

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
December 6, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Historic Preservation Officer, Dona Spain**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-1 [9:41:42 a.m.]

A Resolution approving the donation of a work of public art in conjunction with the Gables Waterway project at 6100 Caballero Boulevard in fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement for public art in private development. (Unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel, 5 to 0 and the Cultural Development Board 5 to 0).

Mayor Cason: We are going to move unto G-1, which was related to C-1.

Historic Preservation Officer Spain: For the record, Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director. This comes to you as a recommendation by the Arts Advisory Panel and also the Cultural Development Board and it is a donation of a work of public art in conjunction with the Gables Waterway Project at 6100 Caballero Boulevard. I think the applicant is here, I believe, Mario Garcia-Serra, and I think they have a PowerPoint, don't you Mario that they've submitted for this artwork.

Mayor Cason: OK – Mario.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So as he is setting up, the first part I consent was your approval, because the art will be positioned in the right-of-way and you have protections in the event that it needs to be moved. This part is the acceptance of the art itself through the Arts Advisory Panel, the Cultural Development Board, and then in turn to you.

Historic Preservation Officer Spain: And as you know, in the Art in Public Places Ordinance there is a possibility of not paying the money, but actually it's a waiver, so they can have a piece of artwork in association with their development, so they've chosen this option and included in that is monies for perpetual maintenance, which is ten percent of the appraised value of the art.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Good morning Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, Mario Garcia-Serra with offices at 600 Brickell Avenue, representing the property owner Gables Waterway Property, LLC, also joined today by Jorge Ortiz, one of the principals of Gables Waterway Property, LLC. We are before you today for approval of a work of public art, which we want to incorporate in the project. Let me first orient you with where the project site is; you see it here highlighted in yellow that is Dixie Highway that you see to the north of the property; Caballero Boulevard, the exact address of the property, 6100 Caballero Boulevard; and immediately to the highlighted section you'll see Jaycee Park to the east. The project itself is a 13 unit luxury townhome and apartment project, it's a considerable upgrade from the 20 residential apartments that exist on the property right now. So we'll be going decreasing in density and also increasing in quality of housing unit that's being provided on this site. Let me show you, I'll show you some elevations of the actual project. Here's a view of the project from the waterway, site of the property. The project was designed by Cesar Molina, one of our most recognized architects here in Coral Gables, in the Mediterranean style of architecture. It's got a location on the waterway, which of course is very attractive, we'll have some boat slips incorporated for accessory use by the residents on the project site, and as I mentioned there is a mix of sort of townhome style units and high-end condominium units also. Here you see an elevation from the street side, so Jaycee Park is in the foreground; there is the front of the property, and the idea of course has been to further activate the streetscape, aside from the landscape and streetscape improvements that we are doing, improving the landscaping sidewalk parking spaces. The idea would be to also incorporate some work of public art here so you'll have it be a focal point, sort of for both the project and the neighborhood in general.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor if I may. Can you put that slide back up again, thank you sir? I just want to commend the architect working in a similar field. This is, in my opinion, I don't know how my colleagues feel, but this is a really beautiful product where you can tell they haven't cut

any corners and it really exemplifies the type of quality we want in the City. I've never had the pleasure of working with Mr. Molina, but this is pretty fantastic in reference to the design and the quality of the finishes they are using.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Thank you. Indeed, I'm proud of all the projects I represent, but this one especially so, because of how well it's been received.

Commissioner Slesnick: If I might add, it's really a gorgeous building and it's to scale for the neighborhood and a lot of green space and the prices will be very high on that complex, because of its design and the quality of the building.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: And when you consider what it is today, which are really rundown apartments that's an incredible improvement from the existing situation.

Commissioner Lago: How many units is it again?

Mr. Garcia-Serra: This is 13 in total.

Commissioner Lago: How many units are currently there?

Mr. Garcia-Serra: 20.

Commissioner Lago: 20 – so that's a step down.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: We are decreasing density by 7 units.

