

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-10
August 26, 2014
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Pat Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

Interim City Manager, Carmen Olazabal

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Works Environmental Specialist, Sonia Succar

Public Speaker(s)

Mike McCarthy, Consultant Representing R S & H

Agenda Item C-10 [Start: 11:55:35 a.m.]

A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer to approve a contract with R S & H, Inc. to develop a Sustainability Master Plan pursuant to Florida Statute 287.055, known as the “Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act” and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2013.10.15.

Mayor Cason: I want to go to C-10 because we have a consultant that has to catch a plane at 1 o'clock. After that I want to do 2, 2, and 4 on Second Reading see if we can squeeze it in so you guys don't have to stay here for six more hours and then we are going to take our bathroom break. C-10.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: C-10 is a Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer to approve a contract with R S & H, Inc. to develop a Sustainability Master

Plan pursuant to Florida Statute 287.055, known as the “Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act” and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2013.10.15.

Commissioner Quesada: Who pulled this item?

Interim City Manager Olazabal: Sonia Succar could you please.

Ms. Succar: Yes, I'll present myself. I'm Sonia Succar, I'm the environmental specialist. I work within Public Works within Glenn Kephart and the Division of now Waste Sanitation and sustainability with Jessica Keller. So thank you Commissioners and Mayor and Carmen today for presenting this as a – it is on the Consent Agenda, but just to give a brief update. I have Mr. Mike McCarthy from R S & H here, but we have gone through the procurement process of finding a qualified consultant to help us develop our Sustainability Master Plan. I know you guys have been hearing about this over the last year or so. It was kind of put together through the support of the Green Task Force. We do have our Chairwoman Sharon Trovobich, which I just want to make a note that she is here representing the Green Task Force and they've been working to put something together, I'd say almost 4 years now, so we are very happy to be here today and see this next step which is the development of the Sustainability Plan. So I want to introduce Mike. Mike is our project director, we went through procurement back in April, we selected him out of the top three firms that we came down to. Carmen was also involved in the process as was Ernesto Pino, so if you have questions about the purpose of this plan and how the scope is brought together and the schedule I'd like Mike to be able to explain that.

Mayor Cason: Vince.

Commissioner Lago: First of all, thank you very much. This is a very exciting day in the City of Coral Gables. This is something that I know that we've been working on since I was fortunate enough to get elected to represent this community. I requested that we have the Green Task Force here because they've been really carrying this torch for some time now. Every day that passes sustainability no longer is an afterthought, it's truly the present, it's not the future. So as our City continues to grow, like what Commissioner Quesada stated before, we swell to close to 100,000 residents a day, energy, conservation, water conservation becomes an issue and I need to make sure that our City, which we are the leaders in so many different aspects that we continue to be the leaders in every aspect and that we do not forget about how important sustainability is. This is just step number one. What we are going to do here is we are going to put forth a great effort and we are going to find out the good, the bad, and the ugly in regards to where the City of Coral Gables stands, which is good, and that way we can really address the issues which can make our City, not only a better City, but a more sustainable City. So I appreciate your hard work, especially the hard work of Jessica Keller, Sonia Succar, the Green Task Force, which has done an incredible job, our Commissioners who have helped us and the Mayor who has helped

us get this today on the agenda and everyone who I may be forgetting, but this has been an incredible effort. So if you have any statements you'd like to make in regards to what we are going to be seeing for the next six months, when the plan will be completed, what our target dates are.

Mr. McCarthy: Yes. We'll be starting, we have a plan that works on government operations first, get our own house in order. It starts with the process of quantitatively and qualitatively evaluating where we stand, baseline operations. We will then benchmark against other communities and identify approaches that can be used with a goal of moving toward a project driven sustainability plan. We will at five months have a solutions memo together, which has not yet included the collaboration with all of governmental staff in a collaboration medium. We will have had discussions, but we will have a solutions memo identifying generally what our approach is going to be. From five (5) months to eight (8) months is the engagement phase, so these first five months will be working on developing solutions. The next three months will be delving engagement and the importance of this is that when we develop solutions and sustainability we've got to come up with a recurring funding mechanism to maintain the life of the Sustainability Plan. This engagement phase reaches out to individuals and senior management, mid management, and on the front lines that have ideas that can be brought to bear that will conserve resources, energy, fuel, waste minimization, water conservation, and all the other focus areas that we've identified. After that collaboration period where each of the department leaders and their key representatives will identify projects that would advance particular sustainability goals through development, will provide a project driven sustainability plan with returns on investment on the basis of where we are putting our money, where we are getting our money back. We expect the funding sources that we will be able to identify will be in energy conservation, fuel conservation, and potentially in waste minimization. We expect gains in water conservation as well.

