City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting Agenda Item G-6 July 9, 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 Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria City Attorney, Miriam Ramos City Clerk, Billy Urquia Public Services Division Director, Brook Dannemiller Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Manuel Chamizo John Swain

Agenda Item G-6 [0:00:00 p.m.]

A discussion regarding the City's waterways. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Discussion regarding the City waterways.

City Commission Meeting July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

Vice Mayor Lago: Moving on.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lago: This is...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: City waterways.

Vice Mayor Lago: I want to make this as brief as possible. This -- the reason why we're bringing this up here today is because all of us on this Commission, every single person here has been having discussions over the last few years about the waterways, not only about the cleanliness -and I know that Commissioner Keon is going to bring up water quality with Water Keepers in a few. But the issues that deal with the mangroves. We all -- and I want to be very, very clear before this gets in the Miami Herald or it gets in some other publication that we want to remove the mangroves or we want to do anything that would endanger our beautiful canopy or our waterways here. We want to find a way to resolve the issues that we're facing in our waterways currently in regards to our mangroves and find a solution that doesn't jeopardize the environment, but there has to be a way. Over 25 percent of our tax base comes from properties on the water, and this is becoming an issue that is spiraling out of control. And I also want to mention that the City Manager and our Assistant City Manager Ed Santamaria met with DERM. They had a very productive meeting, and they're going to give you a quick recap in regards to that. And I think we may have found a way to address this issue, which, for years, has not been addressed, and that is the mangrove issue. So -- and I also invited my appointment, who is the chairman of the Waterway Advisory Board, Mr. Manny Chamizo, world-renowned realtor and City of Coral Gables resident...

Commissioner Mena: (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Lago: Who always has a sense of humor, and he's been, you know, on the water.

Manuel Chamizo: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Commissioner Mena mentioned his beautiful (INAUDIBLE).

Mr. Chamizo: I suspect that you're going to have me cooking for you or helping you cook.

Vice Mayor Lago: I needed your help on the last vote.

Mr. Chamizo: I got it. I got it. We put signs on the waterway for boaters and we put signs in front

of the yards.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Chamizo, take it away. Ed, but let's also be as brief as possible. I know

we have a long agenda today.

Mr. Chamizo: No. I saw you guys took 30 minutes on the time certain thing, so I'm going to be

as brief as possible. I'll get it cooking.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You have 17 (INAUDIBLE).

Mr. Chamizo: I have 17 seconds. I got it. Honorable Commissioners and Mr. Mayor, my name

is Manny Chamizo, and I serve as the Coral Gables Waterway Advisory Board chairman. I'm

here today to report the work done by our board. I also have Mr. Swain -- where did he go? -- is

also here to also add -- would you add -- if you want to come up here if you want. If you're shy,

you can sit there and speak from there. Before I begin, I want to specially thank each of you for

the support of this board. I really appreciate the three years of pounding away to try to get to where

we are today. We really appreciate it. We've seen a renewed effort to maintain the vital resources

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

we call the Coral Gables waterway. As you may know, the Waterway Board was created in June of 2017, for those new Commissioners, Mr. Fors, for the purpose of identifying and recommending improvements to the Coral Gables waterway. Coral Gables has over 40 miles of public navigable waterways which stretch from the entrance of Cocoplum all the way down to Deering Bay. Residents of the waterway, such as myself, act as guardians of the waterway for future generations and wish to have a positive impact on the sustainability of the waterway and put in practices that -- City practices that should have been in place years ago for the maintenance of the waterway. As a reminder, the City Manager, Mr. Iglesias -- this is for you -- the City's budget, when you prepare the City's budget, just keep in mind the Coral Gables waterway actually brings in 24.7 percent of the total revenue of the City's tax base. That's 25 percent. If you cut a check, that's 25 percent for the water. Please be aware of that when you do your financial budget because we really need it. It's been neglected for many, many years. On that note, I want to thank you for assigning us Ron Crumbly, the waterway maintenance coordinator. I'm not sure if he's here but shout out to him. He's fantastic. He's a retired City employee. He's wonderful. We call him the Waterway Dude, and he has been on task. He has been -- thank you very much for that appointment. He needs a little help, though. He's only one guy. He's the Waterway Dude, not Waterway Staff or anything like that, okay. He's been great helping prune the trees, but Ron has a lot on his plate and I'm here on his behalf to ask for your help. Ron is in constant search for assistance to handle the 40 miles of waterway which he's been assigned to. That includes pruning back mangroves, tree branches and other items that impede the waters. He's constantly begging for staff or begging for any type of assistance with equipment. I mean, I'm ready to lend him my boat to go out and do the stuff if he needs it. That's how much he really needs the help. There are certain sections of Cocoplum that cannot be accessed by residents unless you go by kayak. He understands this, but he can't do it alone. There are certain areas that need assistance from the County, which he hasn't been able to get any cooperation. If you just kindly assign one more person maybe until the end of summer, it would be a lot of help. It's important to create awareness and safety strategies to maintain the property values that enhance to the quality of life. To that end, your board created doorhangers to be placed in each waterway property. The only problem is it's been stuck in some

