Mayor, and voted for your fellow Commissioners, we voted for you to represent the citizens of the City of Coral Gables. We did not vote you to be mayor of North Greenway Drive. Please do what is right and help create a sense of community that will make us all proud.

Dear City Commissioners,

I attended the meeting at the Coral Gables Country Club the other evening and understand that a decision on the issue of outdoor seating will be made on November 17th. I am strongly in favor of this for the following reasons:

- The Country Club is currently empty and will deteriorate if this continues quite apart from the financial drain this imposes on the City and therefore on residents who pay taxes (there are much better projects to spend our money on). If the Liberty Entertainment Group takes over I think the Club will actually become an asset rather than a drain and enhance the value of the surrounding property.
- I spoke to two of the neighbors on Granada who live directly in front on the club closest to the proposed outdoor seating area and yet they are both in favor of it. Given that Mr. Di Donato has offered an 18 month trial period for the café it would seem that we have absolutely nothing to lose by trying.
- Traffic (both pedestrian and automotive) on North and South Greenway is already heavier than on surrounding streets because those streets surround a public golf course. Anyone who bought there knew that already but bought anyway. They could have chosen to buy on a dead end street or a much quieter back street but did not. Regardless, I do not believe that outdoor seating at the club will substantially increase traffic at all. Most of the neighbors are looking forward to walking or biking over there and there is plenty of parking in the back for those who choose to drive. Regarding increased danger that traffic might cause to pedestrians. I think this is a non-issue. The danger to pedestrians, roller bladers, cyclists, etc. comes from the fact that there is no pathway or bike path on the perimeter of the golf course so people are forced onto the street.
- Most importantly, the outdoor café and seating will enable Country Club to become a part of the community rather than yet another expensive, elitist club. I have lived fairly close by on Sorolla Avenue for 13 years and yet this was only the second time I had ever set foot in it. I look forward to being able to walk over and meet my neighbors many of whom were at the meeting. Currently the only way to do this is to walk around the golf course (or come to a meeting).

I thank you for taking the time to read my email and hope that you will endorse the outdoor seating on November 17th.

Dear Sirs

We used to live on South Greenway Drive and I know all too well that there can be no expectation of privacy if you chose to live on the Greenways. Joggers, roller-bladders and cyclists pass throughout the day, golfers comb through your front yard looking for balls, and strollers stop, facing your front door to chat with their friends and neighbors. We had a balcony from our bedroom overlooking the golf-course. The perfect place, we thought for morning coffee and the paper. No – too public. That is simply the price that you pay for living on the Greenway. It was like that 20 years ago when we lived there and I'm sure it is much worse now. (There were no cell phones

when I lived there).

None of this will change, whether you have outdoor seating or not.

Whenever there has been a big event at the Country Club – or a big tournament at the Golf Club, there are overflow cars along North Greenway Drive adjacent to the Club.

This has always been the case. Anybody who chooses to purchase a house close to the Country Club should and would already be aware of this – that's how it has been since the Club was built.

None of this will change, whether you have outdoor seating or not. People who come to big private events at the Country Club will probably arrive by car, they come from all over and will need to drive.

This has always been the case – it's a fact of modern life. But most of the people using the café will probably have walked there – that's the whole appeal of the café. The existence of the café, indoor or outdoor, will have a negligible effect on motor traffic. My wife and I have lived here for 25 years and last night was the first time my wife had been inside the Country Club – a 3 minute walk from our house. Last night I heard many of my neighbors say the same thing – first visit. I was only familiar with the club because I used to attend monthly breakfast meetings for a business club that I belonged to; all the other members lived in Hollywood or Kendall – I was the only Gables member. The Club has never been part of the community and we are all delighted that you are finally going to change all that. You have tremendous local support behind you.

Thank You

Liberty Entertainment Group

25 British Columbia Rd., Exhibition Place, Toronto ON CA M6K 3C3
1.416.542.3789
www.libertygroup.com

[Unsubscribe / Change Profile](#)
Powered by [YourMailingListProvider](#)

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:10 AM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outside Dining, OK

Please forward.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:15 PM
To: 'CHRISTOPHE PETIT'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Outside Dining, OK

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards,
Don Slesnick

From: CHRISTOPHE PETIT [mailto:petitc@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 9:51 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Outside Dining, OK

Hi Mr Mayor.

12/2/2009

Given the fact that it is a country Club and country means the outside, we should be in favor of the outside dining experience, especially if it means a larger potential of success for the project.

Regards,

C. Petit and family

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:10 AM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Please forward.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:16 PM
To: 'Martinez, Brenda'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Martinez, Brenda [mailto:martinez.b@ewm.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 7:43 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: Kerdyk, William
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

12/2/2009

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 3:40 PM
To: wkerdyk@coralgables.com
Cc: donslesnick@coralgables.com
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

As a long time club member it breaks my heart to see the once grand lady standing empty. Waiting for the deterioration to continue, unused, unwanted and with little hope for revitalization . There is a company who is willing to undertake this task.....why not give them a chance to bring this club back? They even only ask for a trial period for doing something (outdoor dining) that MANY other successful restaurants do that brings in ALOT of business. What better area and climate could you ask for to make use of this space. The neighborhood already has a public golfcourse and the club, which could be considered a commercial business, has been in this space for probably 70+ years. So, what could possibly be the problem with having diners sit outside? At best with our heat in the summer it would only be for 8 months a year.

Let's give this a try.....allow the club to succeed.

Brenda Martinez
Realtor Associate
Esslinger Wooten Maxwell, Inc.
550 South Dixie Hwy
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-329-7751 office
305-794-8818 cell

Brenda Martinez
Realtor Associate
Esslinger Wooten Maxwell, Inc.
550 South Dixie Hwy
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-329-7751 office
305-794-8818 cell

12/2/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:11 AM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Decision to be made on Nov 17

Please forward.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:22 PM
To: 'Dan May'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Decision to be made on Nov 17

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Dan May [mailto:dan.may@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 2:12 PM
To: Commissioners
Subject: FW: Decision to be made on Nov 17

As the 17th approaches I hope you are unconvinced by whatever may have transpired since the last commission meeting and hold steady through the vote on the 17th. One final point is that placing two restaurants by the front door is going to increase traffic and self parking near the front door tremendously when compared with the club's activities of the previous years. Many, Many more will be wanting to self-park out

12/2/2009

front , consume a good meal and depart without being associated with the rear door and /or valet service. Just think, four chain smokers can light up at their self-parked parking spot, chain-smoke crossing North Greenway, continue to chain-smoke in the Queue at the door awaiting a table call, wonder through the hedges to their table while chain-smoking,, continue to chain-smoke through a good meal , chain-smoke back to their Self-parked automobile—drop their last cigarette on the ground and depart.
Dan May

From: Dan May [mailto:dan.may@comcast.net]
Sent: 11/12/2009 10:47 AM
To: 'commissioners@coralgables.com'
Subject: FW: Decision to beer made on Nov 17

You may or may not have received an earlier version on Wednesday

From: Dan May [mailto:dan.may@comcast.net]
Sent: 11/11/2009 12:29 PM
To: 'commissioners@coralgables.com'\
Subject: Decision to ber made on Nov 17

This will be the background for my comments to the Commission on November 17

I begin pushing for a parking plan last March. Through indifference and general failure none has been provided by the city or the operator. Therefore, I must make some default beliefs so that we can continue to make decisions about outdoor chairs in the Front lawn

Default movement at the front of the club will consist of nine (9) venues .

Four (4) will be for cars moving east-west and west-east

One (1) will be for non-directional walkers

There will be three (3) ant trails of individuals moving North-South and South-North traveling on paths of least resistance.

There will be one semi-stationary venue of individuals in a queue at the Front door awaiting access to the building.

Four (4) will be cars moving east-west and west --east

The Northern most column will be valet controlled cars moving East to West

The adjoining column will be citizen driven drop-off cars moving East to West

The third column of cars will be citizen driven drop -off cars moving West to East

The Southernmost column will local traffic unrelated to Club and will be moving East-to West and West to East

One (1) will be for non-direction walkers

Local non club related walkers, runners , dogs, baby carriages, will be traveling in all directions in the street and on the sidewalk

There will be three (3) ant trails of individuals moving north-south and South-North traveling on paths of least resistance

The western -most ant trail will be customers departing from the West side of Granada, angling across Granada and angling across North

Greenway to reach the sidewalk on the west side of the Club.

The central ant trail of individuals will move from the East side of Granada to the sidewalk on the south side of the club while weaving

Through Cars on North Greenway

The eastern-most ant trail will be customers departing from the Coco nut Trees angling across Greenway, weaving through cars on

North Greenway to reach the sidewalk on the south side of the Club.

12/2/2009

There will be one semi-stationary venue of individuals in a queue at the front door awaiting access to the building

All of the customers in the previously described venues will be gathering at the door to gain access. As the Club has expressed

A desire to encourage tobacco users, this outdoor waiting area could--but may not --include a lot of cigars, dippers and chewers

The above is technical details that no one but no one has ever mentioned at any meeting or correspondence seen by myself

The worst of all is that the above IS NOT DEPICTED IN ILLUSTRATIONS MADE AVAILABLE to the Commission and the citizenry.

I believe that any one encouraging the installation of the chairs should acknowledge they are aware of all of the above Activity, believe it is insignificant, and the chairs together with all of this activity should be accepted by the local population

Or

I believe that any one encouraging the installation of the chairs denies the activity describe above exist and believe the chairs should be accepted by the local populations,

There will be some that will think the activity described above is adequate and the 80 chairs, will be excess For the area.

Once again, many are making recommendations without asking about nearby concurrent activities.

Footnote:: Mr. DiDanoto has established himself as a provider of colorful and informative power points. Mr. Reil of has been presenting Power Point displays to the Commission for years. For some reason we do not see a power point of the action taking place in the front yard, in the Middle of North Green way, and on Granada near the proposed outdoor dining chair proposal, If these are too busy, is there another city employee that can set up a power point display for the Tuesday meeting.

: Dan May [mailto:dan.may@comcast.net] be excess for To: 'commissioners@coralgables.com'

Subject: Meeting at country club on Nov 3

Commissioners:

My take on the November 3 meeting at the country club.

Total success in all areas except for discussion of why the meeting was called.

On the success side.

Yes Chip the crowd immediately learned to consume the free wine provided by the host-- will not need a six months trial period to determine if the crowd will drink .

Attendance was at the 160 person level I believe. The main group of party crashers were the former club members. As the liquor provider Mr. DiDanoto was entitled to show his power point and express his plans for the Club as well as what a disappointment it will be if we do not grant the Greenway side of outside dining.. That happened and was tastefully provided -- no incidents. The ex club members provided a lot of cheering and hand clapping for any comments about getting the café open..

12/2/2009

Mr. Riel used a few minutes to provide what had happened to date with the negotiations with Mr. DiDanoto. He chose to not mention that (A) the city had granted 160 outside chairs on the West Side. He chose to not mention that (B) the City had granted a Valet Station on North Greenway right at the Front Door. The crowd got the concept that the city may want to cut back the outdoor dining from 80 to zero not possibly reduce the outdoor dining from 240 chairs to 160 chairs.

The final power point display was a replica of the Front door and the proposed outside chairs. This display was on display for most of the meeting but it did not include North greenway Avenue which is the source of most of the controversy over crowding near the front entrance. I brought some display cards with my own drawings of the street in black and white but it was too dark to display them.

On the failure side

After his initial presentation, Mr. Riel turned the meeting over to various audience speakers that chose their own topics to discuss

Mr. Riel made no attempt to keep the speakers on point and to address the problem at hand—Chairs and customers on the front lawn and in the street

We did learn what the Club dues were in 1938, what an old retired policeman thought about security in the area, who lived in the area and not on Greenway drive, who had traveled to Europe, and of course who wanted to eat and drink at the club. among other trivia.

At least 6 speakers, thought they had a great idea that no one had thought of before—place outdoor dining chairs on the Westside of the Club. --- After each one of these great pronouncements, Mr Eric Riel did not let them know that such an idea had already been approved by the City and Mr. DiDanoto wanted the 80 chairs in addition to these 160 Chairs on the West side.

The speakers who were opposed to the 80 chairs, all just stated they opposed the move. None referenced the fact that the Valet parking cars line, and the drop-off car line, the walk in crowd coming from the West side of Granada, the walk in crowd coming from the east side of Granada, and the walk in crowd coming from the Coconut trees combined with the local car traffic and foot traffic may be an overload for the area. Likewise no one referenced all of these concerns then said they were minimal and should be overlooked.

In the normal sequence of planned events, I was the last speaker and began to describe the traffic problems anticipated at the front door.

The cheering squad gave me a few hisses, then one jumped and demanded the mike. Over the mike he told me I knew nothing about traffic, that should be left to others and we should concentrate on getting the restaurant together. I once again started on the congestion description and a club member woman wanted the mike. Not wanting them to continue to expand the agitation I gave the mike to the woman and walked to the back. After her comments, the meeting closed.

Therefore, not only was there no conclusion drawn about the high volume of people that may occupy the front lawn and street, it was not ever discussed by any of the speakers.

Footnote: Mr. DiDanoto as the Mayor suggested, worked the crowd well, after describing his Italian background and his non-profit

Activities, he promised the crowd good rates on food sales and that he will be especially sensitive to non-profits with a small budget

Projected his earnings from the restaurants to be 5% and his private parties to be 95%, His cheering squad clapped and hollered on many occasions as he talked about the future of the restaurants. In a few years he will be a great candidate for some charity job.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:11 AM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Please forward.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:24 PM
To: 'jcdp@gicunderwriters.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Juan Carlos Diaz-Padron [mailto:jcdp@gicunderwriters.com]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 5:04 PM
To: Kerdyk, William; Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Mayor and Vice-Mayor:

12/2/2009

There couldn't be a better day to be writing this email to you to express my feelings regarding the Country Club of Coral Gables. What better afternoon could there be then tonight to sit outside the beautiful Coral Gables Country Club and enjoy a coke and some food, overlooking the freshly cut Granada Golf Course as the final golfer's tee-off for the day.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider your views on the wishes of Liberty Entertainment Group, as it is rare to find such a willing individual both professional and courteous to be the next tenant of our dormant and muggy country club.

Very truly yours,

Juan Carlos Diaz-Padron

This Email contains PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL information intended only for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this Email, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any printing, saving, dissemination or copying of this Email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this Email in error, please immediately notify the originating party above by return Email or telephone 800-392-9966 and delete this Email without retaining any copy thereof immediately. Thank You.



Please print this e-mail only if necessary.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:12 AM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club & a personal update

Please forward.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:27 PM
To: 'Jim Kononoff'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club & a personal update

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Jim Kononoff [mailto:goingloud45@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 5:55 PM
To: wkerdk@coralgables.com; Slesnick, Donald
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club & a personal update

Bill, we go way back with your family and ours (both my wife Cathy and her parents & my late parents) were Gables residents since the 1940s. In fact, I don't know if you knew this but my dad graduated from Miami Senior High in 1924! A big part of that upbringing for us was the Coral Gables Country Club. When it went under and sat empty for all that time, I would pass it with great sadness. I

12/2/2009

took Grand Cotillion there and learned my manners in the Grand Ballroom. Now a good company wants to bring it back into a state of residential glory and they're having **PERMIT** problems? Outdoor dining is a Coral Gables staple and one that showcases our wonderful city to the world! Don't delay this renovation project on account of some silly permits, please! I understand that there is a concern by neighbors on traffic and noise, but remember, the club was open and THRIVING during a time when A/C was not in wide use in south Florida so area residents certainly heard the club operations then, too. I'm certain amicable terms can be reached. Please help this process along.

I do have some bad news on the family front: My wife Cathy has been diagnosed with breast cancer and has already had a lumpectomy. Last Wednesday, she had the port for chemotherapy surgically inserted and her chemo begins in a week. She will lose her hair but she already has a wig and her medical team (surgeon and oncologist) at the Baptist Breast Center over at South Miami Hospital is top notch. It was caught early and we're confident she will recover 100% but it's going to be a long tough road for the next year or so. We have an excellent support structure in friends and church members over at Kendall Presbyterian Church (PCA). It would be nice to enjoy the club facilities once again as we did when we were children.

Fondly,
Jim Kononoff
1308 Genoa Street
Coral Gables, FL 33134-2339
(305) 448-9043

12/2/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:13 AM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: country club

Please forward.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:27 PM
To: 'denise beauvois'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: country club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: denise beauvois [mailto:denise633@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 7:07 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: country club

PLEASE, let the coral gables residents, and the ones who play tennis and golf around there enjoy some chat with friends in this beautiful setting!!

it would be a pity not to have it,

12/2/2009

thanks,
denise
coral gables resident since 2002

Windows 7: Unclutter your desktop. [Learn more.](#)

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:46 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: The outdoor Café at the Country Club

Susan, to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:43 PM
To: 'GreenPaperMoon@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: The outdoor Café at the Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: GreenPaperMoon@aol.com [mailto:GreenPaperMoon@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 7:39 PM
To: nick@libertygroup.com
Cc: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Subject: The outdoor Café at the Country Club

Nick: I'll be very pleased to have an outdoor Café at the Country Club to go have lunch often instead of having to leave the city as I now do. Please get us good quality food.

