City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-1
May 22, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

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

City Staff
City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Historic Preservation Officer, Dona Spain

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item I-1[2:42:22 p.m.]
A Resolution approving revision of Cultural Grant categories and requests

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next item is Resolution approving revision of Cultural Grant categories and requests.

Preservation Officer Spain: OK. This is a recommendation from the Cultural Development Board about certain revisions to the Cultural Grant Program that my department handles. As you know, we give money every year to cultural institutions it is an involved grant process and they are recommending some changes to that process. Right now there are three types of organizations that we fund. The first is a Coral Gables based cultural organization; those are the major organizations in the City that have budgets over $500,000. It used to be that the amount, the most amount that they would get is $15,000. The past two years that was brought down to $10,000. The Board is recommending that it go back up to $15,000. That's the first revision. In addition, so there are two other types of organizations, correct me if I say something stupid. The next one is the cultural series festival and special events category. That's the majority of the grants we go out is to that category; and the third is the community category; and that was put in place to support non-profit organizations that are small community-based cultural programs that

generally occur for one day and are free and open to the public. The Board has found that the applicant events within this category are better suited for the cultural programs that are already the second category and we would like to eliminate that category. So, the majority of those would be in the cultural series of festivals category.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That second category is mostly fundraising or private enterprise and they sell booths and they go out…

Preservation Officer Spain: A lot of them don't qualify for that category so they wanted to eliminate the category, and those that do qualify would be bumped up into the other category.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Cemetery plots and…

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I'm sorry Dona, were you all talking about redirecting the community festivals to the Parks and Recreation?

Preservation Officer Spain: We discussed that possibility, but at this point they just wanted to eliminate those festival type series as far as events.

Commissioner Keon: They would be considered more special events?

Preservation Officer Spain: They would be more special events.

Commissioner Keon: Alright – so they would come under the special events title.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: But, there is no funding that is provided when you go through special events.

Preservation Officer Spain: That's right.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: The festival, the community festivals had modest funding, but it did have funding, so when the Chair came and talked with me she had talked about the possibility of redirecting that to Parks and Recreation and having them manage the community festivals and the money that was previously allocated would travel with that. So, I guess they've changed their…

Preservation Officer Spain: When it got to the committee they had that discussion and now this recommendation is to eliminate the category of the grants.

Commissioner Keon: How do you determine what's a community festival?

Preservation Officer Spain: Well that was part of the discussion that we needed to define what a festival is and what cultural program was. They in fact, I think eliminated the term festival.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Preservation Officer Spain:…And now making it the cultural programs defined availability of cultural groups that produce series and events with cultural significance taking place in Coral Gables that have a reputation for excellence as well as a significant impact on the reputation of the City, as a dynamic cultural community, maintaining the maximum request of $10,000.

Commissioner Keon: Right. But, it would exclude festivals with vendors that are selling products.

Preservation Officer Spain: That's the intent.

Commissioner Keon: I think you can make that a very clear difference between a cultural festival and a festival that brings in outside vendors to sell items.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli:…Outside vendors and…

Commissioner Keon: Yes, if you are selling outside vendors or whatever, I wouldn't consider it a cultural event anymore and I think that it should just move to Parks and Recreation as a special event and I'm not sure that there really should be any funding that follows it. We do something in-kind with regard to parking and we do some in-kind, I think maybe with Police or something. Depending on what it is, you may want to do in-kind, but is there a festival that you are thinking of that we fund that you believe is valuable and would be hurt by this?

Preservation Officer Spain: We couldn't think of one. That's the exact discussion that the Board had.

Commissioner Keon: OK. So, I don't think that there is any funding that will go with it, it would just move to Parks and Recreation as a special event.

Preservation Officer Spain: I believe they go to special events anyway.

Commissioner Keon: OK.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Do we need a resolution? - yes, we need a resolution.

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes
Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes
Commissioner Mena: Yes
Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 2:47:45 p.m.]