

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items C-1, C-2, C-3 (Mayor's Comments)
May 22, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

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

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Government Affairs Manager, Naomi Levi**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items C-1, C-2, C-3 [9:15:35 a.m.]

Mayor's Comments

C-1: Update regarding Snapper Creek site specific regulations.

C-2: Update regarding annexation process for High Pines/Ponce Davis neighborhood.

C-3: Constructive talks underway between City Manager's Office and Police Chief.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next is Mayor's Comments and the first item I have here is, update regarding Snapper Creek site specific regulations; and we have a video of Snapper Creek's sentiments regarding the change in the regulations. And, all of those red crosses you see there are people in Snapper Creek opposed to the change, so as far as I'm concerned the change is that there will not be a change with that level of opposition in the neighborhood of Snapper Creek. Are there any comments?

Commissioner Keon: I have an item that....can we just take that at the same time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No.

Commissioner Keon: The item I have is to discuss to discontinue any of that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK.

Commissioner Keon: We'll just deal with it now, alright.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK.

Commissioner Keon: H-5.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

Commissioner Keon: The item I have is H-5 and it's to discontinue of lot coverage and other development amendments, processes, associated with Snapper Creek properties.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK.

Commissioner Keon: So if we can just...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor of discontinuing the changes in regulations and zoning.

All: Aye.

Commissioner Keon: So it's over. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Alright – so Snapper Creek that's an amazing unanimity in the neighborhood. Next is update regarding annexation process for High Pines/Ponce Davis neighborhood. That will come before the County Commission on June 5th, and I was thinking of showing up with the City Manager, etc., but we have had on second thought, we didn't show up for the Little Gables annexation, because we had a City Commission meeting that day and it would not be good for all of us to show up in force for a wealthier neighborhood and not having shown up for Little Gables, so we are not going to show up for that. I think that Naomi and our outside consultants or outside attorneys, if they want to show up, but that's very much in the works. Naomi welcome back.

Ms. Levi: Thank you, good to be back. Yes, we can definitely attend on your behalf on June 5th at the Board of County Commissioners. This is just an initial step. The application is coming before the Commission and the next step would be for them to send it to their Planning Advisory

Board. That Board will then review, make a recommendation and it would come back to the BCC. So, perhaps at that stage we can consider having a representative from the Commission attend.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: Can I just suggest and you guys can give me your thoughts, but I actually had somebody call me about two days ago asking questions about the annexation and how it works, somebody who was looking to buy a home in the area. And it might be worth putting some sort of, I know you guys have that website where you put like frequently asked questions and a lot of very helpful information. It might be good to provide like occasional status updates on where things are in the process just so that anybody checking in on it knows where things are. I don't know the best way to do that. I leave that to your discretion, but just give that some thought.

Ms. Levi: Sure – absolutely. We can add the fact that this is coming before the Board of County Commissioners and put other relevant status updates on the website.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: Thank you.

Ms. Levi: No problem.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. C-3: Constructive talks underway between City Manager's office and Police Chief. Madam City Manager.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes sir. I've spoken to each of you. We've reached out and had very productive conversations with Chief Hudak. We've met three times and we've both made a commitment to continue to meet, to continue to share ideas and perspectives, and I think it's been very productive. A lot of different perspectives coming together, which I think will bring the City forward. So I look forward to working with him. I look forward to continuing the leadership with Assistant City Manager Fernandez and I think that we'll all do it in the best interest of the City. I know that that's something that the Commission wants, I know that's the residents, and I'm confident it will all come together.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You all have any questions for the City Manager?

Commissioner Keon: No.

Commissioner Lago: Well, I had a good discussion with the City Manager this morning, probably about 45 minutes. My main question and what I want to make sure we memorialize here is that we have in the future forthcoming some sort of structure that comes out; and I was very clear as the Manager will tell you. I look forward to all three individuals working together. I think, obviously in the best interest of the City. I hold, obviously like I've mentioned before, the Police Chief in high regard, the City Manager, and I think Frank Fernandez is a great individual who has done a lot of great work in the City, but we need to find that common ground. I think that's the main theme here. So, I want to make sure that if we don't have the discussion today, which I don't have a problem, I know we have a packed agenda, we make sure that at the next Commission meeting or the forthcoming one that we iron out that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We will. This is just an update and we very much will have...

Commissioner Lago: I know that you've been leading these discussions and you had, I think three or four meetings in regards to this, so I know that this is a process and it takes time, but we are moving in the right direction.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. The last thing in my comments, the wall at the east, no west end of our courtyard down there. We used to memorialize and it was a beautiful wall, memorialize the visits of tall ships to Miami. We used to have the sailors come to City Hall with their bands and banners and flags and we used to invite Coral Gables Elementary, basically kids to interact with these sailors from all over the world, Spain, Chili, Ecuador, other places, Columbia, and it was a very beautiful wall. It was a beautiful wall memorializing, the kids enjoyed it and I think it was a great part of what we offered our educational system and these visits were memorialized with plaques on that wall. At some point somebody stole the plaque for the metal and we have been unable to recuperate them, but I would like to suggest that, just like we honored Mayor Corrigan today, that we think of putting a metal, a bronze plaque memorializing those people that have served the City well in the past that have died, so you have to die in order to get up there, and I think it would be a good idea for us to memorialize these people and having a plaque on that wall.

Commissioner Mena: I think it's a great idea.

Vice Mayor Quesada: What wall?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: At the entrance to our City Hall, the wall across, the one that goes to the parking lot.

Commissioner Keon: In the courtyard?

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I didn't know that. I never saw that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes, I'm OK with that. Are you thinking elected officials, are you thinking staff, are you thinking a combination of both?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No. I'm thinking of elected officials.

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm thinking of elected officials that have died. So, you will not be memorialized for a long time.

Commissioner Lago: I agree with you on your idea bringing back this concept, but I disagree with the issue of that you have to die, because I think we recognize so many great individuals, who have served this community that maybe they should have their name on there. For example, you see Chip Withers today, you saw Vice Mayor Kerdyk, those are individuals that I would love to put up there and not have to wait until they die.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think that waiting till they die is a good idea though. I think that it's – they served the community, they served Coral Gables and we can discuss this further, but...

Commissioner Lago: I don't want to discuss this further; I just want to give my two cents. I support you on this. I think it's great.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes. I like the idea just think about it at the next meeting or the following.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK.

[End: 9:23:37 a.m.]