Commissioner Lago: If I could just interject one second. There is something that you mentioned there which is, a lot of individuals when they mention sustainability they don't mention it. We as a City we are stewards of tax dollars, we are stewards of our constituent's trust. So when we implement a plan like this and we actually get answers in regards to where we currently stand where we would like to stand, we are going to have a significant return in investment, because as we become more sustainable, that is more dollars that is put into our pockets that we can use for infrastructure development or actually reduction of taxes as this Commission has done four years running. So this Sustainability Plan has many implications which are all positive. Sometimes finding out what's wrong and not being able to address is still a positive thing, because we can always plan and fund the core need to address the issue 5-10 or 15 years from now. I know Commissioner Keon has always been a stickler in regards to being able to recycle cardboard. She is not the only one. There are a multitude of people in this community who come to me and say,

why can't we recycle cardboard?- this will be addressed in the Sustainability Plan, and then we can no longer turn a blind eye to why are we not recycling within the CBD, and I'll give you one answer, I know that we are in a hurry today, but this is something that is very important. I'd like to mention one business which I frequent on numerous occasions, the Market, which is located next to Café Abracci and Bread and Butter. It's a great restaurant which has survived over the past year of being in the City of Coral Gables, it is a vegan/sustainable restaurant, but they do something that I don't see a lot of people doing. The young lady who owns the restaurant takes her own garbage home – and why does she take her own garbage home?- because I don't know if you are aware, but in the CBD there is no recycling. So she sets a recycling bin in her restaurant and proceeds on a daily basis or weekly basis take the garbage home and put it in her recycling bins, so that it can be recycled. That type of sustainability, that type of environmental awareness is something which maybe as drastic, but I view as essential. So these are the things that hopefully the Sustainability Plan will shed a light on and make us as leaders in this community really take action and focus on. So I appreciate your efforts in the next forthcoming months.

Ms. Succar: Absolutely – and I just want to say this. Listening this morning there were so many items that I feel like we are ready to get going on when we are talking about trolleys and natural gas, green building development, here we are talking about parking garages and making sure we have these green building standards in place. I think every element within the City's operations and growth and planning needs to have this, not as just a separate plan that we check off, but its integrated into everything that we do, and so it really is how we operate and how we build, that's is second nature to us that we think in this way. So I really appreciate Commissioner Lago, he's been very active and just participating in the Green Task Force, attending our meetings, listening to the other professionals. There are a lot of business opportunities and I'm sure as we develop this and Mike will start seeing – they are going to start coming and wanting to work with Coral Gables on renewables, waste management, there are so many services, so this is going to be a strong economic growth opportunity for the City as well.

Mr. McCarthy: I'm continually amazed when communities get involved with sustainability, the returns they've realized and I look forward to working with each one of you.

Commissioner Lago: The returns on investment are huge, I mean huge, especially when you talk about having a fleet that's 30 years old. We don't really see how much money we are spending to run that fleet on a daily basis, even though we have some of the best staff and I know that director does magic with duct tape. It comes to the point where we have to step into the 21st century.

Commissioner Quesada: He needs to be on an airplane in less than an hour.

Ms. Succar: And I just want to lastly mention too. Mike's already heard our street lights is a huge priority still here, so we are working and I think our Sustainability Plan is going to help us address that on how to move forward on energy efficient street lights, because that's been something I've been working on for about a year.

Commissioner Lago: Just one last thing, I'm sorry. You made a comment which is very, very important. The City needs to set the tone; once the City starts setting an example in regards to recycling, we don't recycle within City Hall, these are all things that are going to come to light, which are good things, we shouldn't shy away from this, these are really, really good things. The moment that we start setting an example a lot of the residents, a lot of the business owners will fall in line also.

Ms. Succar: Absolutely.

Mayor Cason: We are happy you are on board. We look forward to your interaction with you, we look forward to your recommendations.

Commissioner Quesada: I want to make a motion.

Mayor Cason: A motion is made by Commissioner Quesada.

Commissioner Lago: And I want to second that motion.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Lago seconds it.

City Clerk

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: Thank you very much.

Ms. Succar: Thank you.

[End: 12:07:15 p.m.]