

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items G-3
November 9, 2021
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

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-3 [Start: 5:05 p.m.]

Discussion regarding surface parking lot designs
(Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Mayor Lago: And all joking, as if we didn't talk about enough parking, here we go to G-3, discussion regarding surface parking lot designs by Commissioner Anderson. More parking talk. We've talked about the parking lot, we talked about parking tickets and now we are talking about, wait, the Mobility Hub, don't call it a parking garage. Today is parking day.

Commissioner Anderson: Parking day – we celebrate it every once in a while, too. This is a simple request because we have some new parking lots that have come online and we've all made some requests, prior Commissions made some requests for more shade, more trees, and there are some additional compliance issues. Our request is this, when the designs are coming through that they pass by our desks and allow us to have some comment, meaning this full Commission. You see something that you'd like changed in the parking lot or you want a handicap space next to a charge station, in addition to what's there, or you want bigger trees in the parking lot, we can make those points before the ground is broken and we waste money going back and fixing them later on.

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Mayor Lago: I agree. It's a great point.

Commissioner Anderson: That's what I'm requesting. City Manager, can we do that?

City Manager Iglesias: Let's do it.

Commissioner Anderson: You want to do it informally.

City Manager Iglesias: We can send it, as long as its our parking garage, its our parking structure. We cannot do this for parking that's private. Its under the Building Code.

Commissioner Anderson: This is for our city lots.

City Manager Iglesias: As long as you understand its only for our city lots, because if not, that's under Development Services, its under the Florida Building Code, it's under the review and you have to be a Building Code Reviewer to actually do that. So as long as we are dealing only with city parking lots then its fine.

Commissioner Fors: What Commissioner Anderson was saying, and I think...she was just saying more generally to make sure that plans for surface parking lots come to this Commission first so that if we have suggestions, we don't waste any money after we have already broken ground, right.

City Manager Iglesias: And if we are looking for charging stations at handicap locations, we can't do that. It is not a code requirement on accessibility, we can always go above the code, we cannot go below the code.

Commissioner Anderson: I'm going to strongly disagree with you on that, because the federal code is incorporated in the Florida Accessibility Code and because it's incorporated by reference, if you have an amenity or service, if it is offered for the able bodied, you must offer it for the disabled. So, to put in a brand-new parking lot and have brand new charge stations without a single charge station offered for an individual with disabilities is wrong. Its just simply wrong. Its against the Department of Justice rules, its against what's supposed to be done, providing accessibility. You can't discriminate. You can't go and say the Florida Building Code doesn't require it when the Building Code itself incorporates by reference the Federal Code.

City Manager Iglesias: If the Building Code – it's not required in the Accessibility Manual or the Florida Building Code. If it's a private parking garage, a private parking lot, excuse me, and they wish to add it, then they can, but we cannot enforce that through the Building Department, but we can do it as our own parking lots because we can go to a higher standard for best practice if we wish. That has gone to BORA, it gone to the Florida Building Code Commission, if its not in the Building Code we cannot enforce it. Now they may have a DOJ issue, that's something different.

Commissioner Anderson: I'll sit down with you separately. I'll show you the language in the Florida Building Code in the Florida Code itself where we incorporate by reference the Federal Accessibility Code. I don't think we need to spend the time on it here now, okay, but if the law
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requires you to provide a water fountain for the disabled or a stamp machine for the disabled, then you have to lower the height, you certainly do have to provide the charge station. You are putting in a brand-new parking lot. It doesn't take that much effort to paint some blue lines and put a sign up for disabled individuals to be able to charge their vehicles as well as the non-disabled individuals.

Mayor Lago: Anything else you want to discuss? Commissioner, would you like for me to move on from the item.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes. We can move on from the item and I'll just like it brought before the Commission.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Perfect.