12/1/2009

My best wishes.
Alicia Vidal

This e-mail is confidential. Use or disclosure of it by any person or any entity other than the designated addressee is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and destroy all copies after deleting the original message. Thank you.

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:46 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW:

Susan, for Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:42 PM
To: 'Elinet Medina'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE:

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Elinet Medina [mailto:elicit@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 6:40 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: Kerdyk, William
Subject:

Dear Mayor Don Slesnick and Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr.,

This letter is to support the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables country club. We are very excited about having a cafe near our home in the community considering that all the other restaurants and such are on miracle mile which are not that far away, but it's nice to be able to have one within walking distance.

12/1/2009

When we first moved to Coral Gables, we were very eager to join the Country Club. However, the price to join was just too much for us at the time and it was impossible to use the facility without being a member. We absolutely love the fact that the cafe/outdoor dining would be part of the country club but you don't have to be a member to be able to use it.

Best Regards,
The Medina Family

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:47 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

- For Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:41 PM
To: 'Robert Andreas'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Robert Andreas [mailto:rnandreas@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 6:15 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Mayor Slesnick,

I am a resident that lives a few blocks away from the Coral Gables Country Club and I fully support the outdoor dining area that is being proposed for a vote at tomorrow's meeting. I walk by the Country Club at least once per

12/1/2009

day every single day and I will be one of those residents that will finally be able to enjoy the facility once the outdoor dining is available for all residents. I have discussed this with many of my neighbors and we all agree that it is the perfect venue for us to get together for a coffee or a bite to eat.

Please consider my email as a confirmation of a Coral Gables resident that fully supports the outdoor dining when you vote tomorrow morning.

Thank you,

Robert Andreas

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:48 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW:

For Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:41 PM
To: 'KK W'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE:

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: KK W [mailto:dullfin08@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 5:51 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject:

Dear Mr. Slesnick,

Please vote "YES" for the outside cafe at the Coral Gables Country Club in November 17, 2009

12/1/2009

commission meeting.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Kristi Weida
312 Aledo Ave

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:48 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

For Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:41 PM
To: 'Karandy@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Karandy@aol.com [mailto:Karandy@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 5:13 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Why not, how often is the weather really great for dining outdoors, I really don't understand how bad it could be to the surrounding area. Only a few months out of the year people really can enjoy being outdoors in South Florida, it just might add a little life to the place!!!!

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:49 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW:

For Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:41 PM
To: 'sgofcadiz@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE:

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: sgofcadiz@aol.com [mailto:sgofcadiz@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 4:44 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject:

Dear Mayor Slesnick:

As a resident of Coral Gables for the past 33 years I have seen some changes that negatively affect the Golf Course and Country Club area but I don't hear comments or outrage about them. Yet, when we get a new proposal that is beneficial to the community, all we hear is how it will be a bad thing for the surrounding neighbors.

12/1/2009

In the early morning, I see many people that take their dogs onto the golf course and let them loose there even though it is not a dog park. In the afternoon when I walk in the area I see cyclists that are rude and disrespectful to the area's neighbors yet I see nothing being done or concerns being raised about these issues. I believe that the outside seating area for the Country Club's restaurants is a positive change that will enhance the neighborhood and will provide a more neighbor-friendly atmosphere to our community. Please consider voting in favor of the proposed changes.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Sanchez-Galarraga
1407 Cadiz Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:49 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

For Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:40 PM
To: 'IGNACIO E CENDAN'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: IGNACIO E CENDAN [mailto:ignacioecendan@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 3:33 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Mr. Slesnick,
I am writing to let you know of our support of opening the Country Club with the outdoor cafe. We think that at least giving it a trial period for a year is resasonable and fair to all.
Thank you,
Dr. and Mrs. Ignacio E. Cendan
1246 Asturia Ave

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:50 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: outdoor seating at CC cafe

For Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:40 PM
To: 'M F THOMAS'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: outdoor seating at CC cafe

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: M F THOMAS [mailto:maryfthomas@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 3:38 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: outdoor seating at CC cafe

Dear Mayor Slesnick

I am in favor of the outdoor seating concept at the Country Club in Coral Gables. I have lived in the Gables for 10years, and live only two blocks from the Country Club. I feel this will be very

12/1/2009

much a community meeting place for the neighborhood. Since they will not have music, I cannot see what objections can be raised about this idea. It is rather akin to meeting one's neighbors at the farmer's market, but in far fewer numbers.

Kind regards,

Mary Thomas
Aragon Ave.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:50 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: I am in agreement on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club.

For Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:39 PM
To: 'Valerie Bauwens'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: I am in agreement on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club.

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Valerie Bauwens [mailto:valeriebauwens@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 3:09 PM
To: Kerdyk, William; Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: I am in agreement on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club.

I am in agreement on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club.

~~Valerie Bauwens~~

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:51 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor Seating - Coral Gables Country Club

For Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:38 PM
To: 'Ellen'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Outdoor Seating - Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Ellen [mailto:d007078c@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:32 PM
To: Kerdyk, William; Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Outdoor Seating - Coral Gables Country Club

Daniel and Ellen Berger would like to see outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club. The cleanliness of the exterior would be the Country Club's responsibility. As I walk past the site today, the exterior is deteriorating. Having the seating outside will make the exterior area be a

12/1/2009

maintenance priority for this company.

Thank you.

Ellen and Daniel Berger
2706 N. Greenway Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33134



Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:52 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor seating at The Coral Gables Country Club

To Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:38 PM
To: 'm.martucci@comcast.net'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Outdoor seating at The Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: m.martucci@comcast.net [mailto:m.martucci@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:08 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Outdoor seating at The Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Sirs,

Please be advised that I support the cafe and outdoor seating area at The Coral Gables

12/1/2009

Country Club. This outdoor seating would benefit the area residents and the future of the country club. I don't see how an outdoor seating area will disrupt the residents of North Greenway Drive, when it will attract the very same people who presently walk and jog around the golf course and the golfers who play on the course. I feel that the Commission should take into consideration the needs and the goals of the many citizens of Coral Gables, and not just the few residents who live close by.

Maria Martucci
Resident of Coral Gables

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:53 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: We support the outdoor cafe at the Coral Gables Country Club

Send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:38 PM
To: 'Ladner, Sharyn J'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: We support the outdoor cafe at the Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Ladner, Sharyn J [mailto:sladner@miami.edu]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:05 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Cc: Liberty Entertainment Group; Bob Ladner
Subject: We support the outdoor cafe at the Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Mayor Slesnick and Vice-Mayor Bill Kerdyk,

I am writing to you in support of the outdoor dining facility at the Coral Gables Country Club. I attended the presentation given by Liberty Entertainment Group and also looked at the area that the outdoor seating would

12/1/2009

occupy facing the corner of North Greenway and Granada Boulevard. I was very favorably impressed with the design, the presentation, and responsiveness by Liberty Entertainment to the questions raised at this meeting.

My husband and I purchased our home at 929 Majorca Avenue in 1974. We love the neighborhood, take walks around the golf course, and look forward to dining at the proposed Coral Gables Country Club Café. We can see the CGCC parking lot from our front yard and it has been an eyesore for far too long. An outdoor café will do much to return this property to its former elegance.

Because both of us work – I at the University of Miami and my husband at his business, Behavioral Science Research, on Ponce de Leon Boulevard – we will not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting to speak in favor of the outdoor café.

We urge you to vote in favor of outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club café at tomorrow's commission meeting.

Respectfully yours, ...

Sharyn Ladner, homeowner
929 Majorca Avenue, Coral Gables, FL

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:55 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Support for cafe with outdoor dining at Coral Gables Country Club

Send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:37 PM
To: 'bpge199@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Support for cafe with outdoor dining at Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received.

However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: bpge199@aol.com [mailto:bpge199@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:03 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Support for cafe with outdoor dining at Coral Gables Country Club

Good afternoon Mayor Slesnick. I am writing to express my support for the proposed Cafe at the Country Club of Coral Gables including outdoor dining. I think it is a wonderful idea. The country club needs to be more open and accessible and inviting to us, the residents of Coral Gables. It has not been successful because it is viewed as very closed, old and stuffy. I believe the outdoor dining will provide a means of allowing non-members to see the Country Club as accessible and a nice place to have a cup of coffee while enjoying a quick stop on a weekday morning and have breakfast and lunch with the family on the weekends.

Thank you for your consideration,
Barbara Perez

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:55 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: The Coral Gables Country Club

Send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:37 PM
To: 'Vivian Williams'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: The Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Vivian Williams [mailto:Vivian@canteratax.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 1:49 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Cc: 'nick@libertygroup.com'
Subject: The Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Mayor and Vice Mayor,

As a Coral Gables resident, I would like to add my support for the outdoor cafe at the Coral Gables Country Club. Please know if this venue becomes successful, I anticipate many residents becoming members including

12/1/2009

myself. My family was a member when I was a kid and I have very fond memories of the Club from the 70's. Unfortunatley it has not seen those glory days for some time. I'm sure your vision of the Club is as an institution for all the Coral Gables crowd, not just those that live on North and South Greenway Drives. If they can exclusively limit this venture, then you should have a special taxing district created for North and South Greenway Drives which would fund the loss of revenue from these taxes.

Best regards,

Vivian Williams

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:56 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:36 PM
To: 'Cruz, Tania G.'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Cruz, Tania G. [mailto:TCruz@ssd.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 1:48 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: Gimenez, Carlos
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Mayor Slesnick:

12/1/2009

I wanted to take this opportunity to advise you that I support an outdoor seating section at the Coral Gables Country Club Cafe.

Best wishes,

Tania G. Cruz
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
Wachovia Financial Center, 41st Floor
200 South Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida, 33131-2398
+1.305.577.7011 Direct
+1.305.577.7000 Main #
+1.305.577.7001 Fax
TCruz@ssd.com
www.ssd.com

Beijing Bratislava Brussels Budapest Caracas Cincinnati Cleveland Columbus Frankfurt Hong Kong Houston London Los Angeles Madrid

Miami Milan Moscow New York Palo Alto Phoenix Prague Rio de Janeiro San Francisco Santo Domingo Shanghai Tallahassee Tampa Tokyo Tysons Corner Warsaw Washington DC West Palm Beach

Associated Offices: Bucharest Buenos Aires Dublin Kyiv Santiago

NOTICE: This email message and all attachments transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the addressees and may contain legally privileged, protected or confidential information. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by email reply and please delete this message from your computer and destroy any copies.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:56 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor Cafe at the Country Club of CG

Send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:36 PM
To: 'Jose Amezaga'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Outdoor Cafe at the Country Club of CG

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Jose Amezaga [mailto:amezagaj@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 1:45 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William; Cabrera, Ralph; Anderson, Maria
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Outdoor Cafe at the Country Club of CG

Dear Mayor and Commissioners;
As a resident of Coral Gables, I as well as all of my family and friends

12/1/2009

that also live in the city support the concept of an outdoor cafe in the Country Club facilities. I believe this will become a place where we can walk to, meet family and friends and enjoy refreshments and/or lunch. We ask you and the commissioners to do what is right for the city and I believe this will something that will improve the chances of a successful Country Club.

Sincerely,

Jose P. Amezaga

1519 Palermo Avenue

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

305-663-9789

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:57 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor Cafe

Send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:35 PM
To: 'Philip Rinaldi'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Outdoor Cafe

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Philip Rinaldi [mailto:pjrinal@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 1:27 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Outdoor Cafe

Don / Bill, I am writing to encourage your support of the proposed outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club. Despite the voiced concerns about this conflicting with adjacent residential community, it seems to me to be consistent with the country club setting and atmosphere that will help to ensure the success of this facility. Also, this will enhance our local dining alternatives in a most pleasant and non-urban setting -- something that downtown restaurants can't offer. I look forward to learning of the Commissions approval, even if provisional, of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration. Phil Rinaldi

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:58 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:35 PM
To: 'Donald Sackman'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Donald Sackman [mailto:sackmand@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 12:54 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

November 16, 2009

Mayor Donald Slesnick
Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.

12/1/2009

City of Coral Gables 405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL

Re: **Coral Gables Country Club**

Dear Don and Bill,

I have been following the progress of the **Coral Gables Country Club** for the past year, and have attended several city commission presentations, the public meeting at the Club earlier this month and have reviewed the proposed designs for the exterior seating area.

As a Gables resident I regularly walk or ride my bike on North Greenway Drive on the weekends. And as a current member of the **Coral Gables Board of Architects** I reviewed and approved the preliminary plans (including the exterior seating design) presented to our board several months ago.

I fully support the idea of the 18 month 'trial period' for the exterior seating portions of the project and request that you vote accordingly at the commission meeting tomorrow.

Regards,

Donald Sackman, AIA
Architect
380 Giralda Avenue, Suite 708
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305.965.5001
sackmand@aol.com

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:59 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Susan, please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:35 PM
To: 'Donald Sackman'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Donald Sackman [mailto:sackmand@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 12:54 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

November 16, 2009

Mayor Donald Slesnick
Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.

12/1/2009

City of Coral Gables 405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Fl.

Re: Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Don and Bill,

I have been following the progress of the **Coral Gables Country Club** for the past year, and have attended several city commission presentations, the public meeting at the Club earlier this month and have reviewed the proposed designs for the exterior seating area.

As a Gables resident I regularly walk or ride my bike on North Greenway Drive on the weekends. And as a current member of the **Coral Gables Board of Architects** I reviewed and approved the preliminary plans (including the exterior seating design) presented to our board several months ago.

I fully support the idea of the 18 month 'trial period' for the exterior seating portions of the project and request that you vote accordingly at the commission meeting tomorrow.

Regards,

Donald Sackman, AIA
Architect
380 Giralda Avenue, Suite 708
Coral Gables, Fl 33134
305.965.5001
sackmand@aol.com

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:01 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Please send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:35 PM
To: 'Donald Sackman'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known-as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Donald Sackman [mailto:sackmand@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 12:54 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

November 16, 2009

Mayor Donald Slesnick
Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.

12/1/2009

City of Coral Gables 405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL

Re: **Coral Gables Country Club**

Dear Don and Bill,

I have been following the progress of the **Coral Gables Country Club** for the past year, and have attended several city commission presentations, the public meeting at the Club earlier this month and have reviewed the proposed designs for the exterior seating area.

As a Gables resident I regularly walk or ride my bike on North Greenway Drive on the weekends. And as a current member of the **Coral Gables Board of Architects** I reviewed and approved the preliminary plans (including the exterior seating design) presented to our board several months ago.

I fully support the idea of the 18 month 'trail period' for the exterior seating portions of the project and request that you vote accordingly at the commission meeting tomorrow.

Regards,

Donald Sackman, AIA
Architect
380 Giralda Avenue, Suite 708
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305.965.5001
sackmand@aol.com

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:02 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:35 PM
To: 'Donald Sackman'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Donald Sackman [mailto:sackmand@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 12:54 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

November 16, 2009

Mayor Donald Slesnick
Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.

12/1/2009

City of Coral Gables 405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Fl.

Re: **Coral Gables Country Club**

Dear Don and Bill,

I have been following the progress of the **Coral Gables Country Club** for the past year, and have attended several city commission presentations, the public meeting at the Club earlier this month and have reviewed the proposed designs for the exterior seating area.

As a Gables resident I regularly walk or ride my bike on North Greenway Drive on the weekends. And as a current member of the **Coral Gables Board of Architects** I reviewed and approved the preliminary plans (including the exterior seating design) presented to our board several months ago.

I fully support the idea of the 18 month 'trail period' for the exterior seating portions of the project and request that you vote accordingly at the commission meeting tomorrow.

Regards,

Donald Sackman, AIA
Architect
380 Giralda Avenue, Suite 708
Coral Gables, Fl 33134
305.965.5001
sackmand@aol.com

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:03 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:35 PM
To: 'Grabiell, Julio'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Grabiell, Julio [mailto:Julio.Grabiell@aecom.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 10:10 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Country Club

Don,

As you may remember I live at 1126 South Greenway Dr. I don't see any reason to deny the outdoor café at the Clubhouse; as long as it is open to all residents of the Gables. We have the golf club house across the street serving food why not at the Clubhouse.

12/1/2009

Best Regards,
Julio

Julio Grabiell, AIA
Principal
AECOM Design
julio.grabiell@aecom.com

AECOM
800 Douglas Entrance
North Tower, 2nd Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134
T 305.447.3538 F 305.447.3588
www.aecom.com

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:03 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:35 PM
To: 'Grabiell, Julio'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Grabiell, Julio [mailto:Julio.Grabiell@aecom.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 10:10 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Country Club

Don,

As you may remember I live at 1126 South Greenway Dr. I don't see any reason to deny the outdoor café at the Clubhouse; as long as it is open to all residents of the Gables. We have the golf club house across the street serving food why not at the Clubhouse.

