

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item L – Discussion Items
October 26, 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 L – Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: We'll start with Commissioner Anderson, any comments that you may have.

Commissioner Anderson: Just personal point of privilege. I went to the Doc Dammars event, and I just wanted to share with you all the wonderful individual that Warren Adams is. He not only participated in the event, but after the event assisted in taking all the items that were for auction back, including the furniture. He was just awesome. So, I thought I'd share that with you all. We are blessed to have you. So, thank you.

Mayor Lago: Nice. Commissioner.

Commissioner Menendez: I too participated in the event the other day. I got to be Doc Dammars. I realize I look good in suspenders. But it was a beautiful event. Participated in the auction, I got a Larry Z signed football, which is one of my idols. But it was great to see the community out and really embrace the spirit of the Coral Gables history. And the only other thing I have is, part of the movie series that I'm sponsoring. We had a great turnout for Singing in the Rain. Commissioner Anderson was there as well. The reception was beautiful and in November we have, and I don't

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know if we have it on the screen, there it is, November 8th we have Bonnie and Clyde with Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, which Roger Ebert described as a masterpiece. He gave it four stars, I gave it four croquettes, but it's my way of, my thumbs up. It's a great movie nominated for; I don't know how many Academy Awards. Tickets are available at the Adult Activity Center. If you are 50 and older you get a free ticket, free popcorn, free soda. And quite honestly, there were folks there had seen Singing in the Rain the last 20 years on TV. To see movie classics on a big screen like the way it used to be, it was quite a joy, and everyone had a good time. So, feel free, tickets are still available, and I hope to see you at the movies.

Vice Mayor Mena: Is there a digital version of that being circulated?

Commissioner Menendez: Yes. The city will be providing, I believe through E-NEWS, and I'll make sure that its out in every possible way, so people can actually scan the bar code, I don't know what they are called these days.

Commissioner Anderson: QR.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes, thank you, so they can access. And then we'll have Some Like it Hot in December. And I'm working on, I'm going to spill the beans, but nobody's watching, right, so I can tell you, for January one of the iconic movies filmed in Miami 1964, I'm trying to get Gold Finger, James Bond Gold Finger, Sean Connery. So, I'm working on that. I took enough of your time, but I enjoyed doing it. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Fors.

Commissioner Fors: I have no further comments Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Mena: Me neither.

Mayor Lago: Alright. I have a few.

Vice Mayor Mena: In your Mayor's Comments, I think you already covered the opening of the park at Salvador which was a smashing success.

Mayor Lago: Amazing. Like I mentioned, when I was blessed enough to speak on behalf of the city. Staff did an incredible job, but also want to credit the Vice Mayor for his leadership on really pushing forward the revitalization of our existing parks. We are the envy of the town. I can't stress that enough. You know how many elected officials and residents tell me how good our parks are looking. So, we are doing an incredible job. Like I mentioned to you before, the city is looking much, much better. I'm looking forward to the implementation of the clean-up efforts now in December. Its time to take pride. We are walking into the holidays right now. I'm looking forward to the festivities, celebrating that we are coming out of Covid. That we are coming into a new time in the City of Coral Gables which is going to be a wonderful time. I want to highlight a few

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opportunities for the families and kids to enjoy. Halloween on the Mile, Trick or Treat on Saturday, October 30th on Miracle Mile from 3 to 8 p.m. This is exactly the type of event we need with families coming to discover all that is new and happening. There are several other special surprises throughout the day. Nightmare at 405 Haunted House at the War Memorial Youth Center is also Saturday, and its from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Join us as we transform the indoor basketball court into a walk-through haunted house for the entire family to enjoy. A new event that is coming to our city is the Pumpkin Float at the Venetian Pool on Sunday, October 31st from 6 to 8 p.m. This sounds like lots of fun and I salute the Community Recreations Department for their creativity. Join us on Halloween to carve a pumpkin and watch them float and light up the dark waters of the historic Venetian Pool. In addition to the pumpkin carving, there will be a trick or treat zone for children. Finally, I'm really happy to report that something that I brought, along with the leadership of this Commission in September, was to create a North Gables Harvest Market. Its finally happening. It kicks off this Saturday, and I hope you will visit the North Gables Harvest Market, a new experience in Coral Gables that will take on Saturdays through the 18th, with the exception of Thanksgiving, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Minorca between Ponce and Galiano in front of Coral Gables Prep School. This new event will bring the North Gables neighborhood a Harvest Market to shop for locally grown farm produce and products, artisan foods, local Gables restaurant delights, handmade arts and crafts, specialty products, and service vendors, and specialty vendors. Additionally, there will be music, face painting, and seasonal crafts for kids as well as al fresco seating. So, we have a jam-packed end of October. I want to thank the staff again for all their efforts, their leadership, it's been incredible and the Commission. This city is looking, is moving in the right direction, in my opinion, and I want to thank everybody for their leadership and taking a very hands-on approach. With that being said, I have one last thing, and that is, who do you think won the pumpkin decoration contest? I won't keep you guys in suspense anymore. There is a tie. Number 4, the City Attorneys office and the City Commission.

Commissioner Fors: I wasn't aware we did one.

Mayor Lago: Yes – Patty, Chelsea, Santiago.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor we are awarding two prizes.

Mayor Lago: No, we're not. No, we're not. No, we're not. We are going to vote on it and if you don't vote for the City Commission what happens?

[Laughter]

Mayor Lago: It's a tie. As the Manager said, we're celebrating both. Great work. I love the spirit. I love the Halloween spirit and it's a great thing. Its really, really good. So, with that being said, there is nothing else to say. Meeting adjourned. Happy Halloween. Be safe.