department for four months. We don't know who has it. It's kind of like it's in some department

to get printed. It would be great to make the residents aware of what's going on on the waterway,

not only for Code Enforcement, but for any type of future items that you want to maybe present

the residents.

Vice Mayor Lago: Ed, are you aware of this? Excuse me. Are you aware of what he's talking

about?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: No.

Mr. Chamizo: Everything I'm telling you is right there. Anyway, the -- if you can get that done,

that'd be great for public awareness. And I'll leave you with some final thoughts because that is

time certain and I think I'm still under time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You're fine. As long as you don't go over half an hour, you're fine.

Mr. Chamizo: Oh, I'm good. I don't want to give up my time by...

Vice Mayor Lago: Just give him a license to keep going.

Mr. Chamizo: Exactly. I'll leave you with some final thoughts, some issues that the board's

addressing, public safety. Fishing off the bridges remains a public safety hazard. That's the reason

why this board was created because I almost got stuck a couple of times coming in at night when

you have fishermen -- at the end of those lines, there's a hook. And at the end of those hooks, you

know, they kind of catch you. And when you're coming in at night and you have a fisherman, it's

a big issue. It's just an accident waiting to happen. We need to have those signs posted. I've

requested this in August of 2017. A motion was made, nothing's been done as of today. If we

could please have those taken care of, it would be great. No wake signs also. We're -- there was

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

a motion for no wake and no entry in certain areas to prevent canal loitering. You've got people

outside of Coral Gables that do come into the canals. And basically -- and it's sightseeing. I get

it. Sometimes, they're just loitering. We've got -- Mr. Swain, you had this issue in your waterway

as well, where they stole the whole unit.

John Swain: Oh, yes. They stole both of my lower units.

Mr. Chamizo: They stole both of us lower units in the waterway. So, no wake, and also, CCT

(sic) cameras at the entrance of -- and Coral Gables Entrada was also a motion that was passed.

We still need those as well. And going back to, you know, harping on the budget, if we have the

money, if we're creating the money, please give us the, you know, taxation with some

representation. Dredging and maintenance on the waterway, the City has not dredged the

waterway in over seven years. There are certain boats that cannot go out of the waterway unless

it's high tide. I believe that it's on the agenda. I believe there's \$200,000 that was allocated

towards some of these projects. But I guess wheels -- you know, the wheels of the City move

slow, but it's been now three years since this board was created and it's been the exact same thing.

So, if we can just get a little push, it would be great. And last, but not least, on behalf of the Coral

Gables Marine Patrol, I'm requesting if we can get them a better boat. I mean, if they can maybe

even confiscate a boat -- not -- I mean, obviously, legally.

Police Chief Hudak: We can take yours.

Mr. Chamizo: You can take mine. You can take mine, not a problem. You just got to put a siren

on it and we can use it part-time.

Vice Mayor Lago: Time certain, time certain, time certain.

Mr. Chamizo: Yes.

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

Vice Mayor Lago: Time certain.

Mr. Chamizo: And last, but not least, the pruning back of the mangroves and tree branches that

impede the waterway, which is a big issue in Cocoplum.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mr. Chamizo: And then I gave you a little -- a nice little, you know, reminder of what the waterway

looks like just in case you (INAUDIBLE) kayak.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.

Mr. Chamizo: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Before you leave, the first three points that he made on the second page that

are, you know, low-hanging fruit, obviously, the signage in reference to fishing and the signage

for the canal loitering and theft, and the third one was the CCTV. I think we have the CCTV in

the budget, correct?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: I'd have to ask Raimundo, but I think so.

Vice Mayor Lago: I think Cocoplum, Cocoplum bridge. We've talked about his before. I'm

going to bring that up at 5:01 to make sure it's in the budget. Is there an issue -- I know that we're

trying to reduce signage, but is there an issue in reference to why the signage hasn't been put up

since 2007 (sic).

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: I'd have to look into why the signage has not been...

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can you do me a favor?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Sure.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can you give us an update at the next...

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Sure.