12/1/2009

Best Regards,
Julio

Julio Grabiell, AIA
Principal
AECOM Design
julio.grabiell@aecom.com

AECOM
800 Douglas Entrance
North Tower, 2nd Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134
T 305.447.3538 F 305.447.3588
www.aecom.com

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:04 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:34 PM
To: 'Melissa Ortega'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Melissa Ortega [mailto:melly22577@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 9:17 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

My name is Melissa Ortega and I am a Coral Gables resident. I think that outdoor dining for the country club is a wonderful idea and I support it.

Thanks you,
Melissa Ortega

Hotmail: Trusted email with powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:05 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:34 PM
To: 'DSPACE2@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Country club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: DSPACE2@aol.com [mailto:DSPACE2@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 9:04 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Country club

Please vote for outdoor seating to allow the gables to remain vibrant and great place to live . Dar Pace

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:05 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country club Tuesday vote

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:34 PM
To: 'Maryeanderson@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Country club Tuesday vote

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Maryeanderson@aol.com [mailto:Maryeanderson@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 8:35 AM
To: nick@libertygroup.com; Kerdyk, William; Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Re: Country club Tuesday vote

Honorable Mayor and Commissioner Kerdyk,

As a resident of Coral Gables I feel we should have outdoor dining year round wherever possible. We need to

12/1/2009

have every available opportunity to enjoy our gorgeous sub tropical climate. Visits from our friends across the globe constantly remind us that we take our sunshine for granted and under utilize one of our best natural resources...the outdoors!

THREE votes from our household for an outdoor cafe.

Mary E. Anderson-Cano
1526 Trevino Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134

In a message dated 11/16/2009 1:12:38 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, nick@libertygroup.com writes:

Dear Coral Gables Residents

If you agree with Mr. Volsky on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club, I would appreciate if you could share your feelings with Mayor Don Selsnick at donslesnick@coralgables.com and Vice Mayor William Kerdyk wnerdyk@coralgables.com. They both voted against the outdoor dining in a previous meeting. On Tuesday November 17th there will be a final commission meeting to decide on whether to permit the outdoor dining. We need them to know that the majority of Coral Gables residents want this facility to succeed and want to allow the outdoor dining. Should the outdoor dining not be permitted, there will be no café and the long term viability of the Country Club could be at stake.

I ask your support in this matter. Please have your view be heard. Your emails are crucial in making this pass.

Thank you;

Nick Di Donato
President & CEO
Liberty Entertainment Group

From: GeorgeVolsky@aol.com [mailto:GeorgeVolsky@aol.com]

Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2009 10:33 PM

To: a.scheelen@skynet.be; olga@alhambraantiques.com; abibeu@arshtcenter.org; pablo@acostagovlaw.com; adrisabino@yahoo.com; AGUAYOT@aol.com; alexl.hayes@gmail.com; v.anding@hotmail.com; lentoby@comcast.net; armadag@mdpls.org; asmith@kislak.com; asp@miamidade.gov; aurelio@duranalaw.com; arnhilda@bellsouth.net; MonJimBarker@aol.com; beatapaszyk@yahoo.com; DANBENEDIT@aol.com; julie@colson.com; lbudmen@msn.com; AHC1BNB@aol.com; gburgess@miamidade.gov; COTazo@aol.com; s.cabanas@gmail.com; betty@kerdyk.com; rcabrera@cabrerabenefits.com; CALicko@HHLAW.com; calyc@fiu.edu; lee65632003@yahoo.com; ccathers@coralgables.com; Josejcenturion@aol.com; cmiami@kcl.net; chiciboom@bellsouth.net; CMerrickles@aol.com; acodinabarlick@mac.com; bcollingwood@bellsouth.net; Coralgablesguy@aol.com; ecordoba@bellsouth.net; cristina@booksandbooks.com; csuris@coralgables.com; lcuzan@frvf-law.com; ssd@gablesoffices.com; david@deehi.com; ilybyair@gmail.com; adelgado@coralgables.com; margarita@mrd-consulting.com; paperemporium@bellsouth.net; DHarris@silverarrow.net; mdportilla@becker-poliakoff.com; mcarabeo@dadeschools.net; dnelson@coralgables.com; DADoheny@aol.com; vrodri10@mdc.edu; doravf@bellsouth.net; wancool@gmail.com; ddoucette@biltmorehotel.com; drjgalliford@bellsouth.net; dshalala@miami.edu; info@virginiamiller.com; INTVEREAL@aol.com; Agdur@aol.com; bdursum@miami.edu; jackeads@bellsouth.net; Egibbons@rra-law.com; mike@colson.com; bay@farwellgroup.com; eloyvaz@att.net; epadron@mdc.edu; erinaldi@orchestramiami.org; ezabalo@coralgables.com; Fabianbasabe2@aol.com; francisco.r.ferran@smithbarney.com; monica@mgfappraisals.com; tara.finley@att.net; flemingj@gtlaw.com; gallardo15@hotmail.com; kimberley.gaultier@diplomatie.gouv.fr; dan.gelber@akerman.com; sigelber@att.net; Georgette.Pepper@international.gc.ca; info@chopin.org; lgibson@miamicityballet.org; GoSanabria@aol.com; luludance@yahoo.com; lguzman@guzman.com; kris.hakeman@citi.com;

Jeanie_Hernandez@cable.comcast.com; HFOsle@comcast.net; fic@kubickidraper.com;
 j.galliford@miami.edu; JackieSchwartz1@aol.com; jader@gablestage.org; jikislak@kislak.com;
 mjimenez@coralgables.com; JIVAN700@aol.com; jorge@decarconsultants.com; jamesmj@mac.com;
 Kamaway@gmail.com; jkaplan@atlanticbb.net; Kaplan296@aol.com;
 katherinefernandezrundle@miamisao.com; WKerdyk@aol.com; KGNeumann@aol.com;
 kkintner@classicalsouthflorida.org; JoeKlock@aol.com; blambortega@aol.com;
 mlamela@univisionradio.com; LCajina@bankatlantic.com; leibowitz7@gmail.com;
 mcleiva@mfmmanagement.com; gleon1@mdc.edu; carmenlg@bellsouth.net; ejlezcana@hotmail.com;
 liebercane@msn.com; linda.smith@rsmas.miami.edu; camiloliii@camilo.com; jllopezpa@comcast.net;
 losdalsy@bellsouth.net; Sumalnati@aol.com; mando@mgscomm.com;
 margaret.j.cathey@exxonmobil.com; debo@miamidade.gov; byron_doreen@bellsouth.net;
 martha.pantin@AA.com; pjre@bellsouth.net; rlm5000@bellsouth.net; Martinzilber@aol.com;
 marvinross@friedmanart.com; info@sundaymusicals.org; Maryeanderson@aol.com;
 rmasvidal@masvidalpartners.com; masvidals@pfm.com; JamesMcGuirkLaw@aol.com;
 mggonzalez@bacardi.com; Michael.Abbott@oig.hhs.gov; ahmoss@miami.edu; mputney@wplg.com;
 na@newacropolismiami.org; George@GMCVB.com; Miamibierhaus@aol.com; Nick Di Donato;
 nicolle@miamicityballet.org; rn@miamimiami.com; Bnormaskin@cs.com; cnosti@yahoo.com;
 NRosquete@totalbank.com; Omarpasalodosmd@aol.com; PACourtney@HHLAW.com;
 jpadron@padron.com; fpardo@fpadesign.com; rpadron@padron.com; cpastor1@bellsouth.net;
 Pat.Gleason@eog.myflorida.com; pat.ororke@att.net; david@davidpearsonassociates.com;
 georgette.pepper@international.gc.ca; elcajuna@bellsouth.net; RAPettig@aol.com;
 pfernandez@fairchildgarden.org; GPinon@PrestigeCruiseHoldings.com; prendes.a@mellon.com;
 gprescott@biltmorehotel.com; press@miami.mfa.gov.il; billpruitt@gmail.com;
 PSarcinella@smartcity.com; raulalvarez1@bellsouth.net; raulrrodriguez@hotmail.com;
 rharris@miamimusicproject.org; RMEYERS@miamidade.gov; rob@greatgables.com;
 lrobainas@mdpd.com; robin.burr@gmail.com; robi2292@bellsouth.net; oroca@mdc.edu;
 rar112us@yahoo.com; italconsulmiami@gmail.com; mariarodaz@teatroareastage.com;
 sroddenberry@akerman.com; manny_J_rodriguez@FPL.com; rlrodriguez@rodriguezquiroga.com;
 Rohaidy30@aol.com; rpetrey@collinscenter.org; RSaldana@bbubank.com; rustyhook1@bellsouth.net;
 clerk@miami-dadeclerk.com; psalerno@coralgables.com; gs@realestateworks.net;
 gschwartz@mondriansouthbeach.com; smasvidal@kamaway.com; ms4@miamidade.gov;
 axel.stein@sothebys.com; stephen.roddenberry@akerman.com; mrstierheim@msn.com;
 svdupouy@yahoo.fr; pdthomson@hhlaw.com; torben.riise@comcast.net; Amter3tony@aol.com;
 CATKST@aol.com; alexulam@mac.com; rvf@frc-law.com; vickie@sieken.com; sophie@videment.com;
 jgvillar@hotmail.com; vkostik@bellsouth.net; gvolsky@akerman.com; peter.volsky@gmail.com;
 weiser@tcchotels.com; rweiss@wsh-law.com; wilkinsm@fiu.edu; willrogers70@yahoo.com;
 jeffrey@wolfeswines.com; mwurster@westincoralgables.com; Wwcorrigan@aol.com;
 Xaviersuarezsq@aol.com; ayoun@collinscenter.org; ChrisZoller@aol.com; cjzwick@bellsouth.net

Subject: Country club Tuesday vote

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:06 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Zakov, Trevor
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:58 PM
To: Foeman, Walter
Subject: FW: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

From: Ron Zighelboim [mailto:ronzig@me.com]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:34 PM
To: Zakov, Trevor
Subject: Fwd: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

per your request...

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ron Zighelboim <ronzig@me.com>
Date: November 10, 2009 7:29:16 PM EST
To: donslesnick@coralgables.com
Bcc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As a North Gables resident, our household is very much in favor of this initiative. I attended the meeting last week and was most impressed with the Club's new management and its ideas. I think we finally have a winner!

It appears to us that it's a low-risk decision for the City, considering the 18-month trial period proposed by Mr. Di Donato. I wish those against the outdoor seating concept would realize that this is a very fair approach to resolving what has become an overblown issue...

Sincerely,

Ronald & Jennifer Zighelboim
1425 Venetia Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305 298 2944

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:07 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Liberty Cafe at the CGCC

Please send to Eric and Liz.

-----Original Message-----

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:33 PM
To: 'Amy Kutell'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Liberty Cafe at the CGCC

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Kutell [mailto:amy.kutell@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 6:52 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Re: Liberty Cafe at the CGCC

Good morning,
Please email me any additional facts you have regarding the Liberty Cafe. From the information I had it seems like a positive thing, no?
Thank you,

Amy

On Nov 15, 2009, at 9:30 PM, Slesnick, Donald wrote:

> As my appointee to the Library Board - I would have hoped that you
> would have contacted me to discuss before writing this e-mail. I do
> not believe that you have all the facts - nor would you want this on
> your street. Don
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Amy Kutell [mailto:amy.kutell@gmail.com]
> Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 4:50 PM
> To: Slesnick, Donald; wkerdk@coralgables.com
> Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
> Subject: Liberty Cafe at the CGCC
>
> Hello Mayor Slesnick and Vice Mayor Kerdyk,
>
> As an active citizen resident of North Coral Gables and a former
> member of the Coral Gables Country Club, I wanted to write and express
> my support for the proposed outdoor Liberty Cafe. After attending the
> recent meeting regarding the cafe, along with lots of other positive
> residents, I feel that the cafe would be a welcome addition to our
> neighborhood. My family and I have fond memories of walking and
> biking up to the CGCC to enjoy activities and meals. The Liberty Cafe
> seems to be offering a similar and dare I say better venue for this,
> with a great looking and well priced menu.
>
> I hope you'll both put your support behind the Liberty Cafe.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Amy Kutell
> Coral Gables Library Board member
>
> Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not
> want your e-mail address released in response to a public records
> request, do not send electronic mail to this entity.
> Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.
>

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:07 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:31 PM
To: 'McG44@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: McG44@aol.com [mailto:McG44@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 5:18 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: jconnelly@ransomeverglades.org
Subject: Re: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

Dear Don,

I was surprised and very thankful for your prompt reply to my rather curt and brief message on the issue. I don't usually send emails to our elected officials (you have enough demands on your time) but have become more interested and active now that Jean and I are living "downtown". There is no need for a further response but I do want to make sure you know how grateful Jean and I are for the years of service you have put in on behalf of our community. We have over 40 years in the Gables at Aduana and the last 5 here at Andalusia. You have had our support throughout and I am so proud of our city, much is the result of your foresight and actions.

Our summer residence in Tuxedo Park, <http://www.nytimes.com/2000/06/18/realestate/if-you-re-thinking-living-tuxedo-park-ny-330-homes-but-not-one-house-number.html?pagewanted=2> (many changes since this 2000 article but it is very similar in nature to the "City Beautiful") is a tiny converted chauffeur's house and we are not Club members, a bigger distinction than the article would have you assume. Although the Park is much smaller, I have often referred our trustees to our Coral Gables history, visions, codes and Commission actions as they face many of the same issues. How do you preserve a unique and historic community yet face the financial challenges and keep pace with the future?

I was opposed to term limits and I am concerned that we are facing some serious challenges to our "community way of life" based on the recent campaign for Maria's seat on the Commission. Over the years we have annexed so many areas where I believe residents do not have the same feelings for the sense of unique history we have here. There again, there are and were many positive reasons why this has to happen. With respect to the Country Club, I know you live nearby, are certainly entitled to your views as a resident, and don't doubt you want the Club to succeed. I must admit that we love to take guests on a tour of the North/South Greenway loop, play golf at Grenada, eat at Burger Bob's, so we add to the distractions created by this "very public and 'happening' place". I don't doubt you love it. We were very close to purchasing a house on North Greenway at one time. The price (expensive) reflected the benefits of the location rather than a buyer's argument that these public amenities would need to put up with. In my opinion, it is much a part of the "Village Green" and a well designed extension and buffer from downtown. Lastly, we all know developers will mislead at every opportunity. I just read the article on the position the Biltmore is taking. However, the Commission must do the best they can and hope this asset to our community can be successfully revived to "benefit" all the tax paying residents.

Thanks again for your valued service. I can honestly say I have always found myself on your side of the issues 95% of the time and appreciate your attempt to keep our culture and history as the "City Beautiful". We are unique.

Regards,
Stuart

PS: I thought Jeanette might enjoy this website on Tuxedo Park as well. <http://www.tuxedoparkpreferredproperties.com/>

Stuart J. McGregor, Esq.
100 Andalusia #405-6
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(Home) 305-665-9572
(Cell) 305-528-6963
(Fax) 1-305-433-3633 (pls use 1)

The information in this email transmission is privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, nor the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this transmission (including any attachments) is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by email reply. Thank you.

In a message dated 11/14/2009 4:04:24 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, donslesnick@coralgables.com writes:

Dear Stuart:

I am all for the Club coming back to life - I grew up in it and my Mom was a member till the day it closed. We have lived in this house for 25 years and my kids used the club (as members) to learn to swim and play tennis (as well as dance). There is nothing I want more than to have the club come to life and to succeed. The neighborhood has always put up with the public nature of the area and the inconveniences associated therewith - the golfers (with errant balls), the joggers, walkers, skaters, bikers, vehicular traffic, roller-bladers, baby carriages, the public address system at the golf course (during early morning tournaments), the people in and out of the pro-shop, Burger Bob's and the Club - not to mention the public parking lot in front of the club and the overflow traffic during the many special events. Despite that daunting list - I love North Greenway - it is a very public and "happening" place. But the small yard in front of the club blends it with the rest of the neighborhood and

12/1/2009

having people eat, drink and converse throughout the evening (with the associated parking) is going a little too far (in my mind). Furthermore, if this element is so essential to the operation, then we were misled by this company during our negotiations of the lease. I really am trying to stay true to the values of our neighborhood life in the Gabies -- while encouraging a vibrant cultural (including street events) society in our central business district.

