

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-1
March 10, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-1 [9:29:14 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, Article 3, "Development Review," Section 3-606 to include Dade Heritage Trust, Inc. as party that may appeal decisions of the Historic Preservation Board; providing for a repealer provision; severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. (01 08 2020 PZB recommended denial, Vote 4-2) (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago and Commissioner Mena)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Ordinance on Second Reading – F-1, which again we will defer because I'm preparing an answer to the article that appeared at the Miami Herald, page one, Miami Herald page one and all of page two, and I find it amazing. Mr. Begucci called me to get comments and I responded to his call, calling him back to tell him, Mr. Begucci I don't want to talk to you, everything I say, you will write something that will make Coral Gables look bad, which he did; and we had a tornado in Tennessee, the stock market plummeting, Italy in quarantine, the schools, contamination in Fort Lauderdale, contamination in North Miami and he dedicated the whole strip,

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page one plus all of page two to a matter in Coral Gables. And I'm writing an article, I mean I'm writing to correct, but we were accused of being historically insensitive. I'm going to read some figures to you. Yearly we are spending \$800,000 on the Biltmore for its restoration. We spent in the last three years \$2 million dollars for the Biltmore bridges. We spent over \$500,000 for the Gondula building at the Biltmore. We spent \$2 million dollars acquiring the Fink Studio, \$2 million dollars; Merrick House restoration \$1.8 million dollars; historical designation consultants \$20,000; Museum restoration some time ago, but that was \$6 million dollars; the fountains and bridges at Granada \$1.5 million dollars. If you add all of this, it will add up to more than \$10 million dollars in the last three years for historic preservation, in the last four years for historic preservation. For us to be accused of not being historically sensitive is, I'm not going to say is a lie, but it's a gross misstatement Mr. Begucci, a gross misstatement. And there are two people in the City that historically preservation obsessed, they should look at these figures and tell us what more we can do for historic preservation. We will for certain take this item up at the next meeting and no more deferrals.

City Attorney Ramos: I need a motion that its going to be continued date certain to the next meeting.

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Call the roll please.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 9:32:00 a.m.]