Vice Mayor Lago: You know, next Commission meeting or just put it in a memo or something and circulate it to the Waterway Advisory Board along with ourselves so that we can finally get

this done?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Absolutely. I know that we have restored a lot of the channel

markers that were lost or damaged during Irma. I believe all that has been replaced, but I'd have

to look into it as to the rest of the signage.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chamizo: Thank you...

Vice Mayor Lago: We're going to discuss the...

Mr. Chamizo: Very much.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mangroves really quickly...

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, this is your final point.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: So, Mr. Chamizo, thank you very much. That was a very

fantastic presentation. Thank you. It's a great help.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Mr. Chamizo: Thank you, gentlemen.

Commissioner Keon: Do we do dredging? Do we dredge the canals?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: We do dredge canals. We haven't done it in a long time, and

dredging is a very costly endeavor. I do know that we have money -- by the way, good morning,

all. Ed Santamaria, Assistant City Manager. Just to continue, I do know that we have money in

the budget to do an assessment as to dredging and sedimentation of the waterways, so that'll give

us some sort of an idea as to where dredging might be necessary and an idea as to how much it

would cost.

Commissioner Keon: We should look at it if we have the money.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Absolutely. No, it's in the budget for assessment this year.

As a matter of fact, I believe that we're already working on moving that forward.

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

City Manager Iglesias: And there's also quite a bit of environmental permitting that goes along with that, with the dredging.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: The waterways' a complicated issue and I have some further information in connection to one of the issues related to the waterways, which is mangroves and mangrove maintenance. And it's something that we've been working on with the Office of Commissioner Mena, also with you, as it relates to invasive species along some of our roadways where mangroves and invasive species are growing together, and they are encroaching on the right-of-way. And also, Vice Mayor Lago has also brought up the issue of the mangroves. And we're working with your offices on certain initiatives that I will turn over -- right now, I'll turn over the microphone to Hermes Diaz, the Director of Public Works, who will talk about what we're doing, some of the initiatives. Brook Dannemiller is also here to support.

Public Works Director Diaz: Hi. Hermes Diaz, Director of Public Works. We have a brief presentation for mangrove maintenance, if you give us a couple of minutes for the boards. Okay, so the City of Coral Gables has over 40 miles of shoreline. Mangroves protect shorelines from storm, wind and erosion. They provide a vital habitat for fish and other wildlife. They help maintain water quality and clarity. And -- but also, excessive growth can impede navigation, visibility and is a safety issue. It also can encroach into roadways or waterways. So, mangrove trimming is regulated by the State of Florida and enforced by Miami-Dade County. The vast majority of mangroves may only be trimmed by certified mangrove trimmers. And trimming permits are issued by -- and it's a handful. Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management, which is part of DERM, the Coastal Resources Section. And they also handle permits and permit exemptions. There's certain work that people can do, very minor, where you don't require a permit, or you may not require a professional mangrove trimmer, but those are under very narrow exceptions to the permitting process. Activities to avoid at all cases include trimming of mangroves without permits when that is required, defoliation, trimming of roots, trimming of mangroves below six feet, and the removal of mangroves. Canal maintenance.

According to the City Code, the abutting property owners are responsible for the maintenance of

any growth that happens over the waterways, even though the City of Coral Gables may own the

waterways. In fact, these maps reflect based on research the maintenance responsibilities of the

major parties that are involved in our Coral Gables waterways. These include Miami-Dade

County, private HOAs, the State of Florida, the City of Coral Gables, the Montgomery Foundation

and single-family residential properties. It is common practice by the County, on a case by case,

where the mangroves encroach into the right-of-way, where the City signs off as the permittee,

and we've been -- we've done that in the past. But we're not the ones who actually do the trimming

nor the ones responsible for the permit. Our ongoing initiatives, we have done -- as Ed had

mentioned earlier -- staff has conducted a joint inspection of mangroves abutting the streets rights-

of-way. We have participated in interagency coordination for the systematic removal of invasive

plant species. This is an ongoing conversation with Miami-Dade County Parks Recreation and

Open Spaces Department. Yes, sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What would be an example of an invasive species?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Brazilian pepper, Australian pines. There's a --

Scaevola. There's a bunch of different plants that like to -- that edge condition.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: In the mangroves?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Yeah. It's basically along...

Vice Mayor Lago: Waterways.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Along right-of-way...

Vice Mayor Lago: (INAUDIBLE) next to Doctor's Hospital.

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Waterway. It's primarily along the roadways,

like Bella Vista. And we've been working with Commissioner Keon and Vice Mayor Lago and

Mena with those items.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Perfect.

