

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item G-8**  
**April 26, 2022**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**

**Vice Mayor Michael Mena**

**Commissioner Rhonda Anderson**

**Commissioner Jorge Fors**

**Commissioner Kirk Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Assistant City Manager, Alberto Parjus**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item G-8 [Start: 4:44 p.m.]

Discussion regarding the status of the Underline Dog Park  
(Sponsored by Commissioner Menendez)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto G-8, Commissioner Menendez item.

Commissioner Menendez: I asked the administration to give us an update on the Underline dog park, the plans for that area.

City Manager Iglesias: And let me just say, Commissioner, one of the reasons that we're working with the Underline of this is that in order to get a very high-end dog park, we had to use some of the Underline land. Our property was not wide enough to do that, and so, we couldn't decouple it from the Underline work. And so, what we're doing is, we initially were going to give the Underline \$7 million dollars, to work within the city, 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue to LeJeune. So, we are currently providing \$7.35 million dollars - \$350,000, so that they would incorporate our plan into the Underline plan. So that will encompass our portion of the Underline work, it could be \$7 million, and then that \$350,000 additional work to incorporate the park with the Underline work. Now that

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is, my understanding it looks like it may be June or July before it goes to the County Commission, is that correct?

Assistant City Manager Parjus: That is correct Mr. Manager. They are now on this part of negotiation, and they expect to be completed...at the Means and Ways committee they will be on the June 7<sup>th</sup> Board of County Commissioners agenda and if not, it would be on the July agenda.

Commissioner Menendez: And once it goes through county – because the public is always asking more or less the timeline before...

Assistant City Manager Parjus: So, what they are going to the BCC is for approval of the company that is going to do the design-build.

Commissioner Menendez: Okay.

Assistant City Manager Parjus: The Manager was explaining, this is part of the overall Phase 3 of the Underline, and it all depends on Means and Ways if they are going to proceed with the design and construction and when it's going to be finished. It has to be part of the entire segment because it's under the RTZ, the Rapid Transit Zone, like the Manager was explaining and that requires Better Transit Administration approval. So, I cannot give you a timeline, but they have the grant that's attached to this phase and all the entire segment, Segment 3, has to be completed by 2026. I don't think the dog park is going to take that long, but...

Commissioner Menendez: But clearly, it's going to take a while.

City Manager Iglesias: I'm assuming that they are working, they appear to be working north to south.

Assistant City Manager Parjus: Right.

City Manager Iglesias: Which means that Douglas/LeJeune section should be done before LeJune/57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. So, they would probably be ahead of the second phase or I'm not sure how exactly phasing it, but my understanding is its working.

Commissioner Menendez: Part of the reason we've had discussions on Salvadore, Catalonia, there is a demand. So, I know we brought up the dog park with the Underline, but I guess in real terms so that folks aren't under the impression that its going to come up a couple of months from now. A couple of months now its just like you said, the companies can be approved, so it's a process which the county is leading the way on that, if it's a part of like you said, Part 3 or Phase 3.

City Manager Iglesias: However, we have given them our drawings and our design, and we've been told that they are incorporating that design into the Underline project. So, we should get a top-of-the-line park that will be wide enough and long enough to really make a difference there, by incorporating the work with the Underline.

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Commissioner Anderson: I'm just going to footnote it, since we are talking about the Underline in total. A recent addition, welcomed member of our staff, included in that vision, and it was presented at community meetings and Meg Daley said she was going to follow up on it, was the canoe drop off that has no parking signs on it now. If they are going to build out a real canoe drop off or kayak drop off that's safe and approved at that location at the Underline, it was something that the community wanted when they went to the community meetings years ago, and we should make sure it's not forgotten.

City Manager Iglesias: They have provided some sketches indicating that there will be a canoe drop off right in that area there. They will incorporate as part of the Underline work. So, we have received some sketches on that, so I'm not sure how far they are along that design in that area, but we did get some sketches from them concerning that.

Commissioner Anderson: And just a footnote, there is a need for some paid or otherwise parking spaces nearby for the single kayakers that don't have a second person and want to launch very expensive equipment, and not lose it when they drop it off and then go find parking elsewhere. So that needs to be looked at.

City Manager Iglesias: They do have some parking there, Commissioner, the parking is very tight there, so what we did see with the drop off, not necessarily long-term parking. I'm not sure how much time, because if you're coming with any kind of trailer or anything like that, I'm not sure there is truly enough space in there to provide anything of significance.

Commissioner Anderson: Some people that have single kayaks put them on the roof of their vehicle, so they can lift them off, they can park, they can have a reserved parking system, go online, reserve your spot, pay for it, and be able to go out without worry having to find parking spots somewhere else. It happened to me on my driveway. My husband got out there, was working on the breaks of the car, took the mag wheels off, went inside to get some water to drink, came back out, guess what, the wheels were gone, the aluminum four jack was gone. I had over \$1,000 worth of loss in a matter of minutes. Crimes of opportunity like that, that we want to avoid. People can't put thousands of dollars of equipment, drop it off, go find parking, and come back. We have a fair and reserve system for people to have a few parking spaces there, for those very few kayakers that are single kayak drop offs, is something we need to look at.

City Manager Iglesias: We can look at that. Right now, what we saw what was mentioned was a drop off area, along with the kayak, I guess sloped section to go into the water for canoes and kayaks and small things, but it looks like the parking there is tight, and we can find out if they are planning on just having it as a drop off area or planning any long-term parking.

Commissioner Anderson: Met with Meg Daley and it is something to be looked at, but it doesn't need to be forgotten, and please, don't forget about it. I have a whole series of e-mails between various individuals that are quite interested in having that type of parking there and is willing to pay for it.

City Manager Iglesias: We'll look into it and get back with you all on it.  
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Mayor Lago: Thank you. Thank you, sir.