

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-4
February 12, 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
Interim Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-4 [12:07:11 p.m.]

An update from staff regarding existing restrictive covenants that hold property owners responsible for the maintenance of surrounding areas. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: H-4.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'd like to see if we can have our staff come up. This should be very brief. I just want to give you an update on something I've been working on with staff for the last few months and hopefully we'll be able to have a full robust presentation at the next Commission meeting or maybe the following. You have all the information now or no?

Interim Public Works Director Diaz: When we looked into the available data, when you asked us to look into that originally, we found something about 10,000 records, relevant records. We have tried that to about 270 around the main corridor areas and we have staff putting them into

electronic database, so that we can then post it into a G.I.S. We think that maybe within a month we should be able to have that live.

Vice Mayor Lago: Let's put it for one month. Let me explain to you really quickly why this is important to all of us. When you drive through our City and you see certain sidewalks and you see certain trees or hedges or planters that are in poor condition, I've always been wondering who is responsible for maintaining these trees, these planters, these sidewalks; and after doing some research with Ed and Peter and our staff, it came to my understanding that again, when we vote on a project there's restrictive covenants that are put in place by the developer, if proffered and that becomes part of the fabric of our City. What ends up happening over some time, properties are sold, I never want to give blame to anybody, but people forget, let's say, and things go by the wayside and you see things kind of become in disrepair. So what I wanted to find out was, I want a real easy list in regards to the restrictive covenants that are in place. I want to be able to find out who is responsible for all these maintenance issues in regards to developments; and then I want to be able to go and speak with these developers and explain to them and say listen, you own the building, maybe you bought this property from a previous developer and you are not aware, but you are responsible for ensuring that these beautification projects remain beautiful. And the goal that is next month once we have this all in G.I.S., correct? - working on putting this on.

City Manager Iglesias: We have a 2 to 3 year program to get our G.I.S. done. Now we need infrastructure and we have to scan about nine years of documents. So we are getting now, I think the low hanging fruit, because these are the best, the large projects that I think yield the most results to do them right now.

Vice Mayor Lago: With the Commissioner's support, next month I'd like to see who these 270 restrictive covenants are that we view as the most important downtown and then I'd like to make sure that we contact them through a letter, through the City, explaining what is their responsibility and if they don't adhere to what is their responsibility as to the restrictive covenant that we bring Code Enforcement and the City Attorney. Because I think, if you go to the downtown right now there is a lot of these restrictive covenants that are not being adhered to or followed through.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Perfect.

Vice Mayor Lago: So we'll have it on from one month from this Commission meeting, correct?

Speaker: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

[End: 12:10:13 p.m.]