

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-1, C-2, C-3
August 27, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-1, C-2, C-3 [9:08:05 a.m.]

Mayor's Comments

C-1: Fink Studio Restoration Update

C-2: A discussion regarding underground power and utility lines

C-3: Caroling competition

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor's Comments – Fink Studio Restoration Update, City Manager.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, we are currently working with a historical architect to bang out the contract right now, we are very close to it. We are...the actual contract between the work of the City and the work for the CE, and we are very close to a negotiated number at this time. I will get back with the Commission on the first meeting in September with all the specific details. Our Asset Manager is also working with the CE to get a...to proceed forward with the work.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Discussion regarding underground power and utility lines. We've been discussion undergrounding power and utility lines for the last 52 years or something. Its been a topic of mine since I was Mayor the last time. Vice Mayor Lago has also brought it up and I

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would like to have the Commission appoint a committee to move this forward and to follow it up, as opposed to doing...like we do in the Commission. So please think of who your appointee will be, somebody who is very committed to this, and I think in order for us to appoint a committee, to follow up on this and to negotiate and to get data, statistics from FPL, from the City. I think it would be a proper thing to do.

Vice Mayor Lago: I agree. I have no issues with that. I just wanted to mention very briefly, so my colleagues can be aware, so we can take advantage of the fact that during Commission we can have open discussions on certain items. I've had several meetings, as of last week, I met with our consultant, Mr. Bartel, who has been helping us in reference to gathering information about undergrounding. I've also had multiple meetings with Miriam in reference to this issue. From my understanding is that we are moving forward, we are progressing with all the background information and preparation to being able to provide, not a detailed cost analysis, but an idea of what the cost would be and then move forward to hopefully in September. My understanding was it was supposed to be September, but it may be now in October, to bring it before the Commission, so we understand what the cost would be to find a detailed breakdown of undergrounding lines throughout the City.

City Manager Iglesias: Vice Mayor, we are currently getting our overall budget, our budgetary number to look to see if that's acceptable to proceed with a more detailed assessment, which will probably cost in the neighborhood of \$900,000. Now that detailed analysis, we should look at that certainly after we get this budget number when we feel we can work with that budget number.

City Attorney Ramos: The ballpark estimate has been officially requested from FPL, as well as the other providers. We expect to receive it in September. It may not be before the September 9th meeting. If its not, we'll present it in October and then the Commission needs to give us next steps after that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Lago: I think it's a great idea. We can never have enough people involved in this community who have knowledge with this issue who want to provide their guidance. I think it's perfect.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Next item is the caroling competition. I think we have a tape. We've had a caroling competition in Coral Gables in front of the, they call it the Sychosky Building at 550 Biltmore Way for a long, long time, and I think it's a wonderful, wonderful event we have, and the Christmas tree there is spectacular, 32 feet high, and it's a beautiful tree; and the caroling

competition I think we should as part of our festivities, holiday festivities we should make it a part of our annual City offerings. Can the tape roll.

[Video Presentation]

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And we have 555 Biltmore Way Building has just changed proprietors and I think we have the new owner here in the audience and they are very committed to continue with the caroling competition which I think is wonderful. This is a wonderful, fantastic holiday Christmas events and the City to the extent possible, including the City Manager and the Commission, I think its appropriate to support the competition and give it as much recognition as possible and advertising as possible. So, thank you very, very much for being here. Thank you.

[End: 9:14:32 a.m.]