Regards,
Don Slesnick

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:08 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables country club

Please send to Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:30 PM
To: 'H Gasca'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables country club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: H Gasca [mailto:ezphone1@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 7:31 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables country club

We are in favor of outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club. Hilda & Hector Gasca, 414 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, 33134
305-447-8824

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:09 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Please send to Liz and Eric.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:29 PM
To: 'Marcela Vieco'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Marcela Vieco [mailto:mvieco@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 7:31 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; wkerdk@coralgables.com
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Mr. Slesnick and Mr. Kerdyk:

Maybe I am jumping into conclusions here, and to be completely honest I have not been fully involved in this project regarding the pros and cons; but as an architecture graduate from

12/1/2009

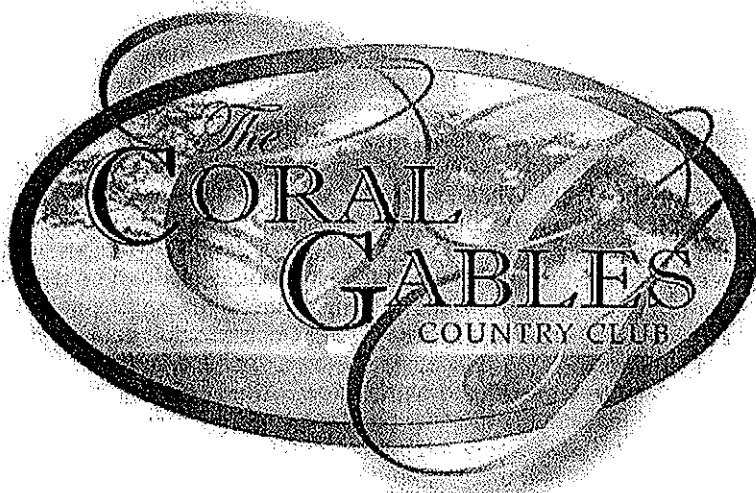
the University of Miami and having been practicing for over 11 years, I would say beyond the shadow of a doubt, that encouraging pedestrian/citizen interaction at the level these people are proposing makes a lot of sense. By segregating residential areas from public spaces is that we got suburbia to the mess it is right now. One of the most outstanding features the Gables has is its public spaces, and places for gathering, eating and hanging out, especially outdoors. Please do allow the Coral Gables Country Club to reach its full potential and our citizens to enjoy the beauty of Coral Gables and the Florida weather.

It just seems a shame to discard a project like this in lieu of keeping yet another white elephant!

Marcela Vieco

Date: Fri, 13 Nov 2009 22:51:02 +0100
To: mvieco@hotmail.com
From: rsvp@libertygroup.com
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

You are receiving this email because you have signed up for the City of Coral Gables news updates,
If you do not want to be included in Liberty Entertainment Group news and future updates please reply unsubscribe.



Dear Fellow Neighbor,

The Liberty Entertainment Group, renown for its restoration of historical properties, is honored to have been awarded this spectacular country club by the City of Coral Gables. As President and CEO, I would personally like to invite you to share in our new vision for the Coral Gables Country Club project, and in particular, the Liberty Café. Nestled in the south side of the country club, the café and restaurant will include sidewalk patios in the midst of lush green landscape overlooking the golf course.

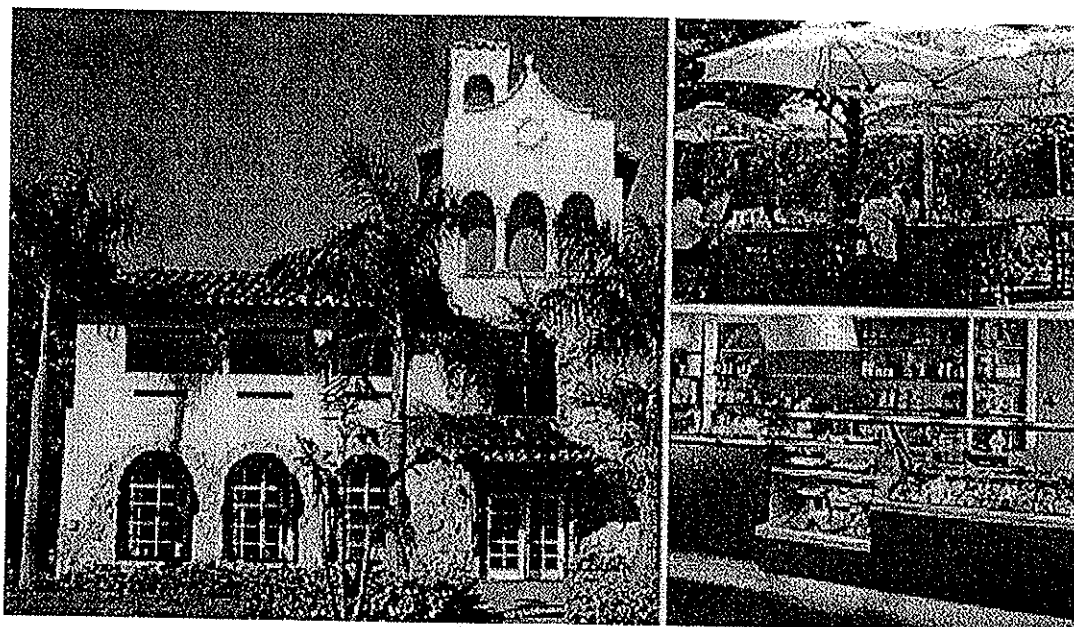
The café will offer the residential community a casual hospitality venue to compliment the surrounding golf, tennis, swimming and other recreational activities and will feature pressed sandwiches, thin-crust pizza, Italian gelato, fresh pastries, espresso, specialty coffees and will be a fully licensed establishment.

To date, we have received strong community support with our project plans; however

12/1/2009

recently, we have been challenged with a few issues pertaining to the approval process for outdoor dining.

I look forward to meeting the many fellow community members and appreciate your support in this exciting project.



Below is a link to an online petition that our fellow neighbors setup as well as some letters sent to council.

Online Petition

Please write or email your letter of support to the city commissioners, most importantly to

Mayor Don Slesnick

Contact Information

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 905-460-5220

Email: donslesnick@coralgables.com

Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr.

Contact Information

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 905-460-5220

Email: wkerdyk@coralgables.com

Neither Mayor Don Slesnick nor Vice Mayor William Kerdyk are in favor.
Please cc a copy to me at nick@libertygroup.com

Thank you for your support
Sincerely



Nick Di Donato, P. Eng.
President + CEO
Liberty Entertainment Group
www.libertygroup.com

Letters of Support

Dear Mayor & Commissioner of Coral Gables,

After carefully listening to the arguments presented against Mr. DiDonato's proposal for outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club, it would appear that the objections to the outdoor seating is a red herring and that the real objection is to revitalizing the Country Club and all the increased traffic it would bring to the neighborhood. This is a valid objection and should be discussed and debated openly – not hidden behind the irrelevant issue of a few outdoor tables. The City needs to decide whether it wants a busy, successful and profitable Country Club to operate in a residential neighborhood. If the answer is yes – then Mr. DiDonato should be given the powers to operate it successfully. If the answer is no, then the building should be rezoned as a museum, or knocked down and made into a park for example. The third alternative is to send Mr. DiDonato back to Toronto and to leave the Club as an expensive and abandoned eyesore. If we do so, however, it is unlikely that any other developer will wish to follow in Mr. DiDonato's footsteps.

What most of the community wants is a place where we can walk to, to meet friends, relax, and have a quiet coffee or lunch. To compare this proposed small café to The Globe which offers music, a South Beach ambience and central location is entirely disingenuous. I'm sure Mr. DiDonato does not want to risk losing the café during or after the 18 month trial period for the café. My guess is that he'll do whatever it takes to stay under the radar and be a good neighbor. Certainly, the quality of life will not be negatively affected by the addition of a few outdoor tables, especially since the closest house in view of the café is .2 miles away.

If the City does indeed want the Country Club to be successful, then there are two very compelling arguments in favor of the "neighborhood" café and outdoor seating. Without

the full-time staff needed to operate the café and restaurant, the Club would only be able to offer service for major functions like weddings and reunions. The local residences again would be shut out and the club would mostly likely return to its mausoleum status. Secondly, without the visual welcome of outdoor seating to invite passing residents into the club, people would not realize that the Club was open to the public and it would remain the closed and exclusionary façade that it has always been.

It was very clear from the meeting on November 3rd that the vast majority of Gables residents, taxpayers and voters are strongly in favor of Mr. DiDonato's proposals. It was equally clear that the small but vocal opposition was limited to the residents of North Greenway. When my friends and I voted for you Mr. Mayor, and voted for your fellow Commissioners, we voted for you to represent the citizens of the City of Coral Gables. We did not vote you to be mayor of North Greenway Drive. Please do what is right and help create a sense of community that will make us all proud.

Dear City Commissioners,

I attended the meeting at the Coral Gables Country Club the other evening and understand that a decision on the issue of outdoor seating will be made on November 17th. I am strongly in favor of this for the following reasons:

- The Country Club is currently empty and will deteriorate if this continues quite apart from the financial drain this imposes on the City and therefore on residents who pay taxes (there are much better projects to spend our money on). If the Liberty Entertainment Group takes over I think the Club will actually become an asset rather than a drain and enhance the value of the surrounding property.
- I spoke to two of the neighbors on Granada who live directly in front on the club closest to the proposed outdoor seating area and yet they are both in favor of it. Given that Mr. Di Donato has offered an 18 month trial period for the café it would seem that we have absolutely nothing to lose by trying.
- Traffic (both pedestrian and automotive) on North and South Greenway is already heavier than on surrounding streets because those streets surround a public golf course. Anyone who bought there knew that already but bought anyway. They could have chosen to buy on a dead end street or a much quieter back street but did not. Regardless, I do not believe that outdoor seating at the club will substantially increase traffic at all. Most of the neighbors are looking forward to walking or biking over there and there is plenty of parking in the back for those who choose to drive. Regarding increased danger that traffic might cause to pedestrians. I think this is a non-issue. The danger to pedestrians, roller bladers, cyclists, etc. comes from the fact that there is no pathway or bike path on the perimeter of the golf course so people are forced onto the street.
- Most importantly, the outdoor café and seating will enable Country Club to become a part of the community rather than yet another expensive, elitist club. I have lived fairly close by on Sorolla Avenue for 13 years and yet this was only the second time I had ever set foot in it. I look forward to being able to walk over and meet my neighbors many of whom were at the meeting. Currently the only way to do this is to walk around the golf course (or come to a meeting).

I thank you for taking the time to read my email and hope that you will endorse the outdoor seating on November 17th.

Dear Sirs

We used to live on South Greenway Drive and I know all too well that there can be no expectation of privacy if you chose to live on the Greenways. Joggers, roller-bladders and cyclists pass throughout the day, golfers comb through your front yard looking for balls, and strollers stop, facing your front door to chat with their friends and neighbors. We had a balcony from our bedroom overlooking the golf-course. The perfect place, we thought for morning coffee and the paper. No – too public. That is simply the price that you pay for living on the Greenway. It was like that 20 years ago when we lived there and I'm sure it is much worse now. (There were no cell phones when I lived there).

None of this will change, whether you have outdoor seating or not. Whenever there has been a big event at the Country Club – or a big tournament at the Golf Club, there are overflow cars along North Greenway Drive adjacent to the Club. This has always been the case. Anybody who chooses to purchase a house close to the Country Club should and would already be aware of this – that's how it has been since the Club was built.

None of this will change, whether you have outdoor seating or not. People who come to big private events at the Country Club will probably arrive by car, they come from all over and will need to drive.

This has always been the case – it's a fact of modern life. But most of the people using the café will probably have walked there – that's the whole appeal of the café. The existence of the café, indoor or outdoor, will have a negligible effect on motor traffic. My wife and I have lived here for 25 years and last night was the first time my wife had been inside the Country Club – a 3 minute walk from our house. Last night I heard many of my neighbors say the same thing – first visit. I was only familiar with the club because I used to attend monthly breakfast meetings for a business club that I belonged to; all the other members lived in Hollywood or Kendall – I was the only Gables member. The Club has never been part of the community and we are all delighted that you are finally going to change all that. You have tremendous local support behind you.

Thank You

Liberty Entertainment Group
25 British Columbia Rd., Exhibition Place, Toronto ON CA M6K 3C3
1.416.542.3789
www.libertygroup.com

[Unsubscribe / Change Profile](#)
Powered by [YourMailingListProvider](#)

Windows 7: Unclutter your desktop. [Learn more.](#)

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 5:19 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:14 PM
To: 'Norman Buhrmaster'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards,
 Don Slesnick

From: Norman Buhrmaster [mailto:nbuhrmaster@orionmiami.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 5:02 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; wkerdyk@coralgables.com
Cc: rsvp@libertygroup.com
Subject: FW: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

Don & Bill – My sincere support of the proposed outdoor seating at the Country Club is stated below.

11/23/2009

Norman

Norman Buhrmaster, CPM
Senior Vice President
Orion Investment and Management Ltd. Corp.
9155 S. Dadeland Blvd.
Suite 1602
Miami, Florida 33156
Phone: (305) 278-8400
Fax: (305) 278-1540
nbuhrmaster@orionmiami.com

From: Norman Buhrmaster
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 4:55 PM
To: 'rsvp@libertygroup.com'
Subject: RE: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

Unfortunately, I have a business commitment tomorrow which conflicts with the commission meeting.

I have been a resident of the Country Club of Coral Gables area since 1977 and have lived at my current residence, 816 Alhambra Circle since 1983. During its active years, I was a member of the Country Club of Coral Gables beginning in 1977.

My home is located 5 houses east of the Country Club and I whole heartedly support the request for approval to have outside dining at this facility as proposed by Liberty Entertainment Group. I believe it will be an asset to the residents of the area and a value enhancement to the ambience of our neighborhood.

Norman J. Buhrmaster

(home)
816 Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Norman Buhrmaster, CPM
Senior Vice President
Orion Investment and Management Ltd. Corp.
9155 S. Dadeland Blvd.
Suite 1602
Miami, Florida 33156
Phone: (305) 278-8400
Fax: (305) 278-1540
nbuhrmaster@orionmiami.com

From: Liberty Entertainment Group [mailto:rsvp@libertygroup.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 1:47 PM
To: Norman Buhrmaster
Subject: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

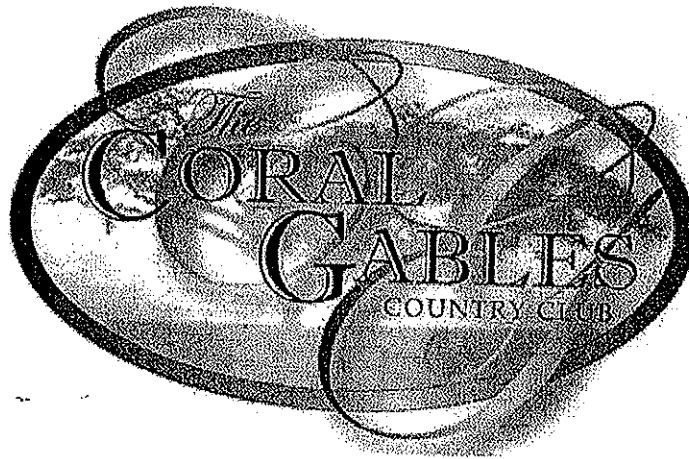
REMINDER!

CITY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING TOMORROW (NOV 17TH 10:00 A.M.)

You are receiving this email because you have signed up for the City of Coral Gables news updates,
If you do not want to be included in Liberty Entertainment Group news and future

11/23/2009

updates please reply unsubscribe or click link below.



Dear Fellow Neighbors,

I would like to personally thank you for the hundreds of letters, received to date, which have shown an overwhelming support for the outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club café.

If you are in agreement on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club, I would appreciate if you could share your feelings with Mayor Don Slesnick at donslesnick@coralgables.com and Vice Mayor William Kerdyk at wkerdyk@coralgables.com. They both voted against the outdoor dining in a previous meeting. We need them to know that the majority of Coral Gables residents want this facility to succeed and want to allow the outdoor dining. Should the outdoor dining not be permitted, there will be no café and the long term viability of the Country Club could be at stake.

There are a handful of residents that will do everything in their power to challenge the issue, especially at the upcoming meeting. Hopefully, you can make your views known as well. The vote on this matter will be held tomorrow **November 17th at 10:00 am at the Coral Gable's City Hall.**

If you haven't already done so, it is crucial that you send your letter of support for the café, to both the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Your voice is necessary!!!

Please write or email your letter to:

Mayor Don Slesnick

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 305 460 5220

Email: donslesnick@coralgables.com

Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr.

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 305 569 1817

Email: wkerdyk@coralgables.com

11/23/2009

Please cc a copy to me at nick@libertygroup.com.

We would also appreciate your presence, if at all possible, at the voting process tomorrow morning (Nov 17th) at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions or would like to contact me directly, I can be reached at nick@libertygroup.com.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Di Donato', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Di Donato, P. Eng.

