

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item 2-1
December 10, 2019
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
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item 2-1 [2:20 p.m.]

A Resolution amending Resolution No. 2015-101, to amend the purpose of the Transportation Advisory Board.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Item 2-1. Thank you very much. The Transportation Advisory Board wishes to pass on every project in Coral Gables.

Commissioner Mena: 2-1, you said?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: 2-1, page 5, on top. Madam City Attorney.

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Agenda Item 2-1 - Resolution amending Resolution No. 2015-101, to amend the purpose of the Transportation Advisory Board.

City Attorney Ramos: I don't have anything to present, sir. This is a motion of the board -- a resolution of the board that they'd like you to consider expanding their purpose.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Expanding their purpose to pass on traffic calming opportunities and regulating policies and strategies to apply in all city neighborhoods to maintain a well-integrated street grid. This is the Riviera Neighborhood Association people who led this. And this just adds another layer of bureaucracy and approval to do anything that happens in the city, and I'm very much against that.

Commissioner Mena: I don't know what it adds, to be honest with you.

Commissioner Fors: I think arguably it limits...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, I don't...

Commissioner Fors: The scope because it was more general...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

Commissioner Fors: As originally written.

Commissioner Mena: I'm not sure it does really much of anything. It's kind of odd.

City Attorney Ramos: So, there's no one here representing the board.

City Manager Iglesias: Well...

City Attorney Ramos: You don't have to take any action.

Vice Chair Lago: Yeah, but...

City Manager Iglesias: May I just...

Vice Chair Lago: My understanding was that they wanted to make sure -- this is an advisory board.

Commissioner Mena: Sure.

Vice Chair Lago: So again, they wanted to make sure they could put their thumbprint on every single project that comes before the Commission.

Commissioner Mena: Can we...

Vice Chair Lago: And I think that -- I mean, again...

Commissioner Mena: Can we...

Vice Chair Lago: What's -- what is it...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Chair Lago: To me -- let me -- to me, I don't see any problem with that. I mean, it's -- people who are giving up of their time who want to just take a one look at a project, all the projects that are forthcoming.

Commissioner Mena: It's not binding on us or anything.

Vice Chair Lago: It's nonbinding. It's just an advisory opportunity where we heed their comments, their expertise...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: As long as...

Vice Chair Lago: And that's it.

City Manager Iglesias: Vice Mayor, but...

Vice Chair Lago: We take it into consideration. I think it...

City Manager Iglesias: Vice Mayor, but we already have...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm very much opposed to it because they would then be -- applicants to whatever would then have to present this to this oversight committee and I'm against having another bureaucracy, another bureaucratic step, especially with the people who are serving on this committee.

City Attorney Ramos: I just want to note that the only thing they're proposing is three or four new words into the...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, but let me say that right now every project that comes in is looked at by our consultant. We no longer use a -- the -- we no longer accept the developer's traffic consultant. It's our traffic consultant. In addition to that, we have a traffic -- a transportation manager that also reviews the traffic issue. So, I believe, Commissioner Mena, we did that a while back where we have our own traffic engineers looking at that.

Commissioner Mena: If you told me this was adding another layer, I might agree with you, but I guess I'm not even seeing that it does that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That is the purpose.

Commissioner Mena: What is it adding?

Commissioner Keon: Well, I...

City Attorney Ramos: I'm unsure.

Commissioner Mena: It's just adding words to an existing resolution, so...

Commissioner Keon: I think what -- it comes in response to a conversation that I had with my appointee who -- they want the ability to advise on or review projects, development projects throughout the whole city. So, that's why it's the whole city. Because they're -- when they were established, it was established as an advisory board to advise on traffic calming and traffic issues within the residential neighborhoods, and it was when traffic calming was first being introduced into the city. So, it was whether, you know, traffic circles or speed bumps -- that's what that -- I mean, that's when the original -- that's the history of the establishment of that board.

Commissioner Mena: Does this...

Commissioner Keon: So...

Commissioner Mena: Does this require our approval, or is this just their resolution that they already approved?

City Attorney Ramos: They're asking you to take action.

Commissioner Keon: They're asking you to...

City Attorney Ramos: You don't have to take any action.

Commissioner Keon: To change...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They're asking us to...

Commissioner Keon: Their mission from...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Make everything go through them for them to opine.

Commissioner Keon: Right. They're asking that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And that's my objection.

Commissioner Keon: Instead of the way it originally reads within the residential neighborhoods is that it reads the whole city. But what they originally asked to be able to do was to look at developments within the city because it affects the grid in the city. And I said, well, your -- if you look at the -- your purpose -- if you go on and look at the purpose of the board on the Clerk site, it is with regard to residential neighborhoods and is related to traffic calming and those sorts of things. So, they use -- they included -- there was a much broader language and then they made it just that they could look at anything that affects traffic anywhere in the city. So...

Commissioner Mena: I...

Commissioner Keon: That's why...

Commissioner Fors: It used to say in the city.

Commissioner Mena: I'd like to -- if you guys...

Commissioner Keon: But it was -- was that (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Mena: My thought is I'd like to move to defer this item and have...

Commissioner Keon: The purpose, the purpose, like the...

Commissioner Mena: My gut is to move to defer this item and have either the Chair or a representative from the board...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Commissioner Mena: Come and tell us...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Commissioner Fors: Yes. They can explain what...

Commissioner Mena: What it is that they have in mind here so we can make an...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Commissioner Mena: Informed decision.

City Attorney Ramos: My understanding is that...

Vice Chair Lago: They should have been here.

City Attorney Ramos: The Chair could not make it.

Vice Chair Lago: So moved.

City Attorney Ramos: And was going to ask a representative to be here today, but they're not here.

Commissioner Mena: So, I would...

Vice Chair Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Mena: Move to defer it and have somebody come and...

Vice Chair Lago: Second.

Commissioner Mena: Discuss it with us.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor of deferral?

The Commission (Collectively): Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed? Alright, deferred.