Public Works Director Diaz: And the roadway areas that we're looking at include Bella Vista,

Lugo, Virtudes, Cartagena, a portion of Red Road, and Neda Avenue. In addition -- well, we have

the Waterway Advisory Board that was established, I believe, in 2016. We hired a part-time

Waterways Maintenance Coordinator in 2019, which was mentioned by Mr. Chamizo earlier. We

have an ongoing coordination with DERM to identify existing open permits. There's a number of

open permits already for mangrove trimming. And we created a mangrove maintenance map

documenting the management responsibilities, and this is an ongoing effort. I think we -- the next

steps will be to reach out to the individual responsible entities and have them -- compel them to

do the required maintenance through a joint effort of some sort. And that's actually...

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Get the presentation back up. Thank you.

Public Works Director Diaz: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: The next slide. There we go.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, we need to determine and document mangrove maintenance

responsibilities, schedule meetings with respective agencies. These are next steps that need to be

ongoing. Continue efforts to improve waterway assessment and code enforcement efforts. And

this is being done with the help of the Waterway Maintenance Coordinator and with the assistance

of the Marine Patrol. And to develop an informational resource to assist private property owners

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

in how to properly and legally undertake mangrove trimming, how to be in compliance with the

City Code and the State requirements and to preserve access to private docks and private property.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, if I could just interject...

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: One second. Some of the residents have called me that I've passed them on to

the Manager. We've actually visited the site. And I know that my colleagues on the Commission

are having the same issue. They want to do it legally.

Public Works Director Diaz: Right.

Vice Mayor Lago: They don't want to cut the mangroves illegally. They want to do it in the right

fashion, following all the protocols set in place by Miami-Dade County. But the problem they're

having is, you know, being able to address the needs and how to basically have somebody come

out there and get the approvals from these County agencies. Certain people can no longer even

park their boats on their docks as a result of what the currently situation is and the overgrowth of

the mangroves. I know it's a very sensitive topic, but it's something that we need to address.

Public Works Director Diaz: Absolutely.

Vice Mayor Lago: And it could eventually not only affect property values but could affect the

actual use of the waterways here because it's getting tighter and tighter and tighter and these large

boats can't maneuver.

Public Works Director Diaz: The County has a very...

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

City Manager Iglesias: There are different kinds of sub -- we have subdivisions at different ages.

For instance, at Gables Estates, their subdivision was established 1960 and they were allowed to

provide bulkhead walls, so they don't have this mangrove issue. Subdivisions that were done later,

such as Cocoplum and so forth, were not allowed to provide seawalls. So, you have walkways

that were created beyond the mangrove to a dock and so...

Vice Mayor Lago: Which have now been encroached.

City Manager Iglesias: Which is now -- have now been encroached. And so -- because they were

not allowed at the time to remove the mangrove, as some of the earlier subdivisions were. That's

why you don't have a problem, let's say, in Gables Estates and you do have a problem in

Cocoplum. We had a very good meeting, the Assistant City Manager and I, with Director Lefty

(phonetic) of DERM to look at various things that can be done with minimal permits, such as --

such as, if you encroach on that walkway or you can't walk on the walkway or you can't get to

your dock. So, we have...

Vice Mayor Lago: You can't provide maintenance on your dock.

City Manager Iglesias: You can't provide maintenance.

Vice Mayor Lago: It becomes as hazard.

City Manager Iglesias: And so, we are in -- I think we had an excellent meeting. And we're in

the process of maybe creating some expedited permitting for certain things, some things that may

just require notice to do, so it's just maybe clearing the actual walkway and then looking at the

navigable water issue that the mangroves are creating. However, the mangrove issue is a very

delicate issue that we have to deal with very, very carefully because of all the environmental

concerns.

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, do you think that maybe in the next few months, we'll have some sort of

pamphlet or detailed memorandum for the residents to follow. For example, hire the following

approved City contractors. We do that for dumpsters. We have a list of 10 to 15 companies that

provide dumpsters. We tell them what colors they can paint their walls, when they can do

construction, you know, certain criteria that they have to follow when they're doing that. Are we

going to have some sort of documentation in place...

City Manager Iglesias: Yes. We are looking at creating a kind of a small manual to help the

property owners with this permitting process. It is -- sometimes, it's difficult.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, because my issue is not only the residents. My issue is staff. Staff is

overburdened with the back and the forth and they can't resolve the issue because it's outside of

staff's control. It becomes a County issue. So, it's like -- and the res -- I mean, jump in guys.

My...

Commissioner Keon: It's a County issue.

Vice Mayor Lago: The residents keep calling. They keep calling us, and our hands are tied. And

they say, well, then, you know, what's -- what can you do?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: With the permission of the Chair. Absolutely, Vice Mayor.

