

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items 2-1
January 8, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Arts and Culture Specialist, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

John Adams

Agenda Item 2-1 [9:53:42 a.m.]

A Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Cultural Grants (Unanimously recommended

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next is Resolution approving the fiscal 2018-2019 Cultural Grants, unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board 6 to 0.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mayor, I think we have the same issue.

Commissioner Quesada: I have no idea what you are going to bring up. You go first. I just want to make sure...

Vice Mayor Lago: Bike Walk Coral Gables, is that an issue? Did you get that e-mail?

Commissioner Quesada: No. But I agree with what you are about to say, because I didn't see him on the list. I just want to make sure in here that there are Coral Gables events, organizations or happenings. The David Mary Alper JCC, that's not in the Gables, isn't it?

Ms. Cathers: The organization is not based in the Gables, but all the programs that are applying for cultural grant funding occur in Coral Gables. There are really just a handful that actually have

their home base in Coral Gables. So, the idea of the cultural grant is to encourage cultural programming in Coral Gables, so that means a lot of non-profit art organizations spread throughout the county and beyond are doing their programs here in Coral Gables.

Commissioner Mena: My understanding from talking to Dona during the pre-agenda was that the first page there are Coral Gables based programs or entities and the second page are, they may or may not be Coral Gables based, but there are events that happen in Coral Gables.

Ms. Cathers: Correct.

Commissioner Mena: So that page you are looking at; those are all – they all put on events in Coral Gables.

Ms. Cathers: The Coral Gables based...

Commissioner Quesada: The one that jumped out to me was the JCC just because – I've been to that JCC many times and its Pinecrest or South Miami or unincorporated Dade, I think it's on 112th outside the City and...

Ms. Cathers: But, their program for the cultural grant funding is in Coral Gables.

Commissioner Quesada: OK.

Vice Mayor Lago: I just want to talk a little bit about Bike Walk Coral Gables. I received an e-mail from Robert Ruano discussing the fact that they had been excluded from this year's grants.

Ms. Cathers: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can you give me a little bit of background in regards to what happened and maybe we can hopefully correct this issue, because I know that we've been partners with Bike Walk Coral Gables for years now.

Ms. Cathers: First of all, I just want, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners that we had 35 applications this year and this year the Cultural Development Board is recommending funding for all 35 organizations that submitted their applications on time. And, they also commended the increased quality of the applications this year and we are very excited about that. Of those 35, one is Coral Gables Museum, which is funded separately and there are three new applications this year, three new applicants. Bike Walk Coral Gables had submitted an application originally. It was returned to them because of non-compliance. Part of the requirements in the grant is a 30 percent match and also their expense and revenue budgets were not matching. So, they had submitted it on the deadline. I returned it with a request to resubmit it with the corrections.

Vice Mayor Lago: You were more than flexible. My understanding by the email, staff showed an opportunity for flexibility.

Ms. Cathers: Yes – absolutely.

Vice Mayor Lago: Have we ever, from my understanding, they corrected the documents, correct, they resubmitted, they were still wrong?

Ms. Cathers: No. They did not submit the corrected documents, as requested. So they had two problems. They submitted one of the documents, but there were two other documents, an expense revenue sheet, plus there was the match. So even if they had resubmitted it, it still would have been disqualified based on their match.

Commissioner Mena: They didn't have the funds to match the 30 percent, is what you are saying, or they didn't show...

Ms. Cathers: Yes. It really was heavily funded by the City; they didn't have enough.

Vice Mayor Lago: What was their grant request?

Ms. Cathers: Their grant request was for \$10,000, so the maximum request and their budget; one budget is at \$13,000; one budget is at \$19,000, so they weren't syncing up.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: If they didn't comply with the requirements, maybe they will do so next year.

Vice Mayor Lago: It pains me to see them not be able to receive the grant money. Besides all the events that they put forth in the City and they do a lot of tours, it's a shame.

Ms. Cathers: We do encourage them to apply again. We also always encourage people to make a meeting with us ahead of time, so if you submit a draft a couple of weeks before the deadline, then we really have a chance to look through it and review and make comments, it helps.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Commissioner Quesada: I'll second it, but can you e-mail me the application for the JCC. I'm curious to see what events they are putting on outside of that structure that they have.

Ms. Cathers: Absolutely.

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

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Ms. Cathers: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

[End: 9:58:33 a.m.]