

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-1
September 25, 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, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item D-1 [9:18:35 a.m.]

Consent Agenda

A Resolution authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill, Inc. to sell alcoholic beverages at the Plaza located at 60 Merrick Way from Thursday, September 27, 2018 through Sunday, September 30, 2018 and Thursday, October 4, 2018 through Sunday, October 7, 2018, during the OKTOBERFEST Event, subject to Florida Department of Professional Regulation Requirements.

Commissioner Lago: So we'll pull D-1 and we'll vote on D-2.

Commissioner Mena: Do you want to discuss it now?

Commissioner Lago: That's why I brought it up. Listen, I had a long discussion with our City Manager in regards to this and I think I speak for the entire Commission.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Actually, nobody in the audience knows what we are talking about.

City Attorney Ramos: If I could for one minute, Mr. Clerk if you could read the Consent Agenda language, they can vote on D-2 and then we'll talk about D-1.

City Clerk Foeman: Before the vote adopting the Consent Agenda is taken, is there anyone who wishes additional discussion or review of any item on the Consent Agenda?

Commissioner Keon: D-1.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So moved on item D-2.

Commissioner Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed.

City Attorney Ramos: As to D-1.

Commissioner Lago: As I was saying, I think we should have a little bit of a discussion; and I was having a long discussion with the City Manager just in reference to this issue. Go ahead.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think that they are a wonderful, wonderful facility that we have in Coral Gables, an establishment that we have in Coral Gables. They had been there since the 90's when we did that plaza and built the parking lot and they bring fans to soccer games, it's our German restaurant, one of our two German restaurants; and its packed many times. And, Oktoberfest is one of the attractions that we offer our people here. It brings people to Coral Gables. There is a city, a well-known city around us that says that we are stealing their thunder and they want to get people back to their establishments because of the umbrellas, because Giralda, because of Frits and Franz, because of many of our other – Miracle Mile, many of our other facilities; the more cultural, the more facilities, the more events we have in Coral Gables the better off we are.

Commissioner Lago: I agree with you a hundred percent. My only concern is and it's a concern of this Commission, because I know we've discussed it a multitude of times and this is what the City Manager and I discussed yesterday. I know he discussed it with all of you. So I think I'm speaking for the Commission, there are residents who knew and I think Vice Mayor Quesada has mentioned it and Pat has mentioned it multiple times that they knew moving into downtown, obviously they are moving into a vibrant downtown.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And that was...[inaudible]...

Commissioner Lago: We discussed that. But, what I want to make sure is that the relationship between Satchmo Blues Bar, which provides a great event and the City is the best it could ever be, so we need to be very, very clear with them in reference to expectations, so that we can manage expectations. So, when there is an issue with noise and the police go out there with a meter to read the noise, they understand compliance, they understand the issues and it's not like adversarial, then staff is telling them noise is an issue and then they are going back and forth and then three or four times a night they are dealing with going to have to test the noise. I don't want to waste staff's time on that and have that kind of relationship. I want to say listen, this is where you need to be at; test the noise at whatever time it needs to be at and if the music needs to be cut off at a certain time, it gets cut off at a certain time. It's been going back and forth for such a long time on this issue; the noise is the noise, it is what it is.

Commissioner Mena: I hear you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: [Inaudible]

Commissioner Mena: It comes down to Code Enforcement, that's a big issue that I know Peter has articulated to me already, is an area of priority for him to improve our Code Enforcement across the board, so I think to me, that's what this is ultimately about, making sure they are on top of that in this regard.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. All those in favor?

Commissioner Keon: I talked to Peter about it yesterday too. I want to make sure that it's in their agreement that when that festival is over that they pressure wash and clean that entire...

Asst. Parks and Recreation Director Vester: Well just for clarification, we'll definitely take care of that as well. There was a meeting and we did have some fines that we did charge Satchmo's organization and there was a settlement between Economic Development and Leonard and the City Manager's office due to some monies that was owed back. They have since settled, we are pending an agreement and they are on their last warning that they have to comply and we now make sure that in the agenda, we don't just list the range, because there was some discrepancy, we are going to list each individual date that they authorized, because what happened is, the last time around there was a range and then events happened during that range that weren't authorized and that were not staffed. So, we are making sure we are listing out each individual date, so there is no discrepancy or misunderstanding on either party.

Commissioner Keon: OK. I have seen that plaza after their event in the plaza, is not as clean as it should be. There is a lot of beer spilt and gum and whatever else, the entire plaza, the entire plaza. It generates a lot of activity around the entire plaza not just in their space.

Asst. Parks and Recreation Director Vester: That's part of our special events that we do have. It used to be just a one-member team, we have two additional part-timers now and part of that is now they are going to do a pre-site and post-site inspection of the site during events. So, if they identify anything we'll hold them accountable and we'll make sure that they go ahead and restore the site to its original condition.

Commissioner Keon: Do you have money or bonds...

Speaker: Yes, we collect bonds.

Commissioner Keon: OK. So you make sure it gets paid for.

Speaker: Absolutely.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. Will you call the roll please – all those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed – likewise. Thank you – thank you very much and the food is good too.

[End: 9:24:24 a.m.]