President + CEO, Liberty Entertainment Group

Liberty Café at the Coral Gables Country Club

11/23/2009



Liberty Entertainment Group

25 British Columbia Rd., Toronto ON M6K 3C3 CANADA
www.libertygroup.com

<hr size=1 width="50%" noshade color=black align=center>

[Unsubscribe / Change Profile](#)

Powered by [YourMailingListProvider](#)

11/23/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 5:18 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outside seating - Coral Gables Country Club

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:15 PM
To: 'mikejullie@bellsouth.net'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Outside seating - Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards,
 Don Slesnick

From: Mike Jullie [mailto:mikejullie@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 9:37 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Subject: Outside seating - Coral Gables Country Club

Don,
 I would think we would want the place to be successful this time and, if it means letting them have seating anywhere on the property to accommodate more customers at a time, then so be it.
 Mike

Michael A. Jullie
 mikejullie@bellsouth.net
 305-494-2181

From: Slesnick, Donald [mailto:donslesnick@coralgables.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 7:21 PM
To: mikejullie@bellsouth.net
Subject: RE: Outside seating - Coral Gables Country Club

I have voted twice against it on the basis of limiting commercial intrusion into the front yards of residential neighborhoods. The issue is not "outside dining" - the club has plenty of that already approved, the debate is over the use of the "front yard" on North Greenway as a dining/eating/drinking facility. Don

From: Mike Jullie [mailto:mikejullie@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 4:45 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Subject: Outside seating - Coral Gables Country Club

Don and Bill,
 What is your side of this?
 Regards,
 Mike

Michael A. Jullie
 mikejullie@bellsouth.net
 305-494-2181

From: Liberty Entertainment Group [mailto:rsvp@libertygroup.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 1:39 PM
To: mikejullie@bellsouth.net

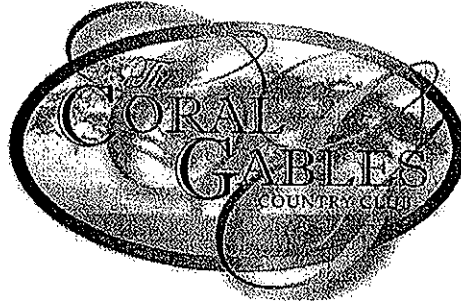
11/23/2009

Subject: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

REMINDER!

CITY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING TOMORROW (NOV 17TH 10:00 A.M.)

You are receiving this email because you have signed up for the City of Coral Gables news updates.
If you do not want to be included in Liberty Entertainment Group news and future updates please reply unsubscribe or click link below.



Dear Fellow Neighbors,

I would like to personally thank you for the hundreds of letters, received to date, which have shown an overwhelming support for the outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club café.

If you are in agreement on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club, I would appreciate if you could share your feelings with Mayor Don Slesnick at donslesnick@coralgables.com and Vice Mayor William Kerdyk at wkerdyk@coralgables.com. They both voted against the outdoor dining in a previous meeting. We need them to know that the majority of Coral Gables residents want this facility to succeed and want to allow the outdoor dining. Should the outdoor dining not be permitted, there will be no café and the long term viability of the Country Club could be at stake.

There are a handful of residents that will do everything in their power to challenge the issue, especially at the upcoming meeting. Hopefully, you can make your views known as well. The vote on this matter will be held tomorrow **November 17th at 10:00 am at the Coral Gable's City Hall.**

If you haven't already done so, it is crucial that you send your letter of support for the café, to both the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Your voice is necessary!!!

Please write or email your letter to:

Mayor Don Slesnick

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 305 460 5220

Email: donslesnick@coralgables.com

Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr.

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 305 569 1817

Email: wkerdyk@coralgables.com

Please cc a copy to me at nick@libertygroup.com.

We would also appreciate your presence, if at all possible, at the voting process tomorrow morning (Nov 17th) at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions or would like to contact me directly, I can be reached at nick@libertygroup.com.

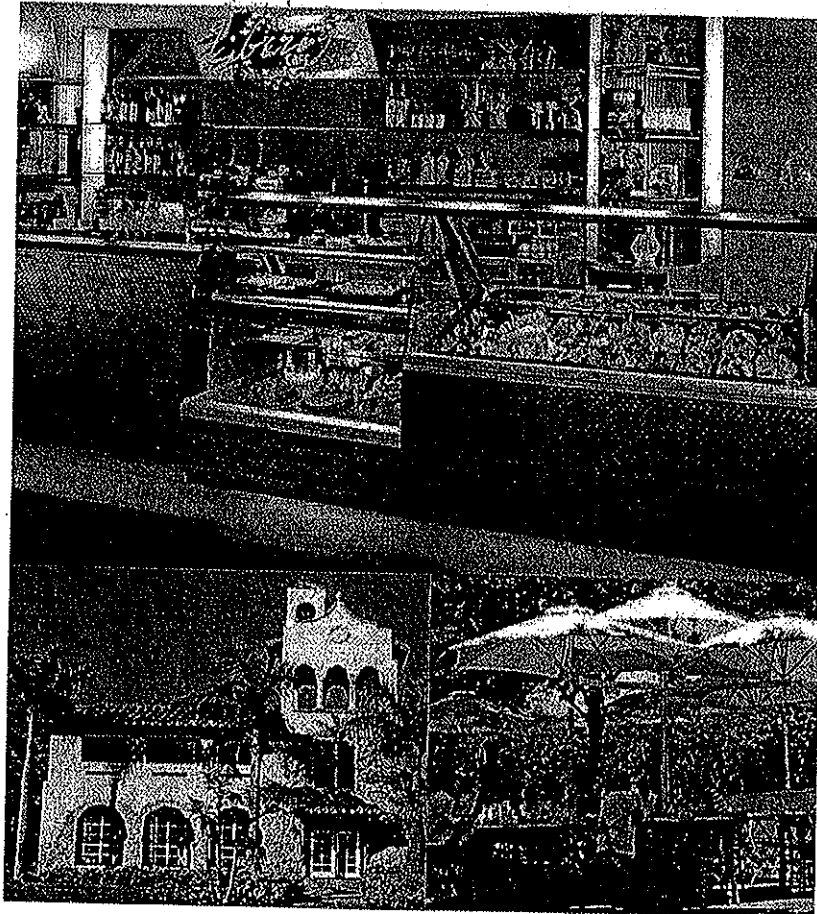
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nick", written in a cursive style.

11/23/2009

Nick Di Donato, P. Eng.
President + CEO, Liberty Entertainment Group

Liberty Café at the Coral Gables Country Club



Liberty Entertainment Group
25 British Columbia Rd., Toronto ON M6K 3C3 CANADA
www.libertygroup.com

[Unsubscribe / Change Profile](#)
Powered by [YourMailingListProvider](#)

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

11/23/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 5:18 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:42 PM
To: 'Martín Llorens'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Martín Llorens [mailto:MartinLlorens@holamartin.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 6:29 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Mr. Mayor Slesnick,

I have lived in Coral Gables for the last 5 years very close to the Country Club and I think it would be a great addition to the community to have the outdoor dining area. I run and walk my dog almost every day in Coral

11/23/2009

Gables and it would be a great place to meet with all my neighbors and to enjoy a cup of coffee without having to drive to the city.

Please consider this e-mail as a confirmation of my support to the outdoor dining during your vote tomorrow morning.

Best regards,

Martin

hola MARTÍN
ESTILO DE VIDA
www.holamartin.com
MARTÍN LLORENS
☎ 786.206.4302 📠 310.994.5988
✉ martinlorens@holamartin.com

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 5:18 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club Outdoor Dining

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:43 PM
To: 'Arlene Easley'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: Country Club Outdoor Dining

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Arlene Easley [mailto:aaeasley@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 8:12 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: Kerdyk, William
Subject: Country Club Outdoor Dining

Dear Mayor Slesnick and Vice Mayor Kerdyk,

Please work with Liberty Entertainment to create a new outdoor restaurant seating area for the citizens of Coral Gables to enjoy. There must be some kind of compromise on this issue that would allow city residents who want

11/23/2009

to frequent the club to do so without a major disruption to the neighborhood. We held our wedding reception there and had a lovely time almost 15 years ago, but the club has aged and deteriorated and needs a boost. In South Florida, outdoor dining is a no brainer.

I live ½ block from the University of Miami, very near the entrance to the Richter Library, and with traffic calming, landscaping and specific parking rules, other than the band practicing loudly on Saturday mornings, our lives are not significantly disrupted. (I admit, sometimes the tall trick-or-treaters are a bit intimidating...but I digress). And there are many more students, faculty, staff and vendors coming and going on San Amaro than would ever visit the Coral Gables Country Club on a regular basis.

I think this would be a wonderful addition to the City and hope you can find a solution that will be a win for everyone.

Arlene Adams Easley
aaeasley@bellsouth.net



Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 5:17 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: MIAMI HERALD: Leaders still split over outdoor café / Coral Gables, former official settle for \$99K COMMENTS: 6 - Just wanted to make sure you saw these CG stories. - From Harry

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:50 PM
To: 'Harry Emilio Gottlieb'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: MIAMI HERALD: Leaders still split over outdoor café / Coral Gables, former official settle for \$99K COMMENTS: 6 - Just wanted to make sure you saw these CG stories. - From Harry

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Harry Emilio Gottlieb [mailto:hgplace@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2009 9:12 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: MIAMI HERALD: Leaders still split over outdoor café / Coral Gables, former official settle for \$99K COMMENTS: 6 - Just wanted to make sure you saw these CG stories. - From Harry

CORAL GABLES

11/23/2009

Leaders still split over outdoor café

Coral Gables commissioners are deadlocked over a proposal to allow outdoor seating at the Country Club of Coral Gables.

BY CARLI TEPROFF
CTEPROFF@MIAMIHERALD.COM

With tensions rising and patience running thin, Coral Gables commissioners were once again split over whether to allow the new operator of the Country Club of Coral Gables to open a café with outdoor seating North Greenway Drive.

The split vote -- two in favor and two against allowing Liberty Entertainment Group to put outdoor seating in the residential neighborhood -- means the commission will have to hear the matter one more time, as per a city rule. The item likely will be taken up at the December commission meeting.

"I am really disappointed," said Liberty's president, Nick Di Donato, after the meeting. "We were really hoping for a favorable response."

Residents who live on North Greenway Drive argue that a café and restaurant with outdoor seating do not fit into the residential neighborhood.

"The zoning codes are in place for a reason," said Russ Borden, who lives on North Greenway Drive, very close to the club.

But some say an outdoor café and restaurant will revive the club, which has been closed since April 2008 after the previous owner failed to pay rent payments. Lawsuits are still pending.

"I think we should give them the opportunity to be a successful commercial venture," said Pippa Milne, who lives two blocks north of the club.

Liberty's proposal originally called for 40 outdoor seats in the café and 68 seats in the restaurant. The company also said it would buffer the seating area with landscaping. After residents complained, the company reduced the outdoor seats to 32 in the café and 48 for the restaurant. The company also agreed to an 18-month trial period.

At the end of Tuesday's discussion, Di Donato suggested a few more concessions: selling only beer and wine for the outdoor café; eliminating the outdoor restaurant seating on North Greenway and shutting down at 8 p.m.

"We are not going to sit here and negotiate," said Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk.

Mayor Don Slesnick, who lives on North Greenway Drive a few houses away from the club, and Kerdyk -- for the third time -- voted against the plan. Commissioners Maria Anderson and Wayne "Chip" Withers voted to allow Liberty the trial period.

Commissioner Ralph Cabrera recused himself.

Cabrera, who spoke with Di Donato between the first and second reading of the proposed measure, cited Florida's Jennings Rule as a reason for his recusal.

Under the rule, elected officials cannot discuss a topic in between first and second hearings with applicants.

Without Cabrera's vote the commission has been deadlocked.

"The irony of this is if Ralph were here this would probably pass," Withers said.

At a meeting in October, Slesnick suggested that Di Donato meet with the residents who live on North and South Greenway to see if he can get a consensus. Slesnick said after that meeting the commission would consider the seating one more time.

More than 140 people showed up for that meeting, held at the club. Most residents who live on North and South Greenway Drives were against the proposal; many who live nearby supported it.

Many residents also showed up at Tuesday's meeting.

Several questioned whether Slesnick should vote because he lives on the street.

"Your mind is made up because you have a stake in the outcome," said resident Richard Namon.

Slesnick in an interview said he does not have a conflict and consistently votes in favor of protecting the city's zoning code. "I have been very consistent the whole time," said Slesnick after the meeting. "This is not what the residents want."

CORAL GABLES

Coral Gables, former official settle for \$99K

Coral Gables' former Building and Zoning Director Margaret Pass will receive \$99,000 in exchange for dropping all potential lawsuits against the city.

BY CARLI TEPROFF
CTEPROFF@MIAMIHERALD.COM

The Coral Gables City Commission agreed Tuesday to pay nearly \$100,000 to settle a claim by the city's former Building and Zoning Director Margaret Pass that she was terminated without a cause.

Pass, who was fired in October 2007 for allegedly mismanaging the department, will receive \$99,000, and her status in her personnel file will be changed from being terminated to retired. In exchange, Pass agreed to drop all potential lawsuits against the city.

"This is a good settlement for the city," said James C. Crosland, who is representing the city on this matter. "This is a case probably best put behind us."

The city will pay Pass \$50,000 within 15 days of signing the agreement and \$49,000 within 12 months of the first payment.

The agreement prohibits either party from speaking to the media on the subject.

"The city attorney's office is authorized only to say, 'the parties resolved the matter to their mutual satisfaction,'" the attorneys wrote in the agreement.

Tuesday's decision puts an end to a more than two-year dispute between the city and Pass.

Former city Manager David Brown fired Pass from her \$122,000-a-year job in October 2007 after allegations arose that Pass had city employees work at her Central Florida farm on taxpayers' dime. Brown at the time also said Pass had inappropriately allowed employees to take comp time.

Her firing came 13 months after her assistant, Jorge Reyes, was arrested on charges of approving time sheets for ghost workers who never worked for the city. He allegedly split the city money with the workers.

Police investigated the charges, but Police Maj. Ed Hudak has since said the investigation is nearly complete and no criminal charges were filed.

Pass had filed an appeal with the city's trial board, saying she was fired without cause. She withdrew her appeal in October.

Commissioners said Tuesday that they needed to get this behind them.





"We need to move on from this point," said Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk, who was one of three commissioners to vote in favor of the settlement. Commissioners Maria Anderson and Wayne "Chip" Withers also voted for the settlement.

Mayor Don Slesnick and Commissioner Ralph Cabrera voted against the agreement.

Slesnick said he didn't think the city should recognize Pass' years of service, as the agreement requires. Cabrera questioned whether the city should wait until the police investigation is complete.

"We may end up rewarding inappropriate behavior," Cabrera said.

Comments: 6

- **WinterOfDiscontent wrote on 11/19/2009 08:09:00 AM:**
The City Beautiful has fallen and can't be now considered more than The City Trashed.
[Reply to this Comment](#) Recommend (0)  Report abuse
- **rbquinn wrote on 11/19/2009 01:38:16 AM:**
Disgraceful ... and poolboy Brown still owes us quite a bit of money! The City Beuatiful is no more ...!
[Reply to this Comment](#) Recommend (0)  Report abuse
- **Madalyn wrote on 11/18/2009 07:50:34 PM:**
This is what I call "corruption".
[Reply to this Comment](#) Recommend (0)  Report abuse
- **gmpccg wrote on 11/18/2009 06:03:38 PM:**
This is what we used to call "moving on" ...
[Reply to this Comment](#) Recommend (0)  Report abuse
- **lulygarcia wrote on 11/18/2009 05:58:59 PM:**
As always Commissioner Cabrera is the only voice of reason in the City Commission.
Why should a City in financial distress fork over 100k before the investigation into wrong

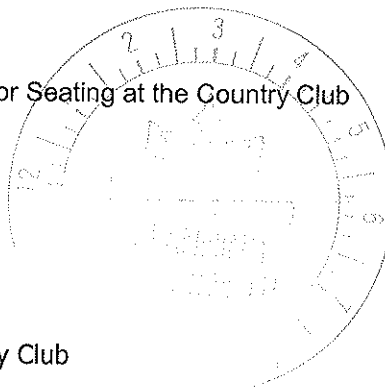
doing is complete.

[Reply to this Comment](#) Recommend (0)  Report abuse

- **originalrat1 wrote on 11/18/2009 04:30:10 PM:**
Who's covering up what?

Menendez, Jill

From: Riel, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:47 PM
To: Menendez, Jill
Subject: FW: E-mail Correspondence Regarding Outdoor Seating at the Country Club
Attachments: 20091201152848.pdf



From: Dacosta, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:35 PM
To: Hernandez, Elizabeth; Riel, Eric
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: E-mail Correspondence Regarding Outdoor Seating at the Country Club

Please find attached e-mail correspondence received to date, in the Clerk's office by the Mayor regarding outdoor seating at the Country Club, for your information.

Thank you,

*Susan DaCosta
Administrative Assistant to
Walter J. Foeman, City Clerk
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-460-5210*

Foeman, Walter

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2009 5:07 PM
To: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables country club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards,

Don Slesnick

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 12:28 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables county club

Send to Liz and Eric, then file.

