

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-1
July 7, 2015
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Historic Preservation Officer, Dona Spain

Public Speaker(s)

Karelia Carbonell, Historic Preservation Association

Agenda Item D-1 [9:33:05 a.m.]

Karelia Carbonell, Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables to present a check in support of the preservation and restoration of Historic White Way Lights

Mayor Cason: Next let's move to Item D-1. Today we have with us Karelia Carbonell, Historic Preservation Association.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, we have to do a separate vote on each of the G's.

Mayor Cason: We'll get to those later.

City Attorney Leen: Oh, you are going to do it later.

Mayor Cason: Yes....will present a check in support of the preservation and restoration of the Historic White Way Lights, and I think we'll need a motion to accept the donation, is that correct?

City Clerk Foeman: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: I'll make the motion to accept the donation.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon makes the motion

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Mayor Cason: And Commissioner Slesnick seconds.

City Clerk

Vice Mayor Quesada: Is that the easiest vote all year (laughter).

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Mr. Mayor as she comes forward, this is an exciting time for the City due to the attention that the association has placed as well as the commitment on behalf of the City; you have a related item where we are receiving those White Way Lights, those historic ones that Merrick created in the 1920's. You can recognize them by the raised lettering, the raised heads, they are absolutely stunning and in need of love and care and the association having stepped forward to join us on drawing that attention and we are amending our City map to note the placement of those White Way Lights as another historic feature of Coral Gables.

Commissioner Lago: Good morning ladies.

Mayor Cason: Good morning. Good morning.

Ms. Karelia Carbonell: Good morning everyone and this is really so exciting for HPACG, because really it's been an act of love for many years starting with Sarah Anderson, late Sarah Anderson who really spearheaded it and it's taken this long to really come to this place and time. We are presenting, really it's just a symbolic amount and we have our big check for the pictures, so we definitely have an authentic one, but it's really just to let the City know how important it is for our organization that this project is finally being, these landmarks are finally being given the recognition that they so – like we've said they are works of art and so we have our colleagues, Board members here with us, with me, and to finish – George Merrick, our founder, our visionary every day I give him the credit because it's a continuing vision that he really done for the City, and one is really the Art in Public Places and these lights are a part, and generally the Commission creating just lamp posts...and we are now beneficiaries. So with that this is \$500.00 that our Board has given to the City just to say thank you, and I know there is lots more that needs to happen...

Ms. Spain: HPACG is Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables...

Mayor Cason: Dona will accept the check, this one and the real one later (laughter).

Ms. Carbonell: Thank you so much.

Commissioner Keon: Karelia can you introduce your other Board members also.

Ms. Carbonell: Yes. Jane Murado, who is Vice President of our organization and Anne Goodman, who is Immediate Past President.

Commissioner Keon: Welcome ladies.

Mayor Cason: Thank you. We'll take a photo too.

Commissioner Keon: Dona you want to talk about the project itself, just really quickly because I know that this has garnered a lot of interest from the residents and the business community.

Ms. Spain: We can actually do that item if you want, there is a short PowerPoint.

Mayor Cason: Tell us how many lights there are?

Ms. Spain: There are less now than what's originally in the 20's. The locations are along University Drive and Riviera and if you go past the Youth Center on University Drive and stop and pull over, they are very simple poles, but the bases are amazing; and right now those

locations are owned by Florida Power and Light, and what we would like to do is get the original locations where they were in the 1920's where they are spotty, because Florida Power and Light did not want to maintain them specifically, and when one was knocked down by a car or when it was fallen into disrepair, they replaced them with just regular fiber glass poles. So the intent of this is to get the locations from Florida Power and Light, so that we can actually restore the ones that are there now and hopefully in those locations where the fiber glass poles were put, take a mold of the original and make them medium fiber glass, but have it so that the original intent is there. So it's very exciting.

Commissioner Lago: Have you had any luck dealing with FPL in reference to where the original locations were...?

Ms. Spain: We have that.

Commissioner Lago: OK. Perfect.

Ms. Spain: We have that and the resolution that you'll vote on later is to take over those locations...

Commissioner Lago: And revert back to the previous location.

Ms. Spain: So that we can actually maintain the poles. So this is very good.

Mayor Cason: Thank you very much.

[End: 9:39:47 a.m.]