

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-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
Assistant Development Services Director, Charles Wu

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-1 [2:01:20 p.m.]

Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, directing staff to require tree surveys and tree protection measures be a part of the applications for demolitions, Development Review Committee and Board of Architects, where applicable; directing staff to propose amendment to the City Code accordingly and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Cason: Alright, let's move to H-1.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And for H-1, I'm going to call up – this is a follow up to what your requests were by making sure that in the Development Review Committee we understand where trees are that could later be impacted. You didn't want them to be finding out when they are waiting for their permit that they are not going to get a tree removal permit. Is Jane here? So what I can do – you've expressed frustration that sometimes a developer or a homeowner will be going through the permitting process and only at the last minute do they

learn that the tree that they had slated for removal will not be approved. So you've asked us to revise our process so a tree survey is placed in the original part of the Development Review Committee, so the property owner is informed if there is going to be an issue, we can negotiate that. Charles can you speak on this item H-1?

Mr. Wu: Charles Wu, Assistant Development Services Director. As you may recall, you last directed staff upon if there is an application for the Board of Architects and Development Review Committee, you'd like to see two things, a tree survey and a tree protection plan. What we have questioned staff is that upon demolitions as well because we might see a gap in the system that someone just demolish a house without a new building permit we might have some trees that need to be protected as well. So we'd like to request your approval to amend the resolution you approved last time to include the demolition component as part of that review. It's just to add the word demolition into the resolution.

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Commissioner Lago: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon makes the motion.

City Attorney Leen: May I have one caveat. I would like to even though you don't need to amend the resolution. It has recently come up with these abandoned properties. I would like there to be a little flexibility for staff, the City Manager or myself or acting together, that when we are expediting a demolition to meet your requirements, and we go and take a look at it or we are reasonably certain that it wouldn't affect the trees, that we don't delay the process by requiring a tree survey in those instances. These are specialized demolitions though that is being done pursuant to this process, so it's not going to be typical, but I just wanted to raise that because I didn't want that to ever delay us being able to demolish a property. As long as there is that understanding the Commission is OK with it that you don't need to amend this.

Mayor Cason: Alright, so we have a motion from Commissioner Keon and Commissioner Lago seconds, City Clerk.

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 2:04:20 p.m.]