

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4
February 13, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Economic Development Asset Manager, Leonard Roberts

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz, Coral Gables Resident

Agenda Items [1:54:20 p.m.]

2-1: A Resolution approving revised distribution of the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Cultural Grants.

2-2: Economic Development Board Meeting of November 8, 2017 requesting guidance and consideration from the City Commission on Board Strategic Objectives.

2-3: Property Advisory Board Meeting of October 11, 2017 requesting guidance and consideration from the City Commission on Board Strategic Objectives.

2-4: A Resolution by the Coral Gables Anti-Crime Committee recommending that the City of Coral Gables City Commission change the name of the Anti-Crime Committee.

Mayor Valdez-Fauli: Boards and Committees requesting no action from the City Commission, motion to accept?

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdez-Fauli: All in favor say aye.

Commissioners: Aye

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Boards and Committees requesting action from the City Commission, the Cultural Grants, 2-1.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, I explained to you all that two other groups were removed from funding; one group unfortunately disbanded, the Miami Box Society, very sad, very good group; and the other Opera Prima, failed to meet its obligations. So, what the Cultural Board is recommending is that you take that money, which is \$12,400 and you apply it using the same formula, so that all of the groups that had been funded receive their portion of that monies.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good. All those in favor?

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: 2-2 – Economic Development Board requesting guidance and consideration from the City Commission on Board strategic objectives.

City Clerk Foeman: You need a motion on the previous.

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: 2-2 – Economic Development.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Leonard Roberts is here. The Board had a strategic planning meeting. They identified some priorities; we said that it would need to be budgeted and it would need to be considered by the City Commission, so Leonard is prepared to present both the Economic Development Board recommendations as well as the Property Advisory Board recommendations, unless you'd rather have this item at another time.

Commissioner Lago: How long is the presentation?

Mr. Roberts: Leonard Roberts, the Economic Development Asset Manager. So, every year the Boards put together a strategic – we have a strategic workshop for them, which sets a basis for putting together our annual report. This year as part of the Economic Development Strategic Planning they decided that one of the key objectives they want to accomplish is to focus on digital marketing and social media. Consider doing entrepreneurial-ship work weekend/Latin music conference, implement travel missions for recruiting businesses, partner with the University of Miami, improve the storefront guidelines, and focus on building a walkable City. And so, overall the focus related to the Latin music conference, I think that needs to be vetted a little bit more. We probably do some case studies and we want to make sure it fits in line with the motto of a world class City with a hometown feel. And so, overall our staff feels as though that and the mission, travel mission items that we can discuss at a later time, but right now the other objectives, we feel as though are in line with what we are accomplishing.

Commissioner Quesada: I read the minutes also. I thought it all made sense. I thought it was good.

Vice Mayor Keon: Doesn't Enterprise Florida, aren't they bringing in both domestic and international businesses for a conference here in March or April?

Mr. Roberts: There is something...

Vice Mayor Keon: It's at the Colonnade, no?

Mr. Roberts: Colonnade or Biltmore, I have to double-check, but we do have an event that we have which one of our Board members happens to be part of that organization, and so what we try to do is utilize our Board members as liaisons for representing the City at those respective organizations.

Vice Mayor Keon: OK. I think that's one of the biggest missions of Enterprise Florida is they are trade missions, so we should check on their schedule and see what their schedules are and where they are and where they are planning to go. I think they are going to Costa Rica within the next month, but I thought some time they have bigger trade missions every three years or something and I think it's here; it's going to be in Coral Gables because they have an office here, some time this spring.

Mr. Roberts: I'll double-check; I'm not 100 percent sure. So that's Economic Development, are there any questions?

Commissioner Quesada: No.