From: Zakov, Trevor
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 3:20 PM
To: Foeman, Walter
Subject: FW: Coral Gables county club

From: Fctatoshiba@aol.com [mailto:Fctatoshiba@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 2:47 PM
To: Kerdyk, William; Slesnick, Donald; Anderson, Maria; Withers, Wayne
Cc: FCTAgcy@aol.com
Subject: Coral Gables county club

Dear Mr. Mayor and Mrs and Mr Commissioners,

My name is Frank Cauce and I grew up and still currently live in Coral Gables at 825 Sevilla Ave. My family and I take full advantage of the great opportunities our city offers us. I have coached at the CGYC for many years, my kids play sports at the CGYC, my parents workout at the gym at the CGYC. We often bike to miracle mile on weekend mornings for coffee or to visit the farmer's market as a family. Both my kids are in public schools having attended Coral Gables Elementary, Carver Elementary, Carver Middle and Coral Gables H.S. We exercise on the Golf Course on bike and foot, we go to Santa's house by City Hall every year, etc.. We love our city.

I believe that the outdoor seating in the proposed cafe at the Coral Gables Country Club would give us another reason to love our city. It would give us the venue for another family activity. My sister was married in that building and I grew up sneaking in to the pool during the summer since my family were not members. It is part of our city's history, it is great to see it coming back to life and outdoor seating would only make it better.

Please vote to allow the outside seating for the 18 moth trial.

Thanks for all your good work and best regards,

Frank Cauce

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 12:44 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: coral gables country club

Send to Liz and Eric and Liz.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:45 PM
To: 'Odi'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: coral gables country club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Odi [mailto:odi318@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 9:47 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: coral gables country club

I'm a resident of Coral Gables and my opinion is "why not allow outdoor dining at the Country Club?" The Country Club has been closed for a long time, we need to do something to get that place up and running.

Thank you,
Odalys FLores

12/1/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 12:43 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor Cafe

Send to Eric Riel and City Attorney.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:45 PM
To: 'FRANK ALBARRACIN'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Outdoor Cafe

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: FRANK ALBARRACIN [mailto:albarracinf@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 10:19 PM
To: Commissioners
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Outdoor Cafe

I urge you to vote to allow the outdoor cafe at the Country Club. Such a facility would provide a much needed venue to relax and enjoy the beautiful area. It would also provide a link to the CC for the

12/1/2009

community.

My wife and I walk around the golf course daily. We'd welcome a place to sit down and enjoy a refreshment. Thanks

Frank Albarracin
1301 Sorolla Ave

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 12:29 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club of Coral Gables

Send to Liz and Eric.

From: Zakov, Trevor
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Foeman, Walter
Subject: FW: Country Club of Coral Gables

From: From the Source [mailto:joanne@fromthesource.info]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 3:53 PM
To: Zakov, Trevor
Cc: michael@bandervisa.com
Subject: Fwd: Country Club of Coral Gables

Hi. Per the Mayor's request.

Sincerely

Jo Anne Bander

From the Source

500 Alhambra Circle

Coral Gables, FL 33134

(305)444-0087

(207)594-0040 (summer)

joanne@fromthesource.info

www.fromthesource.info

-----Original Message-----

From: From the Source [mailto:joanne@fromthesource.info]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 05:05 PM
To: donslesnick@coralgables.com
Cc: michael@bandervisa.com
Subject: Country Club of Coral Gables

Dear Don,

We have been following from a distance the negotiations for the re-opening of the Country Club of Coral Gables and are delighted that the community will have access without having to be members. We were members when it re-opened some five years ago and watched it collapse for multiple reasons--including the lack of public access.

Michael and I understand the concerns of those who live close by. I was on the Board of GableStage when community opposition prevented us becoming the resident company there where there had always been a theatre--opposition because of concerns of too much activity. The outdoor cafe actually has the potential to attract many people who want a quieter, more elegant outdoor casual setting than Miracle Mile. People who might even walk there!

There certainly should be strict restrictions against loud music, but we really fail to see what the threat is to the neighborhood as it exists by having an appropriately scaled outdoor cafe that can serve so many of those who jog, stroll and

12/1/2009

walk their dogs in the neighborhood and stop to visit one another. How much nicer to have a place to sit and socialize. This is, after all, a country club with plenty of parking! Unless what we want is a shuttered building deteriorating in our midst.

Sincerely,
Jo Anne and Michael Bander
500 Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305)444-0087
(207)594-0040 (summer)
joanne@fromthesource.info
www.fromthesource.info

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:25 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

Susan, please send to Liz and Eric.

-----Original Message-----

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:44 PM
To: 'Joyce Meyers'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

-----Original Message-----

From: Joyce Meyers [mailto:meyersjam@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 9:00 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Don,

Just a quick note to let you know I support the proposed outdoor dining at the CGCC. I think it will be a wonderful asset to our neighborhood. Please vote to approve the plans as recommended by the Historic Preservation Board.

Regards,
Joyce

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:01 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

Susan, send to Liz and Eric re CC Country Club.

From: Zakov, Trevor
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:58 PM
To: Foeman, Walter
Subject: FW: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

From: Ron Zighelboim [mailto:ronzig@me.com]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:34 PM
To: Zakov, Trevor
Subject: Fwd: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

per your request...

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ron Zighelboim <ronzig@me.com>
Date: November 10, 2009 7:29:16 PM EST
To: donslesnick@coralgables.com
Bcc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Outdoor seating at CG Country Club

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As a North Gables resident, our household is very much in favor of this initiative. I attended the meeting last week and was most impressed with the Club's new management and its ideas. I think we finally have a winner!

It appears to us that it's a low-risk decision for the City, considering the 18-month trial period proposed by Mr. Di Donato. I wish those against the outdoor seating concept would realize that this is a very fair approach to resolving what has become an overblown issue...

Sincerely,

Ronald & Jennifer Zighelboim
1425 Venetia Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305 298 2944

11/30/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:01 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club outdoor dining

CC Country Club.

-----Original Message-----

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:50 PM
To: 'Michael F. Chenoweth'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club outdoor dining

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael F. Chenoweth [mailto:molehill@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2009 12:56 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: Kerdyk, William
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club outdoor dining

Dear Mayor Slesnick and Vice-Mayor Kerdyk:

I received an e-mailed message a few days ago from the Liberty Entertainment Group

regarding your vote against outdoor dining at CGCC. I am hoping to again be able to visit the restaurant there one of these days. Outdoor dining seems to me to be compatible with our weather, particularly now that it is cooler, and if it makes the restaurant more economically viable, I'm for it. I have run restaurants in the past and know first hand how many challenges there are in making one successful. We all need to be working together to help this jewel in our community succeed. I realize that the commission considered this issue a couple of days ago, but it isn't going to go away and I hope your position will change to support the facility.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue for our community.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Chenoweth
724 Camilo Avenue.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:02 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club - Outdoor Seating Proposal Vote - E7

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:49 PM
To: 'ciscosupply@aol.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club - Outdoor Seating Proposal Vote - E7

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: ciscosupply@aol.com [mailto:ciscosupply@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 6:30 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club - Outdoor Seating Proposal Vote - E7

Dear Mr. Slesnick,

I was not able to make it to the commission meeting yesterday, but I am watching it on TV right now. I am

11/30/2009

fully in favor of the outdoor cafe limited seating. I cannot believe we are currently spending \$10,000/month of CG taxpayer money to upkeep the club and we have someone who is willing to pay the city \$20,000/month, and invest hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars, to make a club that is now an embarrassing, rundown piece of property, which was at one time a signature property of Coral Gables. Why not give him an 18 month trial? What can we lose?

We plan on becoming members and using the various facilities if this is passed, and in fact, my 2 boys are training on the tennis courts currently every day, and I plan to use the fitness facility once it is passed.

We need to get away from the old, worn out attitude of some of the CG residents who are opposed to this plan, and get some fresh ideas and blood into that club. It would be a shame for the operator to walk away, or even worse, to get into litigation over the lease contract, costing the citizens even more money.

I think it's a win-win situation for both the city and the operator, and I hope you will reconsider your position of being against this proposal on December 15th, and do the right thing.

Give the operator an opportunity, he's willing to lower the outdoor section to 24 seats! How out of control can that get? I think you have much more to worry about the drinking and partying in the large events being held in the halls, than in an outdoor cafe of 24 seats. He's also open on to lowering the closing time, the smoking, and the hard liquor. Don't let the facility, including the tennis courts to continue to deteriorate (which are currently in very bad shape), to run down!

Hope everything is well with you and your family,

Sincerely,

Jose A. Lorigo III and Family (Vicky, Jose Antonio, Victoria, and Juan Pablo)
7120 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33143
Cell: (786) 269-1157

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:02 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club of Coral Gables

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:48 PM
To: 'margaret steele'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Country Club of Coral Gables

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: margaret steele [mailto:mestropic@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 9:24 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Country Club of Coral Gables

Dear Mr Mayor: Hi Don, as you are aware I don't usually get involve in this sort of thing but I will this time!

I remember so fondly dancing outside at the Country Club of Coral Gables for many many years before the pool was built. It was a bit loud for the neighbors and in those days many did not have air

11/30/2009

conditioning so the music must have carried for blocks around. At present, the plan being presented would probably not be that loud and create a noise problem in the community.

Secondly, we do indeed need an open country club situation and this is the only company that has seemingly presented an real interest in it, having already made a sizeable investment in the facility. I further think that the club needs to focus on some of the younger citizens of the community. The outdoor plan would appeal more to them and they are the future of our city. Older citizens of the community that supported the club for many years are no longer with us, except for a few of us perhaps, so I think we should seriously consider a more open plan with the outdoor seating that seemingly would appeal to younger citizens and their families..

The outdoor seating area that seems ideal to me would be where the cemented patio already exists that is behind the ficus hedge on Granada side. Perhaps that could be a compromise solution to the problem or perhaps they are already including that in the plan anyhow. (I haven't attended the meeting so don't know their exact plan.)

I do think there has to be a compromise solution to this problem as we do need the club open in our community soon.

Best regards and thanks for all you do....Margaret Steele

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:03 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

CC Country Club.

-----Original Message-----

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:48 PM
To: 'Rene Machado'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" - there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning - this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

-----Original Message-----

From: Rene Machado [mailto:renemachado@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 11:34 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

My family and I support the out door seating at the CGCC.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:04 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:47 PM
To: 'Alex Noriega'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Alex Noriega [mailto:lanalex@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 10:12 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Don,

Please support it!

11/30/2009

An open air dining area that is adjacent to the golf course is a wonderful idea. As a homeowner that can walk to the Club, I fully support it. It may sway me to join, when I never have before. Let's have a place away from the hustle bustle but close to home to be able to unwind! It's a great idea. Please support it.

Louis Noriega
1212 Algeria Ave.

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:05 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club of Coral Gables

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:47 PM
To: 'tessie@grapalaw.com'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: Country Club of Coral Gables

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: tessie@grapalaw.com [mailto:tessie@grapalaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 10:14 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Country Club of Coral Gables

I am a 30-year resident of Country Club Prado, and I am very much in favor of the outdoor cafe.

Teresa M. Alvarez

11/30/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:09 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club -- with corrections

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:47 PM
To: 'Barbara Green'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: Country Club -- with corrections

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Barbara Green [mailto:bg@caselawupdate.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 10:06 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Subject: Country Club -- with corrections

I inadvertently hit the send key before correcting my spelling. Corrected letter below

From: Barbara Green [mailto:bg@caselawupdate.com]

11/30/2009

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 10:03 AM
To: 'donslesnick@coralgables.com'; 'wkerdyk@coralgables.com'
Subject: Country Club

Dear Mr. Mayor and Mr. Vice Mayor:

I am writing to support the proposal for the outdoor cafe at the country club. My husband and I live a block from the country club, in the 900 block of Majorca.

In my opinion, this plan will not detract from the neighborhood, any more than the golf course and Burger Bob's do. In fact, it will provide a pleasant place for the neighbors to walk to and visit with each other.

We have lived in our home for more than 30 years. During that time we have seen the country club spend too much time as a burned-out shell and an empty hulk. The people who would be members want to keep it to themselves but they have never been willing to spend enough of their own money to actually support it. If taxpayer money is going to support the club, then at least part of it should be open to the neighbors.

At the meeting at the country club, I was particularly impressed with a historian who explained to us that the club, in its hey day, used to have outdoor dances. Surely a handful of outdoor tables would be in keeping with that tradition.

Thank you.

Barbara Green
Barbara Green P.A.
300 Sevilla Ave.
Suite 209
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Phone: 305-529-1101
Fax: 305-529-1102

bg@caselawupdate.com

11/30/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:10 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor Seating

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:46 PM
To: 'Stephen Warren'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Outdoor Seating

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Stephen Warren [mailto:sticklaw@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 8:57 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Subject: Outdoor Seating

Gentlemen:

I am writing to express my support for outdoor seating at the CG Country Club.

Regards,
Stephen Warren
1006 Capri St.

11/30/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:11 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Country Club of Coral Gables.

Cc Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:46 PM
To: 'maida23'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: Country Club of Coral Gables.

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: maida23 [mailto:maida23@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 11:11 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Country Club of Coral Gables.

Dear Mayor

After carefully listening to the arguments presented against Mr. DiDonato's proposal for outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club, it would appear that the objections to the outdoor seating is a red

11/30/2009

herring and that the real objection is to revitalizing the Country Club and all the increased traffic it would bring to the neighborhood. This is a valid objection and should be discussed and debated openly – not hidden behind the irrelevant issue of a few outdoor tables. The City needs to decide whether it wants a busy, successful and profitable Country Club to operate in a residential neighborhood. If the answer is yes – then Mr. DiDonato should be given the powers to operate it successfully. If the answer is no, then the building should be rezoned as a museum, or knocked down and made into a park for example. The third alternative is to send Mr. DiDonato back to Toronto and to leave the Club as an expensive and abandoned eyesore. If we do so, however, it is unlikely that any other developer will wish to follow in Mr. DiDonato's footsteps.

What most of the community wants is a place where we can walk to, to meet friends, relax, and have a quiet coffee or lunch. To compare this proposed small café to The Globe which offers music, a South Beach ambience and central location is entirely disingenuous. I'm sure Mr. DiDonato does not want to risk losing the café during or after the 18 month trial period for the café. My guess is that he'll do whatever it takes to stay under the radar and be a good neighbor. Certainly, the quality of life will not be negatively affected by the addition of a few outdoor tables, especially since the closest house in view of the café is .2 miles away.

If the City does indeed want the Country Club to be successful, then there are two very compelling arguments in favor of the "neighborhood" café and outdoor seating. Without the full-time staff needed to operate the café and restaurant, the Club would only be able to offer service for major functions like weddings and reunions. The local residences again would be shut out and the club would mostly likely return to its mausoleum status. Secondly, without the visual welcome of outdoor seating to invite passing residents into the club, people would not realize that the Club was open to the public and it would remain the closed and exclusionary façade that it has always been.

It was very clear from the meeting on November 3rd that the vast majority of Gables residents, taxpayers and voters are strongly in favor of Mr. DiDonato's proposals. It was equally clear that the small but vocal opposition was limited to the residents of North Greenway. When my friends and I voted for you Mr. Mayor, and voted for your fellow Commissioners, we voted for you to represent the citizens of the City of Coral Gables. We did not vote you to be mayor of North Greenway Drive. Please do what is right and help create a sense of community that will make us all proud.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maida Amezaga
1519 Palermo Avenue
Coral Gables, Fl. 33134

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:18 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Yes to Country Club Outdoor cafe

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:46 PM
To: 'kalbarracin'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Yes to Country Club Outdoor cafe

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: kalbarracin [mailto:kalbarracin@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 10:40 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Yes to Country Club Outdoor cafe

Dear Mayor,

This is to voice our support of the small outdoor cafe area at the Coral Gables Country Club. I think it will be an attractive addition to the club and, if done properly, should not be a nuisance to the neighbors. Why not give the new operators your full support in order to make this "white elephant"

11/30/2009

work? They are the only ones who are willing to do so, and this is not an unreasonable request on their part.

Please, let them do the work and have the City of Coral Gables administration work on more important issues that affect our entire community.

Sincerely,

Katy Albarracin
1301 Sorolla Ave.
Coral Gables, FL

11/30/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:27 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outside Dining Tables/Seats on North Greenway - What is the actual quantity?

Susan, CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:10 PM
To: 'Enrique J. Lopez'
Cc: Foeman, Walter --
Subject: RE: Outside Dining Tables/Seats on North Greenway - What is the actual quantity?

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" -- there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning -- this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter.

Best Regards,
Don Slesnick

From: Enrique J. Lopez [mailto:aklgroupp@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 2:09 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, Bill (Office); Withers, Wayne; Anderson, Maria (Home); Ralph Cabrera - Alt
Cc: 'Enrique J. Lopez'
Subject: FW: Outside Dining Tables/Seats on North Greenway - What is the actual quantity?

Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners, the e-mail below is self-explanatory. It clearly shows that despite the

11/30/2009

talk of cleaning up, some seem to continue to operate in the same ways that have peeled our city to the core. Sad to say, but true. We do not have a penny to stand on. Thank the Lord for no hurricanes or any other mishap.

The purpose of this e-mail is to clearly and indisputably show you a set of misleading and incorrect information that has been presented to us, the residents, in presenting and justifying the whys of a recommendation. The issue is highly sensitive and warrants equal attention. Not shown by some. Whereas I do not support the North Greenway facing dining, it is not the issue. To this date, our decision makers do not know the facts, even after all of you have voted on an issue. Embarrassing to say the least. I know the new city manager has a gargantuan task ahead of him by having to hobble with white elephants of the past that are still around. Best wishes and regards. Enrique.

P.S. Whereas I only address the one issue, there are others that leadership should have aired and cleared once and for all, however, they opted to just hide behind the curtain and under the cloak and principles of the prior administration. These will be aired at the appropriate time. I am confident that had the process commenced under the new administration, agree or disagree, this process would not be as tainted as it is. Best wishes and regards. Enrique.

From: Enrique J. Lopez [mailto:aklgroupp@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 1:57 PM

To: 'eriel@coralgables.com'; 'Jimenez, Maria A.'

Cc: 'Enrique J. Lopez'

Subject: Outside Dining Tables/Seats on North Greenway - What is the actual quantity?

Maria and Eric, following conversations with both of you during the last couple of days as to the above subject, the big question mark remains. This concern of all residents was further compounded by clearly documented verbal and written information by the applicant during this week's neighborhood meeting, wherein another set of numbers was presented. Hard to understand how little attention to detail has been given to such basic information. If it were not for the presence of the new leadership, I would think this could be another Granada LLC deal in the making, based on how I perceive it to be handled.

A look at the numbers indicates they are a moving target as neither of you have been able to provide me with actual quantities. In support of my inquiry, I am submitting verifiable and documented sources of information that all residents are reading and hearing, however, they have no common point. The issue is sensitive to the residents and I would expect a higher level of attention to detail than what has been witnessed in this process. The same breath of fresh air brought by new leadership must be followed by all that comprise our City Beautiful if we are really sincere as to change in our city. As a resident whose perception of City Hall has been shattered by the many actions that have placed our city on its knees, financially and otherwise, I have tired of the "get-by" and "wait until my DROP date" mentality that seems to govern highly paid and ranking staff, who seem to not provide a full return on the residents' investment.

The process and approach in this "search for facts" is reminiscent of the recent past that shook the foundations of our city and the trust of residents on its leadership. I am not one to give up and will demand and expect that all involved in any and all process that impacts our pocketbooks and lifestyle will follow the lead of our new leadership, one that has shown no fear in showing us the level of disrepair our city is in. Whereas unpleasant, it is sincere, well meaning to no ties to any special interest or personal agenda.

Please provide me written facts on the above subject and ensure the Applicant concurs with them as some of the sets of numbers have been provided in both of yours presence and neither has stood and corrected the situation. In evaluation of this process, I got the feeling that the Applicant was running the show and our representatives were just on the sidelines. As a resident, I own a percentage of square footage in any and all City-owned properties. This is not exception. This is no time for weakness in our city and definitely not at the expense of the quality of life we have earned, enjoy and are and will continue to dearly pay for. They are:

Source	Outside Dining Seats/Tables – North Greenway	Observations

Applicant response to question as to seats/tables for café and restaurants. Ms. Jimenez and Mr. Riel were present and heard as well as recorded the November 3, 2009 neighborhood meeting, as well as had staffers taking notes on the same.	40 seats/10 tables for café 52 seats/13 tables for restaurant	A different count 40 (10 tables) vs 32 (8 tables) for the café and 52 (13 tables) versus 48 (12 tables). Applicant further told audience that it was seats, not tables, as they could be four or eight toppers, a contradiction to what residents have been told and is clearly documented. 92 total seats/23 tables for this model.
September 16, 2009 Planning and Zoning Board Meeting transcript – Mr., Carlson and Ms. Jimenez were in attendance at said meeting.	40 seats/10 tables – café – four toppers only – no eight toppers – page 71 of transcript. 60 seats/15 tables – restaurant – four toppers only – no eight toppers – page 70 of transcript. Four tops is what you are doing? – Applicant said yes, page 71 of transcript.	Obvious differences. 100 total seats/25 tables for this model.
October 26, 2009 letter from Planning Department	32 seats/8 tables – café 48 seats/12 tables – restaurant	Obvious differences - City staff advised that Planning Department utilized information from Applicant as had been submitted. 80 total seats/20 tables for this model.
Site Plan shown during neighborhood meeting – large board and overhead projection	32 seats/8 tables – café 48 seats/12 tables – restaurant	Obvious differences. Same as above model.

There are many other issues that remain outstanding and that are directly related to the above, however, before those are submitted for clarification, it is sound to request a very basic component of the big picture. Please acknowledge receipt of this communication. Looking forward to your response. Best wishes and regards. Enrique.

Enrique J. Lopez
305.984.2127 - cellular

This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of the message is not the intended recipient or an authorized representative of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, notify the sender immediately by return email and delete the message and any attachments from your system.

11/30/2009

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:27 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club

CC Country Club.

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:39 PM
To: 'Corbishley, Frank J.'
Cc: Foeman, Walter ~
Subject: RE: Outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club

Thank you for your input on the application for a zoning change requested by the new tenant under a lease with the City to operate the building known as "The Country Club of Coral Gables". While zoning applications are considered quasi-judicial and, I have been advised by the city attorney that all communications should be held on the record so to prevent any allegations of undue prejudice, I have always responded in detail to all e-mails from my fellow citizens, regardless of the nature of the issue before the city commission. Furthermore, I have always placed those communications in the public record. Notwithstanding my responses to residents, I always maintain an open mind and consider the evidence and testimony presented at the public hearing, without undue consideration to any communication which I may have received. However, I have been advised that I should not offer my opinions on this matter until after the Commission's final vote. I have, however, cast a consistent ballot on this proposal at three separate hearings. While I will abide by the request not to discuss the matter privately, the following is a factual description of the events thus far. This application has been heard at public hearing by the city commission three times and is scheduled for final public hearing on December 15, 2009. The public comment portion of the proceedings have concluded and the city commission will be discussing the final aspects of the remaining issue for consideration, which is a request for approval for outdoor seating on what is now the North Greenway Drive front lawn of this historic property. The city commission has already considered and approved an amended site plan providing for landscaping, porte a cochere, additional exterior architectural features, valet operations and employee parking, to name a few. After review of the evidence submitted and consideration of the testimony, I voted with the majority on these issues. However, as to the final and remaining issue, I have been and continue to be concerned about the potential impacts of outdoor seating in residential areas. I have maintained an open mind and am prepared to listen to the pros and cons of this request at the final public hearing, as we discuss the matter amongst the city commissioners. As I have previously stated on the record, this is not a debate over the pros and cons of "outside dining" – there are outside dining areas at the club site which are approved and allowed within the current zoning – this is a site specific issue. As I have already stated on the record, the larger issue is whether the Commission should amend the zoning code to allow a commercial use in front of a building next to a sidewalk within a residential neighborhood. There may be future implications for other neighborhoods. To better understand the issue you may watch the taped broadcasts on Channel 77 or you may request DVD's of the meetings from Gables TV. I look forward to speaking more freely with you upon the final outcome of this matter. Best Regards, Don Slesnick

From: Corbishley, Frank J. [mailto:fcorbishley@miami.edu]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 3:02 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club

Hi, Don!

I'm writing in support of including outdoor dining at the Country Club of Coral Gables. I'll outline my reasoning below:

11/30/2009

1. Before the Club closed that last time, for renovations, Debbie and I became life members because we thought we were making an investment in our neighborhood. When the Club finally reopened, we thought that the food in the restaurant was really good. They had some excellent chefs, and it was a very nice restaurant. Almost always when we were there, the place was dead. Very few tables were ever occupied. The plan to open the restaurant to the public seems more than reasonable to me: it was simply not economically viable as a private dining establishment.
2. As the Episcopal Chaplain at the University of Miami, I have had first-hand experience of dealing with architectural limitations. Our Chapel has a very prominent location on campus, right on Stanford Drive. However, until 2003 we were architecturally invisible. From 1994-2003 I encountered so many students and employees who had no idea that there is a chapel of any sort on campus, people who walked or drove right by the Chapel every day! In 2003 we knocked a hole in the wall and built a prominent entrance. More than half of my students here are not Episcopalian. I always want to find out how students first discover us. Some learn about us from our presence at Orientation events, as has always been the case, but since 2003 we also have had students every year who simply "noticed that there's a church on campus." That never happened before the new entrance was built. [If you're curious about what I mean, I'd be happy to give you a quicky tour!] The Country Club was designed architecturally to be a private club. The *cognoscenti* know where the restaurant, bar, ballrooms, and pool entrance are, but for most folks passing by, the message sent by the design of the building is that that is private space and is not meant for them. For the public restaurant concept to work at the Country Club, there needs to be a visible and welcoming entry point. I believe that is why Nick Di Donato is so insistent on this point.
3. The way the Country Club building is now, the bar juts out all the way to the sidewalk to the south. This totally obstructs the proposed outdoor seating area from view until one is actually at the North Greenway/Granada intersection. Since the only "noise" would be the sound of conversation, I believe that the bar would also prevent sound from carrying east to the Club's immediate neighbors. While I understand the fear of the Greenway residents, I truly do believe that those folks who live closest to the Country Club on North Greenway to the east of Granada won't even notice the outdoor dining even when they're in their front yards. With the exception of the corner house, the North Greenway residents to the west of Granada would also not notice the outdoor dining, because of the angle of the roadway. (Incidentally, while most Greenway residents at last night's "neighborhood meeting" were opposed, at least two Greenway residents spoke in favor of the outdoor seating, including one woman who lives just five houses east of the Club.)
4. The area around the Country Club is a beautiful residential area. However, the North Greenway/Granada intersection is not a residential intersection. Only one of the four corners (northwest) has a house. The southwest corner is golf course. The northeast corner is the Country Club, technically a "private" building, but not a home: a building with a restaurant, a bar, a swimming pool, a large parking lot around back, and with cars coming and going, especially when there are large events such as weddings, bar mitzvahs, St. Philip's Galas, etc. The southeast corner is occupied by a public building, the club house for the golf course and Burger Bob's. The particular spot proposed for the outdoor seating is the one spot where one could do this without changing the nature of the area. The outdoor dining would only be visible when one is at that intersection, yet enough people go by that intersection to provide for walk-in business for the café, which would also serve as an entry point to the restaurant, etc. inside.
5. The Country Club in its most recent incarnation was simply not economically viable. It would be a real shame, not to mention a drag on the neighborhood, to have an abandoned building. I believe that the Country Club has great potential to be a wonderful neighborhood asset.

I suspect that you are getting a gazillion e-mails on this topic, both pro and con, so I don't expect you to reply to this e-mail. I just wanted you to have my perspective. I'm sure that you are feeling pressure from both sides and soon you will have to vote on this matter. I DO NOT ENVY YOU!

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Frank

Frank J. Corbishley

Chaplain
Episcopal Church Center
www.umchapel.org

Dacosta, Susan

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 2:28 PM
To: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:39 PM
To: 'Marlin Ebbert'
Cc: Foeman, Walter
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club

From: Marlin Ebbert [mailto:marlinebbert@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:58 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Don and Bill:

I attended the meeting at the Country Club a few weeks ago about the outdoor seating. I have lived in Coral Gables for 21 years and it was only the third time that I had entered that lovely building. I had watched the commission meeting when Mr. Di Danoto had made his presentation. Quite frankly I was curious and I love watching democracy at work - it was like a good old-fashioned New England town meeting!

Not being directly affected, I kept my mouth shut. I watched both sides passionately present their cases.

I think that you have a unique opportunity here to please everyone. Aren't I correct that Mr. Di Donato has offered to try this on an 18 month trial basis at his own expense? Why not let him try? You can either take credit for a brilliant decision when it works *or* say, "I told you so!" when it fails!

I, for one, am excited by the thought of a little cafe in a pretty neighborhood! I get lots of northern company in the winter and seek out unique places to sit outside and grab a quick bite to eat. I love Burger Bob's but the ambiance is just not there!

I also want to see the Country Club succeed! Right now it is a yoke around the necks of all of the residents of Coral Gables - deteriorating from lack of use and a monthly financial drain affecting us all. And, selfishly, I would like a reason to go there on a regular basis.

I liked Mr. DiDanato - he seemed sincere and hard working and, evidently, very successful in the food and entertainment industry!

I trust that you both will make a good decision.

Marlin Ebbert
6935 Almansa Street

11/30/2009

Menendez, Jill

From: Riel, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 7:38 AM
To: Menendez, Jill
Subject: Fwd: Outdoor Dining

eric riel jr
planning director
city of coral gables, florida
eriel@coralgables.com
305.460.5211

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maria Alberro Jimenez <mjimenez@coralgables.com>
Date: November 17, 2009 9:45:24 PM EST
To: "Riel, Eric" <eriel@coralgables.com>
Subject: FW: Outdoor Dining

----- Forwarded Message

From: Nick Di Donato <nick@libertygroup.com>
Date: Tue, 17 Nov 2009 19:58:24 -0500
To: "Maria A. Jimenez" <mjimenez@coralgables.com>
Subject: Fwd: Outdoor Dining

Nick Di Donato B.A.S.C. P.Eng.
President & CEO
Liberty Entertainment Group

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maria Thornhill <sheetsuspender@gmail.com>
Date: November 17, 2009 1:51:02 PM EST
To: nick@libertygroup.com <mailto:nick@libertygroup.com>
Subject: Outdoor Dining

Sent the following to Mayor & Commissioner Kerdyk.

Since we seem to be posturing ourselves as a sister city to France; we should most definitively accept outdoor dining in Coral Gables. The restaurants will find they have more customers and the City will make a lot of residents happy.

Sincerely,
Maria T Thornhill
305-669-9888

----- End of Forwarded Message

Menendez, Jill

From: Riel, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 3:31 PM
To: Menendez, Jill
Subject: FW: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

eric riel
planning director
city of coral gables, florida
eriel@coralgables.com
305.460.5211



planning green

print only if necessary

From: Foeman, Walter
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 3:29 PM
To: Riel, Eric
Cc: Dacosta, Susan
Subject: FW: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

From: Slesnick, Donald
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 1:54 PM
To: Foeman, Walter
Subject: FW: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

From: ANNA-LOUISE FULKS [mailto:alfulks@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 7:18 AM
To: rsvp@libertygroup.com
Cc: Slesnick, Donald; Kerdyk, William
Subject: Re: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

Dear Mr. Di Donato. . . Please forgive the lateness in responding to your email regarding the Coral Gables Country Club outdoor dining.

Before I venture an opinion. . . especially since I live several blocks away from the CGCC and Liberty Entertainment's proposed outdoor dining for this historic club. . . I drove to the site that would embrace the proposed cafe. I walked the perimeter of the club and, in my opinion, found that an "outdoor" dining facility is not in the best interest of a residential neighborhood.

The idea of cooked food wafting towards homes is not in the best interest of the home owner. Also, I'm sure you have noticed that the swale in front of each of the homes along North and South Greenway are well manicured by the residents . . . even if it is City

property. The idea of cars parking up and down these streets on the swale is also not in the best interest of the residential neighborhood.

Lastly, the noise from the proposed site is not one I would like in my own neighborhood. I couldn't imagine that the residents directly across the street and the periphery of the CGCC would want to be disturbed by the constant daily chatter of those in an outdoor cafe.

Again, in my opinion, the Coral Gables Country Club should not have outdoor dining in a residential neighborhood. . . . downtown Coral Gables has many eateries which suit this purpose.

I believe that with the proper set-up and management the Coral Gables Country Club can be brought back to its former glory with the appointment of fine dining inside the club and one that Coral Gables and its residents can be proud of.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours

(Mrs.) Anna Louise Fulks

717 Santander Avenue

Coral Gables, FL 33134-6524

-----Original Message-----

From: Liberty Entertainment Group

Sent: Nov 16, 2009 1:26 PM

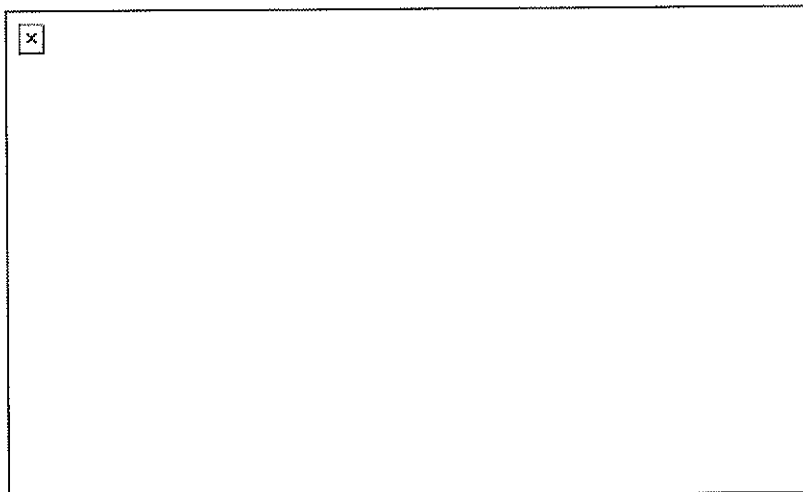
To: alfulks@earthlink.net

Subject: Reminder Notice - Coral Gables Country Club

REMINDER!

