

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-7
June 28, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Michael Mena
Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez
Senior Transportation Engineer, Melissa DeZayas
Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Public Speaker(s)

Pedro Morales
Maria Cruz

Agenda Item G-7 [Start: 5:38 p.m.]

Update and discussion regarding scope and timeline for Dover Kohl's plan for Biltmore Way Streetscape (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Commissioner Anderson: G-7, discussion regarding scope and timeline for Dover Kohl's plan for Biltmore Way Streetscape. So, everybody is anxious to get going, no pressure. Let us know what's happening.

Ms. DeZayas: We've been working with Dover Kohl to move this project forward. Last week we actually had a field visit with them to go and check the existing conditions. We also have contracted a surveyor to go out and do the survey. We are anticipating that that will be completed by the end of July. And once we have that information, we are also going to be collecting data on the street to be able to provide that to Dover Kohl so that they'll be ready, traffic data. That will be collected

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in the fall, because we can't collect now in the summer. So, we are anticipating that the initial stakeholder meetings that we'll be scheduling probably in September once we have all this information available.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. So, Mr. Morales, in September they'll start the meetings with the residents, stakeholders, September meetings.

Mayor Lago: Are you disappointed in that or is that okay? The reason why I think its September is because we've been...and feathered when we have it during the summer. I hate to use that word, but we've been...and feathered when we rush – do it in July, do it in August, and then you have a few people on the other side that say, hey, I wasn't here, I was on vacation, or my kids...

Commissioner Anderson: Plus, the traffic studies, if you do them during the summer you are not catching the school traffic.

Public Works Director Diaz: Correct. We cannot do traffic studies till after school is back in session.

Mayor Lago: Listen, we're ready.

Mr. Morales: Listen, I just hang around here all day to say thank you for not forgetting and doing what you promised which was to revitalize the Biltmore Way streetscape. You know, we're the only street that doesn't have a speed limit sign, we don't have trees, we don't have properly painted stripes on our parking spots. So, every once, we feel forgotten, but we thank you for all the services provided. I wanted to ask, I thought there was a thought of putting up a website of some sort on the streetscape that would communicate the progress, the milestones, that are being provided by Dover Kohl.

City Manager Iglesias: I believe that Dover Kohl is very apt at doing all of this. We also have a contract that has a lot of stakeholder input and I think, what the director said, if we do it in September, we get criticized, because people are on vacation and also September is not a good time because of our traffic counts, so that's why. But I do think that the contract is done. I think that we have our Manager of Traffic Engineering as the project manager and as I mentioned, the contract has a lot of stakeholder input.

Mr. Morales: So, there will be a common focal point for communication via the website, so all the residents can see what's being done, when its going to be done, all that.

City Manager Iglesias: Dover Kohl will be establishing that as part of their contract and they'll be, as I mentioned, a lot of stakeholder input and we'll take it from there.

Mr. Morales: Terrific. Want to thank you. Just one last question, do you know when that maybe communicated via website?

Ms. DeZayas: So that's part of Phase 2, we are currently in Phase 1, but they'll be developing that soon. We hope to have that up and ready to go very soon. I don't have a date yet. They are currently developing the schedule. We are going to be having a meeting soon with them to go over all those details and everything, but I know that the project website is something that they'll be working on and posting information on past meetings and all future meetings.

Mr. Morales: That would be communicated to residents.

Ms. DeZayas: Yes.

Mr. Morales: Because I get asked a lot and I go, I don't know, but there is going to be a website.

Ms. DeZayas: Yes.

Mr. Morales: Thank you very much.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for your patients. I'm sorry you were here all day; I would have called you earlier.

Commissioner Menendez: And by the way, for being here almost 9 hours now, you and Ms. Cruz are eligible for a Key to the City (laughter). Your names are being thrown into a hat.

Mr. Morales: Sincerely, we all thank you, everybody that...

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, we have one additional speaker on this item, its Ms. Cruz.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Cruz, please join us.

Ms. Cruz: Maria Cruz. Just a simple comment. Before you start thinking of streetscape, figure out how many parking spaces are going to be affected, because let me tell you, the other day when we had the storm and water and the parking garages flooded, there was no space to park anywhere because they couldn't park in the garages, okay, and the water was pretty much up to here, okay. So, I know that it would be nice if we had this and we had that, but if people cannot park in the garages, they need a space to park.

Commissioner Menendez: As the Mayor said earlier, when we had a meeting with North Gables residents, on-street parking is very important to a lot of people, you're right.

City Manager Iglesias: Those parking garages, unfortunately is not designed for...water and they actually fill up. There was one building there that did a very good job at creating a seal condition and they don't have a problem anymore.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Manager, will you do me a favor and speak with Ms. Pantin and find out if we are receiving any, that we've been notified by any media in regard to this morning's anti sematic

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flyers that were sent out, that we, by the way, addressed this morning at 9:15 in the Commission meeting. We also were fortunate enough to have the Rabbi giving the Invocation, because like usual form in the Herald, I hear that they are out there saying that we haven't made a public statement, that we haven't been clear about our position. I don't need to repeat what I said this morning, it was very clear.