Mr. Roberts: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Roberts: And then, Property Advisory Board – same situation where the Board each year we do a strategic plan and that sets the basis put into their annual report; and what they like to do is focus on developing a specific asset strategy for the existing city-owned leased properties, hold meetings as needed. Typically, we have meetings on a regular basis, so they want to kind of impose doing meetings when an actual vote related to a real estate transaction is involved; and explore opportunities for City facilities that are not leased; and then combine their meetings with Economic Development Board on a case-by-case basis; and invite Commissioners and Mayors to the Board meetings to have discussions.

Commissioner Quesada: Sounds good.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anti-Crime Committee recommending that the City of Coral Gables City Commission change the name of the Anti-Crime Committee.

Commissioner Lago: Is there a name that's been....do you have a name?

City Attorney Ramos: Public Safety Advisory Board.

Commissioner Mena: My concern is the scope. I mean we had a meeting a few months ago now about the fact that they are having some issues previously with the Anti-Crime Committee having a quorum and what the scope and nature of what they were trying to achieve was and there had been some issues historically there, and so I could be wrong, and Maria if you can address this, but my concern is this title really expanding the scope of what they are doing, because I don't know if that's a great idea.

City Attorney Ramos: Legally it would not. The resolution forming them keeps the scope the same, whether it's a step in that direction is a different story, but at the moment it would not change their scope.

Mrs. Cruz: I want you to know that since we met we've had quorum every meeting except for one that was around the holiday. Except for one person that we have not been able to reach, everybody has been there and they are very active.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes that was my representative and we figured out, she probably figured out we had the wrong contact. We got it. We worked it out. So it shouldn't happen again.

Mrs. Cruz: You should have 100 percent.

Commissioner Mena: I think there was an issue with my appointment as well, wasn't there?

Mrs. Cruz: Yes everybody has been there.

Commissioner Mena: No, no, no. At the Board's Reception we had a few weeks ago, you met, but I appointed him seven months ago.

Mrs. Cruz: According to the secretary, according to the Clerk, they've been trying to reach him, they didn't have a good number, but that's OK, it was solved. He was there. We are very pleased with the way that they are all showing up and participating and rarely does anybody leave early. It's wonderful, wonderful. The reason for the change of name is because we were talking, this was a resolution that came up because when people, several of them said, you know when I tell people I'm in the Anti-Crime Committee, they go Oh! What do you mean? - we have a problem with crime, what's going on? - because it's a very negative name that's how everybody perceives it. So we said OK. So, Public Safety makes sense, because we are under that umbrella and that's what they presented and that's what they voted on and it was a unanimous request, and like the City Attorney said you know, the purview, the scope will be the same, unless you all decide to change it. All we are asking for at this point is make it a less negative name.

Commissioner Quesada: I like the Anti-Crime name just because I like to stay focused on the crime aspect of it. Right now crime is down and I think there are a lot of factors why crime is down, but I think it's important. Look, we are a City, we've got 50,000 residents, we have more 100,000 people here 9 to 5, and there is going to be crime, so Anti-Crime I think is a clear message that we are focusing in on that. I'm afraid if it's just public safety that it might go into other issues that is not crime and I think it's important that we stay focused on that.

Mrs. Cruz: It is up to you.

Commissioner Lago: Whatever you guys want is fine. Before you leave can we just talk about one issue too that was brought to my attention by two different...?

Commissioner Quesada: On this topic?

Commissioner Lago: On the issue of Boards – Boards and Committees.

Commissioner Quesada: Well hold on, let's close this.

Commissioner Lago: I thought we were done; we are not going to move forward on that are we?

Commissioner Quesada: That's my thought.

Commissioner Mena: I agree.

Vice Mayor Keon: I agree.

Mrs. Cruz: And since I'm here, because there was another resolution passed is, I ask you to please read your minutes because the Board also unanimously, not requesting you to do anything, they wanted to go on record that they had a vote of confidence for Chief Hudak and it was a unanimous vote and its attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Quesada: OK.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Thank you Maria.

