

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-9
August 24, 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, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-9

Discussion item to include report from Public Works regarding missing sidewalk segments between Rivera Drive and Granada Boulevard, south of Hardee Road, and regarding missing sidewalks and crosswalks near Ponce Middle School and also providing a schedule to address. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto G-9. This is simple. I mentioned it before, this is Ponce Middle, that area is in dire need of a sidewalk. I walked it with the ACM, and I want to make sure that we start planning already. I know that the ACM said that we were going to start some sort of conceptual design. I'd like to bring it to the Commission. Its critically important for the students who are traversing that area, and not only that, that entrance, that green space next to the duplex looks terrible and it's the entrance to that entire community, and I want to make sure that we plan accordingly to do some nice, maybe a bench, maybe some landscaping, really beautify that area. And I want to bring it to the attention of my colleagues so that they can consider it for next year's budget.

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Agenda Item G-9 – Discussion item to include report from Public Works regarding Missing sidewalk segments between Riviera Drive and Granada Blvd.

[Date]

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Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Mr. Mayor that was one of the items on this discussion. The other ones were related to, actually there is only one which is sidewalk connectivity, Hardee, Granada, the bridge, and I forget what other street it was at this point, but that having been said, I think Hermes has a brief presentation. I don't know if the Commission is willing to entertain that at this point. We do have a plan for proceeding with those sidewalks in that area around the bridge, as requested by the Transportation Advisory Board. The idea of the Ponce Middle School sidewalk is something that we will also be looking at, as we discussed that day, we need to come up with a concept. I think the first step would be to build a sidewalk, after that we can look at beautifying enhancing the area, because it is an extensive area. It's also associated to a small green space that exist, and that we would also like to look at perhaps doing some improvements there, along the lines of what we do with some of our neighborhood parks. There is a large...closer to Maynada that really, I would call it a very arcane intersection, there is all kinds of stuff going on there, its pretty crazy, so we are going to look at how to improve that. We do have to work with the county on that. If you'd like, Hermes can go ahead and make the presentation, it's up to you.

Mayor Lago: My main goal, staff's been here a long day, is very simple, this is a priority; it's a priority, it's a public safety issue, its an aesthetic issue, it just looks terrible. There is also a sidewalk portion that the ACM witnessed, which is across the street in like a four-plex, right behind the Starbucks that runs parallel to the street. What street is that?

Public Works Director Diaz: Maynada.

Mayor Lago: That's Maynada – that runs parallel to Maynada. We could take advantage and connect the sidewalk that's already there and swing it around to the other side.

Public Works Director Diaz: That's the one that's more complicated. That intersection has a lot of conflicts, so that would most likely be part of the larger design that the ACM was referring to, involving Maynada as a county road and even FDOT for U.S.-1.

Mayor Lago: What I want to do right now, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Director, I want through the Manager and my colleagues request that we start working on a conceptual drawing. So, six months from now you can come back, or three months you can come back and say, here's my conceptual drawing. We don't have funding for it, but we'll find the funding for it in the budget for next year, that's what I want to hear.

Public Works Director Diaz: Absolutely.

Mayor Lago: And I want my colleagues to understand if they are willing and interested in embarking on that project, its important.

Public Works Director Diaz: Absolutely.

City Attorney Ramos: Anyone want to make that motion?

City Manager Iglesias: We will initiate...

Mayor Lago: I can't make that motion.

City Attorney Ramos: Somebody else can.

Commissioner Anderson: I'll make the motion.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

City Manager Iglesias: We can initiate the design, if you wish, I think that's something that we would like to do.

Vice Mayor Mena: Can you also send us the presentation that you have, so we can review.

Public Works Director Diaz: The presentation is for the...connectivity in Riviera and Granada and Hardee, but yes, absolutely.

Mayor Lago: We have a lot of things. My colleagues are sophisticated enough to understand that this is important, and this is something that I think will pay significant dividends for the entire community, not only Ponce Middle.

Public Works Director Diaz: 100 percent.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor there may be some people that have pushback on that, but we are going to have to deal with that.

Mayor Lago: I understand, but listen, the way that piece of property is right now, that little enclave that goes out where the duplexes are, number one, I recommend that people go and see it in person like the ACM and I did it. Its unsuitable to be an entrance overlooking the University of Miami, just looks terrible, that's number one. Number two is, I understand they don't want sidewalks there, but who owns that property?

Public Works Director Diaz: The...is actually just right-of-way.

Mayor Lago: Okay, then we own that property, then we should be able to the right-of-way, we should be able to put the sidewalk in the right-of-way and connect there.

Public Works Director Diaz: The connection is the thing that we have to worry the county, Maynada is a county road, but that's what we are going to be working on.

Mayor Lago: If you have an issue, I will help you with the county. I will advocate and lobby, whatever I have to do for the county. Let's just design it and let me take it to the county through

our County Commissioner and get it approved, because this is about public safety and its important.

Public Works Director Diaz: 100 percent.

Mayor Lago: I really appreciate you.

Public Works Director Diaz: Not a problem. Thank you.

City Manager Iglesias: We have no issue their Mayor.

Public Works Director Diaz: No issue at all.

Mayor Lago: G-10.

City Attorney Ramos: Mayor did somebody make the motion?

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, it's been moved and seconded.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)