

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-2
March 27, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Historic Preservation Officer, Dona Spain
Arts and Culture Specialist, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-2 [2:36:25 p.m.]

A Resolution approving establishment of a fiscal sponsorship account with the Coral Gables Community Foundation to be used for the administration of monies related to the “Venice in the Gables Community Art Project” and advancement of the arts in Coral Gables.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next is resolution approving establishing a fiscal sponsorship, Madam City Manager.

City Attorney Ramos: J-2 is a Resolution approving establishment of a fiscal sponsorship account with the Coral Gables Community Foundation to be used for the administration of monies related to the “Venice in the Gables Community Art Project” and advancement of the arts in Coral Gables.

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wait, wait, wait, I'd like to see some poles, can you show us examples?

Preservation Officer Spain: Good afternoon. This is an exciting new project and Catherine Cathers is here to introduce it to you. You have a PowerPoint.

Ms. Cathers: Mayor, Commissioners – So, this is a project that of course you are a bit familiar with, you've already approved it. It is now titled "Venice in the Gables," our public arts initiative; and just to start with a little bit of historical context about why we selected the Venetian post. This is referenced in, of course the whole history and founding of this City where they are incorporating in the early designs of the City, most notably as canal markers to delineate the waterfront properties and is part of the Venetian Pool design; and posts are also required to be in the waterfront property markers is by Ordinances 454 and 3205, most recently 1996, so we've had that image and that form around for quite a while. This is a photograph from 1925 referencing the posts in the Venetian Pool and then also the very strong reference in our City with our architecture and most noticeably the veneer...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I bet you anything they are not metal.

Ms. Cathers: The very top of this architectural feature, the administration building that was located at the corner of Ponce and Miracle Mile, you'll see is also incorporated into the form that we are going to be using for our public art project. So the project, of course, has much success in many cities around the country. The first one being the cows in Chicago, we've had peacocks in Coconut Grove, and now we are having our Venetian mooring post, which is also referenced as a...which is an Italian word for post, we wanted something that was referencing the culture.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You are missing the snails.

Ms. Cathers: We didn't do painted snails. We had giant pink snails. So, just some examples of actual Venetian paintings and the caps, which is where that image from the administration building comes into play; and then, here is the reference drawing for our post. There is the architectural rendering to scale person next to it, and the drawing that the artist will be using to submit their designs, and then the fabricator sends us a photograph of the form that's being used to make the posts themselves. The person standing next to it is 5 foot 9, so you'll see they have quite a substantial stature. The post itself is about 8 feet tall and then we are very grateful to have the support of Douglas Wood Associates who has designed the concrete base, so that we will be able to have these out in the public and right-of-way; and they are about 3 feet across, concrete.

They'll raise up the post another six inches and then there will be signage that will be placed on the face of the post recognizing the sponsors, the artist, the title of the piece and the project.

Commissioner Mena: It will be eight and-a-half feet tall on average?

Ms. Cathers: Yes. Yes. So, the benefits for this project are many. Of course we have artists that will be coming to our City that will be doing the designs for the Venetian posts, our businesses, organizations and individuals will be selecting those designs and providing financial sponsorship. The City itself is celebrating, especially right now at this time with the completion of the streetscape project and encouraging residents and visitors to experience the arts in Coral Gables in a fun and inviting way. Any funds that are raised after covering our expenses for the project will be used to support the advancement of the arts in Coral Gables. We have, as you can see, a long process. We are about mid-way through already and what we are coming to you today here is to talk about our fiscal sponsorship. We have with us today Mary Snow, who is with the Coral Gables Community Foundation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What thing are we talking about?

Ms. Cathers: The posts themselves will be sponsored at \$2,500 and if somebody would like to purchase one...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry what?

Ms. Cathers: If somebody would like to commit to the purchase of a post, it will be \$3,500 at that point. Any that are at the end of the project that have been completed and sponsored will go up for auction. We are also talking about if, maybe they are all purchased, so then maybe we will go back to some artist and have...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So, the sponsorship is \$3,500 and the post is yours, right?

Ms. Cathers: \$2,500 to sponsor.

Preservation Officer Spain: \$2,500 to sponsor it and if someone wants to purchase one it's a thousand dollar donation and...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. OK.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, you may remember when the flamingoes were out, the public had so much fun going around and taking pictures in front of all of the different

flamingoes. This is the whole idea, is also in keeping with the public fun, public art that people can go out and explore and at the same time it can raise some money for art and culture.

Vice Mayor Keon: What are they made out of? Are the posts themselves, is it wood?

Ms. Cathers: Its re-enforced fiberglass.

Preservation Officer Spain: It's a fiberglass.

Vice Mayor Keon: And so, someone creates a design and then...?

Preservation Officer Spain: If you remember the flamingoes were made, they were white, and then people painted, art is painted on them, so it's the same idea. The artist will paint on the posts.

Vice Mayor Keon: OK. I didn't understand...taking the drawing.

Ms. Cathers: They submit the design first and then those designs are sponsored, the ones that are sponsored are the ones that are actually painted.

Vice Mayor Keon: OK.

Preservation Officer Spain: So we are looking for artists, and these are artists doing these drawings. It really will be fun. I have to say that every time that we've talked to people, individuals and we've now started talking to groups about this, people are excited about it. It's fun.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, because it's a fiscal sponsor receiving the check, City doesn't receive them then. It will go to the Coral Gables Community Foundation as the holder of those checks as a part of the project. We do not have the direct authority to identify a fiscal sponsor, so they are coming to you asking permission to have Coral Gables Community Foundation be the fiscal sponsor for this project; and every time you do talk to people they break out checks.

Preservation Officer Spain: They have. They have – so this is about partnering with Coral Gables Community Foundation for the money portion.

Vice Mayor Keon: OK – sounds great.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And one of the things with flamingoes, which was such a fun project and you can still Google and see the flamingoes on the Internet was, didn't realize the idea of outdoor and maybe doing something a little different so that it could last longer, and so the way that you all are treating the paint and protecting it, somebody could have it in their backyard or on their deck.

Preservation Officer Spain: That's the intent – exactly. After the artist paints them, the intent is to clear coat them so that they can go outside.

Ms. Cathers: And we are also having other bases fabricated, so that somebody that is purchasing it can still place that post without having to have the larger concrete base. If they want to place it inside or outside, so they have that option and I just want to say also that both of our boards have been very adamant about making sure that we are looking for artists that are working artists. Part of the application process includes having them submit references of other artwork that they've done in the past and submitting their biographies as well, so we can put together information that includes the artist information, a little bit of their background and information about their vision that went into the design.

Preservation Officer Spain: So there are two bases, Doug Wood designed one at 750 pounds, which I'm sure Peter would be happy about; and because we didn't want to have to have people have this massive concrete base go home with them, we are asking the manufacturers to also do a very simple base, so that they can take them home.

Vice Mayor Keon: OK. Thank you. I'll move it.

Commissioner Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Ms. Cathers: Thank you.

Commissioner Quesada: And thank you for waiting.

[End: 2:46:14 p.m.]