Commissioner Lago: On another issue before you leave. I've been contacted by two different Chairs, two different committees stating that they would like to be able to sign the minutes along with the City Liaison just for clarity on the minutes and they've been saying that hasn't been happening. That's what they told me.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They should.

Commissioner Lago: I think you should have not only the City Liaison, but you should also have the Chair of the Committee signing the document. Maria is that happening on your Board?

Mrs. Cruz: Yes. Yes. That came up, because previous our Chair was coming... [inaudible]...the reason given was that maybe...

Commissioner Quesada: That doesn't make a difference either way.

Commissioner Lago: I think if you are going to have a Chair, obviously overseeing a Board and there are going to be meeting minutes, I think that Chair should be signing the minutes.

Commissioner Quesada: Is that going to slow down the minutes from getting to us?

Mrs. Cruz: ...before you sign.

Vice Mayor Keon: No. Don't you review your minutes and approve them at your meeting?

Mrs. Cruz: Yes, but you can get the drafts...

Vice Mayor Keon: But, if you review your minutes at every meeting and you pass them or you accept the minutes, then that acceptance would show...

Commissioner Quesada: I don't think it's necessary for the exact reason that Commissioner Keon is saying. If there is a discrepancy with the minutes then they vote against it or they move to modify it or amend the minutes. What's the need for signing? I just think it's going to become a problem. Oh, the Chair didn't see that e-mail, didn't sign it, so therefore it doesn't make it to our agenda.

Commissioner Lago: I'm saying it's the meeting minutes...e-mails right now.

Commissioner Quesada: Because here's what's going to happen, think about it practically. Say I'm the Chair of committee "X" and I have to sign the meeting minutes to say that yes, they are accurate, but...

Commissioner Lago: By the way, that's the way it used to be done before.

Commissioner Quesada: What's the point of the vote then? - isn't the vote authenticating the fact that they are accurate?

Commissioner Lago: I think also, besides the vote, I think it's also important is the meeting minutes they are recorded and you want to make sure that any statement you have made...

Vice Mayor Keon: But, that's what's happens when you accept the minutes.

Commissioner Lago: Also besides the vote there are other issues that maybe comments that you've made, like for example, we voted before on the Venera Project, but I made some statements in reference to the second.

Commissioner Quesada: And, you would see it in the minutes and if it's not there you would say, the minutes aren't correct, I'm not going to vote to approve it, it's got to be changed.

Vice Mayor Keon: Or you amend the minutes.

Commissioner Quesada: You are just adding an extra step that could potentially complicate...

Mrs. Cruz: You are not adding, you are taking an extra step. If they used to sign till recent times and all of a sudden...according to Robert's Rules, according to Robert's Rules the Committee should decide that, number one. Number two, if the issue is delayed, if this person doesn't sign it on time, the...didn't get it the way they are...

Commissioner Quesada: It's a second affirmation of the fact that it was discussed.

City Attorney Ramos: Both things are perfectly legal, the only thing I asked for is that they ought to be consistent, because some committees are doing it and some of them aren't.

Mrs. Cruz: Correct.

City Attorney Ramos: So, I just ask that all the committees do the same thing whatever that thing is.

Commissioner Quesada: As long as the committees are voting to approve that the minutes are accurate, I think that's all...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let me see an expression of interest from the Commission who want to have...

Vice Mayor Keon: I'd like to move that the act of approving and accepting the minutes is sufficient.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. Is there a second to that?

Commissioner Quesada: I agree with that statement.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. All those in favor say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed.

Commissioner Lago: Nay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK – passed.

Mrs. Cruz: Before you move on. There is an annual report that has to be signed, there is an ordinance that says that the Chair has to sign it, we were told we wouldn't sign... unless you change the ordinance that will be...

Commissioner Quesada: If the ordinance says you have to sign the annual report that's fine.

City Attorney Ramos:...the annual report then you would sign it...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's go on.

[End: 2:07:14 p.m.]