

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items E-3
June 16, 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

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items E-3 [9:56:29 a.m.]

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2010-11, renaming the Green Task Force, decreasing membership, membership qualifications, broadening the purpose; and providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Cason: Agenda Item E-3.

City Attorney Leen: Agenda Item E-3, this is on First Reading, it's a public hearing item, An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2010-11, renaming the Green Task Force, decreasing membership, membership qualifications, broadening the purpose; and providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. Again, it's a public hearing.

Ms. Keller: Good morning Mayor and Commissioners, I'm Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director and with me I have Matt Anderson, he is our Sustainability Specialist, and I'll let him take it from here.

Mr. Anderson: Good morning everybody. Since the creation of the Green Task Force in July of 2010, they've done a lot of initiatives. They developed the Sustainability Specialist position; they developed the Sustainability Master Plan, development of the Transportation Sustainability Division within Public Works, recommended implementing cardboard recycling, and also recommendation to join the White-Green Initiative. Since then with the creation and eventual implementation of the Sustainability Master Plan, staff's recommending that we make some changes to refocus the Green Task Force. One of those is changing the name from Green Task Force to the Sustainability Advisory Board, another one is adding to the responsibilities, they oversee the implementation of the Sustainability Master Plan, reducing the number of members from 11 down to 7, appointing each Commissioner appoints one member and then you are able to appoint one at large, with the City Manager appointing the remaining member. And the last is reducing the qualifications from less technical people on the Advisory Board, to regular residents that have a strong desire to see this City become more sustainable and more environmentally focused, and we can bring in that technical expertise as advisors on an as-needed basis.

Mayor Cason: Discussion?

Commissioner Lago: Excited. I'm excited about this. Anything that has to do with the green initiative in our City is something which I'm very passionate about; I know this Commission is very passionate about. We've had some trouble before in reference to quorum, and I think that right now as I had a conversation in my pre-agenda meeting with the City Manager, I think people are going to jump at the opportunity of getting involved with, what are they going to call it now?-

Mr. Anderson: Sustainability Advisory Board.

Commissioner Lago: Sustainability Advisory Board. The great thing about it is with the Sustainability Plan, the recycling efforts that we are doing, the big steps that we are taking as a City to be more sustainable, I think the leading, driving force besides the Commission, is going to be this organization. So any of my colleagues that have somebody whom they feel would be a perfect fit, no matter their background, as long as they care about the environment and want to see the City of Coral Gables move forward in that direction, I ask you to please bring that person forward and let's get moving with this long-awaited Board which has been, to be honest with you, I've gone to probably six or seven meetings since I got elected and it's been a little stagnant, and we've heard enough complaints already about why this Board isn't pushing forward in regards to sustainable issues. So, I'm excited and I appreciate the City Manager for all your efforts in getting this revamped.

Mayor Cason: Do we...again a public hearing, do we have any speaker cards?

City Clerk Foeman: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Cason: Close the public hearing – discussion?

Commissioner Keon: Do we then appoint someone – this will go into effect immediately, so we should appoint someone with our Board and Committee appointments...we should get those names to Walter, OK.

Mayor Cason: Right, with a CD and that way we can do the whole thing on July 8th.

Commissioner Keon: OK.

Commissioner Lago: We probably will have a multitude of individuals who weren't able to join on previous occasions because they weren't qualified in reference to -- we need an architect and an engineer.

Ms. Keller: That's correct – and I had a number of people approach me, if you are looking for someone. I do have people who have approached me who didn't meet the previous qualifications, but obviously meet them now.

Mayor Cason: Can you circulate that.

Ms. Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Can you do me a favor, even I want to see – I want to get the most qualified person for this position, so I'm not tied down to anyone. So if anyone is listening today and they have an interest in becoming involved with this Board, I ask you to please submit your resumes to Walter or...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Circulate through Walter, he is managing the circulation.

Commissioner Lago: Yes, we'll circulate everything through Walter, City Clerk, so we look forward to have you on board.

Mayor Cason: Do I have a motion?

Commissioner Keon: I can tell you, I'm going to appoint Marlin Ebbert. Walter, you can fill that in. You already have her CD for when she was on the Merrick House Board and has expressed a desire to serve on the Green Task Force. I'd like to appoint her. Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: It's a great appointment.

Mayor Cason: OK. Do we have a motion then on this?

Vice Mayor Quesada: So moved.

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes the motion, Commissioner Slesnick seconds.

City Clerk

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

[End: 10:01:27 a.m.]