Commissioner Lago: Besides the finishes, I mean one of the major components, you can give us a little more insight, is the fact that it's on the waterway.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Indeed.

Commissioner Lago: God only created so much water.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: And a lot of people that have boats they want to use will access the water.

Commissioner Slesnick: And it has hidden parking also.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Correct – underground parking, which is somewhat unique.

Commissioner Keon: Is the marina tied to the units?

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Yes. That will address an issue that's been pending for some time.

Commissioner Keon: OK. Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: For a long time, I think it's been more like 20 years.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: It's even gone up to the Florida Supreme Court.

Commissioner Keon: . . .it cures that issue that we've had with the marina, the item that was there at one time, right?

City Attorney Leen: There was a lawsuit on that matter and the City did prevail in it, but it was a difficult matter with the RNA and a lot of residents that were unhappy. We made sure as part of this project that this issue had to be legalized, and we've been clear about that and hopefully that will resolve this matter for all times in a way that's satisfactory to the City and also to the residents.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Correct. All the slips in the marina will be accessory to the residential use on the property, so you have to be a resident or an owner of a unit in order to have a marina slip.

Commissioner Keon: And you can't lease them out.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Correct. Yes. Thank you.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: And so to emphasize this project and the beauty of this project, we have proposed *Cronos*, it is metal sculpture, sort of challenging your concept of physics in that you have this incredible amount of steel, 1.6 tons of steel that is curled up into a knot; and so, we are proposing it right for the street frontage, you know in the sort of sidewalk area creating a sort of plaza on a pedestal, then surrounded by a rotunda with some landscaping in it to emphasize it. I wish I knew more about art than what I actually know, but luckily we have others who do know about art in the City, and both the Art Advisory Panel and the Cultural Development Board unanimously supported approval of the acceptance of this donation of artwork. We would be contributing additional monies also for its maintenance and entering into a hold-harmless agreement with regards to the encroachments into the right-of-way, which was Item No. C-1. There are further pictures in the PowerPoint that we presented, which is part of your agenda item. With that said, I'll hand it back to Dona.

Historic Preservation Officer Spain: Just a little bit about the artist. It's done by Alberto Cavalieri, its entitled *Cronos*, and Mr. Cavalieri was born in Caracas in 1969. He's a visual artist; he's achieved praise for his monumental sculptures and public works that are integrated into architectural form. He's exhibited internationally throughout Venezuela, the United States, and Columbia, Canada, Ecuador, England. He has artworks also in private collections with the Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain, have no idea if that was right; Museum of Latin American Art, California, Museum of Contemporary Art, Caracas and many others. This comes to you as a unanimous recommendation from both Boards.

Mayor Cason: Any discussion? I think it's great.

Commissioner Keon: Can I just ask one question? Is there a sidewalk along that street, along that side of Caballero?

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Existing or proposed?

Commissioner Keon: Existing.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Existing – there is no sidewalk right now; we'll be putting one in.

Commissioner Keon: But your – in front of the building it looks like you have created the sidewalk, it's beautiful. It would make a wonderful opportunity if the community there would decide that they would want to continue a sidewalk, that's certainly up to them, but it really is a very, very pretty path for that.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: There you see it in plan color coded, basically what's red is the sidewalk that we'll be installing, what's green is the landscaping, and streetscape we'll be installing yellow are the new parking spaces we'll be putting in, gray is a sort of plaza, let's call it, area small plaza, and then the pink it would be the pedestal where this sculpture would be.

Commissioner Keon: With the installation of the sidewalk on the plaza it really makes it a particularly beautiful setting. So congratulations.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: And across the street from a City park.

Commissioner Keon: It's beautiful. Thank you – beautiful.

Mayor Cason: OK. Do we have a motion on G-1?

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Second.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon made the motion and seconded by the Vice Mayor – City Clerk.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: Thank you Mario.

Mr. Garcia-Serra: Many thanks to all of you, best wishes for the holidays and a prosperous 2017.

[End: 9:51:29 a.m.]