And that's one of the things that we are endeavoring to do, which is to provide a toolkit, some sort

of an informational document where our residents that live on the waterway that are impacted by

waterway maintenance issues, and in particular, the mangrove issue, have an established, defined,

clear process that they can follow. Because you're right. At the end of the day, it's not us. It's

really Miami-Dade County DERM.

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

Vice Mayor Lago: And I don't want it to be us. I don't want it to be...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Lago: Our responsibility that we're out there pruning people's mangroves and -- you

know, that -- you don't need -- we have enough on our plate. That said, we need to support our

residents in agreement with you on the dais in that they need to have a clear path forward. And

DERM -- sometimes, DERM doesn't get what they need right away, which delays the process.

But a lot of times, the regulators at DERM, the reviewers at DERM have complicated requirements

that they impose on folks. And clarity in the process is something that we want to establish, and I

think that that would help a lot.

Commissioner Keon: We have been asking for almost two years -- I mean, well, since -- not --

it's almost two years about them removing the invasive red pepper in Cocoplum. Because we keep

removing it from the right-of-way and it just grows back because it grows out and comes out of --

and we can't go into the mangrove to remove it where really that's where it starts. And we have

talked to them repeatedly. And their responses are, oh, after Irma, we gave you permission to

remove things from the mangroves. And we said, I think that was a debris, not invasives. So, then

they came back and debated that for a while and then said, okay, yeah. And then came back and

told us, well, you know, they should remove the invasives, but they had already spent their money

for the year, so they don't have any money to do it. So, I'd ask that you would make sure that in

the County budget, you would ask them to ensure that there is money to remove the invasives in

Cocoplum in October.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Yes. I know that we have been working on that, and Brook

may have some additional information on this.

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: We met with a County representative out in the

site...

Commissioner Keon: I know.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: In May.

Commissioner Keon: How many times?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: And so, the good news sis that, again, you know,

they're like us. Their fiscal year runs in October.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: So, we met in May. They got back to us. They're

working on getting that in their budget starting in October. Most likely, all of the invasives along

Bella Vista, Lugo, Virtudes, all those, it'll probably be a two- or three-year process to remove them

all. And so, we -- in our budget, we have proposed kind of phasing too, so we can remove what's

on our right-of-way and the mangrove -- they'll do the mangrove part and we'll do our right-of-

way so we can...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Do it systematically and coordinate it so that once

we go through once, then it'll be maintainable...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: After that.

Commissioner Keon: So, you anticipate that there'll be money in their budget in this coming fiscal

year, so you can work together to finally remove the invasives from the mangroves in Cocoplum?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: As long as their budget is approved, but that's

what they're...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: They...

Commissioner Keon: We will...

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: We're optimistic.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: And Commissioner, just to complicate issues, some of that is state land...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

City Manager Iglesias: That is...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

City Manager Iglesias: Permitted by Dade County, so it's even more complicated.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

City Manager Iglesias: Because the County is actually the one who issues the permit for the state,

so we need to get also state approval.

Commissioner Keon: I just would like to see the invasives removed because they're overtaking

the mangroves and they're growing into the rights-of-way, and they're not good to have there.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: The mangrove maintenance is done by a different

entity too, so we're trying to coordinate all three, the City...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: The (INAUDIBLE) invasive removal, and the

mangrove trimming so that they all happen at the same time so it's coordinated, but it'll be three

different entities and three different kind of pots of money...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Working on it.

Commissioner Keon: Well, thank you. Maybe they'll get some money and we can move forward.

Thank you.

City Manager Iglesias: I will say that we did have a very positive meeting with the Director of

DERM, the Assistant City Manager and I. And hopefully, we will get some type of kind of

expedited review process that we're trying to look at, and make sure that the documentation is

City Commission Meeting

July 9, 2019

Agenda Items G-6 - Discussion regarding the City's waterways.

submitted properly, and it's looked at -- and it's also looked at properly. So, I think we had a very,

very good meeting and we hope to keep on with that cooperation with DERM.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Peter, I think we're a lot further ahead than what we were a

few months ago, so that's a good thing. I think things are going in the right direction.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, just so we can have an answer from when the residents start calling, do you

want to touch this again, maybe, in a month, two months, at the meeting, at the following meeting?

Do you think we'll make some headway because they're going to keep calling?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: I mean, if residents want -- for private property,

the best thing is to reach out to a professional mangrove trimmer and then have them facilitate the

process. That's the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's do it after the budget.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah, after the budget and we know that there's dollars.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Lago: I don't have a problem.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.