CITY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING TOMORROW (NOV 17TH 10:00 A.M.)

You are receiving this email because you have opted in for the City of Coral Gables news - updates - on our website. To unsubscribe or to change your preferences, please click on the link below.



Dear Fellow Neighbors,

I would like to personally thank you for the hundreds of letters, received to date, which have shown an overwhelming support for the outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club café.

If you are in agreement on allowing the outdoor dining at the Coral Gables Country Club, I would appreciate if you could share your feelings with Mayor Don Slesnick at donslesnick@coralgables.com and Vice Mayor William Kerdyk at wkerdyk@coralgables.com. They both voted against the outdoor dining in a previous meeting. We need them to know that the majority of Coral Gables residents want this facility to succeed and want to allow the outdoor dining. Should the outdoor dining not be permitted, there will be no café and the long term viability of the Country Club could be at stake.

There are a handful of residents that will do everything in their power to challenge the issue, especially at the upcoming meeting. Hopefully, you can make your views known as well. The vote on this matter will be held tomorrow **November 17th at 10:00 am at the Coral Gable's City Hall.**

If you haven't already done so, it is crucial that you send your letter of support for the café, to both the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Your voice is necessary!!!

Please write or email your letter to:

Mayor Don Slesnick

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 305 460 5220

Email: donslesnick@coralgables.com

Vice Mayor William "Bill" Kerdyk Jr.

405 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor Coral Gables, FL 33134

Phone: 305 569 1817

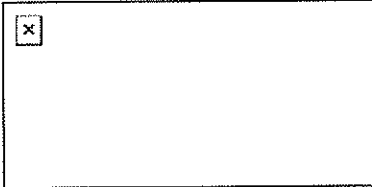
Email: wkerdyk@coralgables.com

Please cc a copy to me at nick@libertygroup.com.

We would also appreciate your presence, if at all possible, at the voting process tomorrow morning (Nov 17th) at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions or would like to contact me directly, I can be reached at nick@libertygroup.com.

Sincerely



Nick Di Donato, P. Eng.

President + CEO, Liberty Entertainment Group

Liberty Café at the Coral Gables Country Club

Menendez, Jill

From: Pepi Granat [pepigranat@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2009 11:37 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Re: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

PLEASE PRINT

2009 NOV 20 AM 10:11

Hell Don,
Thanks for answering. I can see your point, but perhaps just compromising & restricting hours might work.
I don't know all the details of the space & the contract to which you allude, so can't comment on those.
Hope it all works out.
Best,
Pepi

Pepi Granat, MD
7800 Red Road, Suite 202
South Miami, FL 33143
305 661 7609; fax 305 667 8266

-----Original Message-----

From: Slesnick, Donald <donslesnick@coralgables.com>
To: pepigranat@aol.com
Sent: Sun, Nov 15, 2009 9:13 pm
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

Dear Pepi:
I am all for the Club coming back to life – I grew up in it and my Mom was a member till the day it closed. We have lived in this house for 25 years and my kids used the club (as members) to learn to swim and play tennis (as well as dance). There is nothing I want more than to have the club come to life and to succeed. The neighborhood has always put up with the public nature of the area and the inconveniences associated therewith – the golfers (with errant balls), the joggers, walkers, skaters, bikers, vehicular traffic, roller-bladers, baby carriages, the public address system at the golf course (during early morning tournaments), the people in and out of the pro-shop, Burger Bob's and the Club – not to mention the public parking lot in front of the club and the overflow traffic during the many special events. Despite that daunting list – I love North Greenway – it is a very public and "happening" place. But the small yard in front of the club blends it with the rest of the neighborhood and having people eat, drink and converse throughout the evening (with the associated parking) is going a little too far (in my mind). Furthermore, if this element is so essential to the operation, then we were misled by this company during our negotiations of the lease. I really am trying to stay true to the values of our neighborhood life in the Gables – while encouraging a vibrant cultural (including street events) society in our central business district.
Regards,
Don Slesnick

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact

Menendez, Jill

From: Brian Mapes [mapes@miami.edu]
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2009 10:30 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Re: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

FLA048...
2009 NOV 20 AM 10:1

Thank you for the thoughtful reply.
I respect your judgement, and of course
you know much more back story than I do.
Good luck,
Brian Mapes

On Nov 15, 2009, at 9:08 PM, Slesnick, Donald wrote:

Dear Brian:

I am all for the Club coming back to life – I grew up in it and my Mom was a member till the day it closed. We have lived in this house for 25 years and my kids used the club (as members) to learn to swim and play tennis (as well as dance). There is nothing I want more than to have the club come to life and to succeed. The neighborhood has always put up with the public nature of the area and the inconveniences associated therewith – the golfers (with errant balls), the joggers, walkers, skaters, bikers, vehicular traffic, roller-bladers, baby carriages, the public address system at the golf course (during early morning tournaments), the people in and out of the pro-shop, Burger Bob's and the Club – not to mention the public parking lot in front of the club and the overflow traffic during the many special events. Despite that daunting list – I love North Greenway – it is a very public and "happening" place. But the small yard in front of the club blends it with the rest of the neighborhood and having people eat, drink and converse throughout the evening (with the associated parking) is going a little too far (in my mind). Furthermore, if this element is so essential to the operation, then we were misled by this company during our negotiations of the lease. I really am trying to stay true to the values of our neighborhood life in the Gables – while encouraging a vibrant cultural (including street events) society in our central business district.

Regards,
Don Slesnick

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact:

Brian Mapes
mapes@miami.edu

Menendez, Jill

From: Betty McDavit [bm@tdwood.com]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 9:25 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: RE: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

RECEIVED
2009 NOV 20 AM 10:10

If you don't like this location then how about putting this sidewalk cafe on the Granada side where the small parking lot is?

From: Slesnick, Donald [mailto:donslesnick@coralgables.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2009 11:28 PM
To: Betty McDavit
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

I am all for the Club coming back to life – I grew up in it and my Mom was a member till the day it closed. We have lived in this house for 25 years and my kids used the club (as members) to learn to swim and play tennis (as well as dance). There is nothing I want more than to have the club come to life and to succeed. The neighborhood has always put up with the public nature of the area and the inconveniences associated therewith – the golfers (with errant balls), the joggers, walkers, skaters, bikers, vehicular traffic, roller-bladers, baby carriages, the public address system at the golf course (during early morning tournaments), the people in and out of the pro-shop, Burger Bob's and the Club – not to mention the public parking lot in front of the club and the overflow traffic during the many special events. Despite that daunting list – I love North Greenway – it is a very public and “happening” place. But the small yard in front of the club blends it with the rest of the neighborhood and having people eat, drink and converse throughout the evening (with the associated parking) is going a little too far (in my mind). Furthermore, if this element is so essential to the operation, then we were misled by this company during our negotiations of the lease. I really am trying to stay true to the values of our neighborhood life in the Gables – while encouraging a vibrant cultural (including street events) society in our central business district.

Your friend,
Don

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact

Menendez, Jill

From: McG44@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2009 11:28 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Coral Gables Country Club

DATE: 11/13/09
PLAIN TEXT EMAIL
2009 NOV 20 AM 10:10

Dear Don,

I don't understand your opposition to the outdoor dining. Either give them an opportunity to create some revenue streams or why bother getting the city involved in another disaster where it costs all of us money. It will be difficult enough for this management company to make it work.

Regards,
Stuart

Stuart J. McGregor, Esq.
100 Andalusia #405-6
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(Home) 305-665-9572
(Cell) 305-528-6963
(Fax) 1-305-433-3633 (pls use 1)

The information in this email transmission is privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, nor the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this transmission (including any attachments) is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender by email reply. Thank you.

Menendez, Jill

From: susan serrell [susanserrell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2009 9:24 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: RE: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

2009 NOV 20 10:10:11

We are most appreciative of your thoughtfulness in listening and communicating!!

We'll be there on the 17th hoping that you'll be influenced by the majority, as the club "belongs" to us all. How can period???

Susan Serrell
833 Milan Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Voice: 305.448.4496
Fax: 305.448.4497

--- On Wed, 11/11/09, Slesnick, Donald <donslesnick@coralgables.com> wrote:

From: Slesnick, Donald <donslesnick@coralgables.com>
Subject: RE: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe
To: "susan serrell" <susanserrell@yahoo.com>
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 5:55 PM

I try to see beyond the "narrow view" – but I have also consistently stood up for neighborhoods (other than the Greenways) to I already jammed with just the golf course and Burger Bob's during the day – now the neighborhood gets a break in the evening function – with this new addition the neighborhood can expect parked cars throughout that area day and night.....I keep trying I question my own assumptions even in this matter.

From: susan serrell [mailto:susanserrell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 3:55 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Re: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

I so much appreciate your taking the time to reply, but am very disappointed in your view of this. That little "yard" blend just as well, if we maintain approval rights of how they do it. I don't see how eating, drinking, and conversing for you.

Yes, when it's very hot, fewer people want to eat outside, but throughout the winter it would be wonderful to have th

How will the fact the tables are outside make the parking worse? They're not asking for additional parking, right?

As far as staying true to neighborhood values, please do listen to the overwhelming majority of Coral Gables neighbors. It is key to the club having an open and accessible and welcoming vibe.

On most issues, I think you've seen beyond the narrow view, and I've admired that ability greatly. Thanks for for you

Susan

Susan Serrell

833 Milan Avenue

Coral Gables, FL 33134

Voice: 305.448.4496

Fax: 305.448.4497

--- On Wed, 11/11/09, Slesnick, Donald <donslesnick@coralgables.com> wrote:

From: Slesnick, Donald <donslesnick@coralgables.com>

Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

To: susanserrell@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 3:35 PM

Dear Susan & David:

I am all for the Club coming back to life – I grew up in it and my Mom was a member till the day it closed. We have lived in this neighborhood (as members) to learn to swim and play tennis (as well as dance). There is nothing I want more than to have the club neighborhood has always put up with the public nature of the area and the inconveniences associated therewith – the golfers (skaters, bikers, vehicular traffic, roller-bladers, baby carriages, the public address system at the golf course (during early morning of the pro-shop, Burger Bob's and the Club – not to mention the public parking lot in front of the club and the overflow traffic due to that daunting list – I love North Greenway – it is a very public and "happening" place. But the small yard in front of the club bleachers and having people eat, drink and converse throughout the evening (with the associated parking) is going a little too far (in my opinion). If it is essential to the operation, then we were misled by this company during our negotiations of the lease (yes – we "selected" this company). I really am trying to stay true to the values of our neighborhood life in the Gables – while encouraging a vibrant cultural (including a business district. By the way, last night I went around the downtown and noticed that because of the heat and humidity, most of those that were occupied were mostly occupied by the clientele that smoked (not a very healthy environment for families).

Regards,

Don Slesnick

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact

Menendez, Jill

From: susan serrell [susanserrell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 3:55 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Subject: Re: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe

I so much appreciate your taking the time to reply, but am very disappointed in your view of this. That little "yard" blend just as well, if we maintain approval rights of how they do it. I don't see how eating, drinking, and conversing for you.

Yes, when it's very hot, fewer people want to eat outside, but throughout the winter it would be wonderful to have them. How will the fact the tables are outside make the parking worse? They're not asking for additional parking, right? As far as staying true to neighborhood values, please do listen to the overwhelming majority of Coral Gables neighbors. It is key to the club having an open and accessible and welcoming vibe.

On most issues, I think you've seen beyond the narrow view, and I've admired that ability greatly. Thanks for for you Susan

Susan Serrell
833 Milan Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Voice: 305.448.4496
Fax: 305.448.4497

--- On Wed, 11/11/09, Slesnick, Donald <donslesnick@coralgables.com> wrote:

From: Slesnick, Donald <donslesnick@coralgables.com>
Subject: FW: Coral Gables Country Club Cafe
To: susanserrell@yahoo.com
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 3:35 PM

Dear Susan & David:

I am all for the Club coming back to life – I grew up in it and my Mom was a member till the day it closed. We have lived in this neighborhood (as members) to learn to swim and play tennis (as well as dance). There is nothing I want more than to have the club back. The neighborhood has always put up with the public nature of the area and the inconveniences associated therewith – the golfers (and skaters, bikers, vehicular traffic, roller-bladers, baby carriages, the public address system at the golf course (during early morning), the pro-shop, Burger Bob's and the Club – not to mention the public parking lot in front of the club and the overflow traffic due to that daunting list – I love North Greenway – it is a very public and "happening" place. But the small yard in front of the club blend and having people eat, drink and converse throughout the evening (with the associated parking) is going a little too far (in my neighborhood). If it is essential to the operation, then we were misled by this company during our negotiations of the lease (yes – we "selected" this company). I really am trying to stay true to the values of our neighborhood life in the Gables – while encouraging a vibrant cultural (including business district). By the way, last night I went around the downtown and noticed that because of the heat and humidity, most of the cars parked in those that were occupied were mostly occupied by the clientele that smoked (not a very healthy environment for families).

Regards,

Don Slesnick

Under Florida Law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact

Menendez, Jill

From: Hector Garcia [hectorgarcia77@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2009 5:28 PM
To: Slesnick, Donald
Cc: joshsllegmeister@gmail.com
Subject: CCGG

PLANNED
2009 NOV 20 AM 10:10

Dear Mayor:

My name is Hector Garcia. I have been a resident of Coral Gables for the past 40 years. Also, I have been a member of the Country Club during said period of time. My address has been :1020 Alhambra Circle; approximately one half block off of the Club.

During my prolonged membership at the Club, I often wondered why most of my neighbors were not members as well, given the advantage of being so close, and all the amenities that were offered consistently at the Club. During this period I invited neighbors at different occasions to special club events. Remarkably, these neighbors eventually became members themselves. Now , when the Liberty Group has made me aware of the need to invite the neighborhood in through a different and innovative approach, a small outdoor cafe, I understand the reason for my neighbors not to join the Club in the past. It was phhysically there, but it was not being noticed. It was "locked in"; therefore, I want to go on records as being in favor of the outdoor cafe.

Thank you.

Menendez, Jill

From: susan serrell [susanserrell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Slesnick, Donald; wkerdyk@coralgabls.com
Cc: nick@libertygroup.com
Subject: Country Club Cafe Seating

2009 NOV 20 AM 10:11

Dear Mayor Slesnick and Vice Mayor Kerdyk,

Thank you for giving Coral Gables residents the opportunity to express our opinions regarding outdoor seating at the Coral Gables Country Club at the recent public meeting.

As you know, there was overwhelming support for the café concept at that meeting. Over and over we heard, to great applause, from residents who have lived in the area for many years and never been inside the building before. They are thrilled at the prospect of making this venue a place that is truly and visibly open to residents.

The handful of N. Greenway residents who are opposed cited "danger" to strolling mothers and children. Far from being a danger, this proposed area would be a welcome spot for neighbors, finally opening up this marvelous treasure to all the neighborhood.

There seems to be a misunderstanding that this outdoor area would create the commercial atmosphere of a beer and pizza parlor, and that it would turn a residential neighborhood into an urban one. But most understand the difference between a residential area with a charming place for a chat and a latte, and an urban one. People who purchased homes on N. Greenway knew there was activity on the street, neighbors walking and jogging, golfers playing and chatting, etc. and this is part of its appeal. The café will only enhance the quality of life on this lovely boulevard.

Opponents also sited traffic and parking as reasons for opposition, but didn't explain how a few outdoor tables would increase automobile traffic and parking needs.

The city took the first step in opting for the success that has evaded this venue for so long: You decided it should serve all residents rather than a select few. And you selected Liberty, with its experience and history of successful ventures of all types, as its operator. As business consultants, we see that Liberty has grasped very well even the seemingly small details that are needed to ensure that success. They have also demonstrated that they understand the concerns of the immediate neighbors and will continue to be highly sensitive to them.

We sympathize with fear of change, but the city should not make its decisions based on the fears of a handful. We appeal to you to make your decision, as you have so many others, with the best interests of the city and the greater neighborhood in mind. Let's opt for success! The proposed trial period can provide a security net for the fearful few.

Thank you.
Susan and David Serrell

Susan Serrell
833 Milan Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Voice: 305.448.4496
Fax: 305.448.4497