

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-1
May 28, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-1 [9:21:36 a.m.]
A discussion regarding the concept of passive parks
Mayor's Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next item on the agenda is Mayor's Comments. And it's a discussion regarding the concept of passive parks, but before we get to that, I would like to make a few comments. Last Wednesday, I gave a talk and all the Commissioners came and a lot of other people too. These are going to be my priorities in this my last term as Mayor and I included FPL undergrounding, which Commissioner Lago has put on the agenda today; the Fink Studio and the restoration of the Fink Studio; traffic calming; filtering of what comes out of our canals into Biscayne Bay; education; annexation; art and some other things. And I'm going to start, Mr. City Clerk, putting on the agenda as Mayor's Comments, some of these items constantly to follow up on them, because I really feel very, very strongly that I want to get, if not accomplish many of these, but start it, start the process, because all these things are good for Coral Gables, in my opinion. Passive parks which is my item today, I am against the concept of passive parks. I am for parks. I'm very, very much for parks and that's why I would like to have a survey, a study on how many parks we have and how many parks, a well parked city should have per thousand inhabitants,

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how many facilities we should have. I don't think I remember parks we included Matheson Hammock, which is very much in the City of Coral Gables and it is used very much by our residents and that should be one of our facilities, one of our parks in the City, even if it doesn't belong to the City. And I think we are doing that study, Mr. City Manager, and encourage for us to get more and more knowledge. But within that, I would like to discourage the concept of passive parks. For example, one of our nicest facilities is Country Club Prado and yet, we have our walk-a-thons, etc., always along the same tired or not tired streets. Why not use one of the most beautiful facilities, Country Club Prado? Why not use that for facilities, other parks that we have around the City? We say no, it can't be used by children because they may upset the neighbors. Well, why should they park for the benefit of four or five residents living around the park. I don't think that's right either. Mr. City Manager, I would encourage you too have this survey, which I think is going on.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Mr. Mayor, it will be done in December of this year and we are looking at our entire park system...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And Matheson Hammock and Country Club Prado and other facilities like that.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes – all full parks that we have.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

City Manager Iglesias: It will be ready sometime in December and we'll bring it to the Commission in January after the holidays.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And Mr. City Clerk, I would like to have the Fink Studio restoration placed on the agenda for the next time and I'd like a full report on what's happening there and how we can move it forward.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

[End: 9:25:04 a.m.]