

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-9
August 25, 2020
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
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant to the City Manager, Solanch Lopez

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-9 [12:30 p.m.]
Update on Keep America Beautiful Affiliate Process.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: H-9, Keep America Beautiful process.

City Manager Iglesias: Mr. Mayor, Solanch Lopez will present on that.

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: Good afternoon, Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the Commission. Solanch Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager. I believe Matt Anderson might also

be on the call, and he'll be assisting me in this presentation (INAUDIBLE). So, this is going to be just a quick rundown of the affiliate process for Keep Coral Gables Beautiful and where we stand today. This is the official logo that was selected by the Sustainability Advisory Board for Keep Coral Gables Beautiful and American -- Keep America Beautiful affiliate. So, a quick look at the affiliate process timeline for becoming affiliates of Keep America Beautiful. We came to the Commission on July 9 of 2019, with a resolution to accept the recommendation from the Sustainability Advisory Board to submit an application on behalf of the City to become a Keep America Beautiful affiliate. That resolution was passed, and on July 26 of 2019, the affiliate application was officially submitted to Keep America Beautiful. On July 30 of that year, Keep Florida Beautiful, which is the state affiliate, completed payment for our application fee, and that came out of a grant that they hold that they use to pay the application fees for different cities that are trying to become affiliates as a boost on them to help out in that process. The next step of the affiliate process was November 5, 2019, where we hosted the first community training workshop. It was held at the War Memorial Youth Center and attended by several members of the Sustainability Advisory Board, as well as some members of the public. In the picture, you'll see Matt, myself, three members of the Sustainability Advisory Board and Isaac, who is the director assigned to our region by Keep America Beautiful, and he provided the training in that workshop. After that workshop, we were left with some homework. It was an affiliate report that we needed to complete and submit back to Keep America Beautiful in order to proceed with our affiliate process. That report is attached to your agenda packet and is also available on our City website. That report consisted of the areas you see before you in the PowerPoint of the organizational structure that would be utilized for Keep Coral Gables Beautiful, a community appearance index that needed to be completed. Unfortunately, due to COVID, that section was postponed, but we did do the initial work and I'll talk a little bit more about that as we move in through the presentation. But Keep America Beautiful allowed us to kind of put a pause on that section of the report until COVID passes, as it involves our board members all grouping in a van together and actually driving through the City to perform an evaluation of the litter and community appearance of our city. The next area of the affiliate report was a focus area survey and inventory, which was broken down into three sections; litter prevention, beautification and community improvements,

waste reduction, and then finally, observations and recommendations at the end of the report. Just to take a quick look at the organizational structure that was submitted in the report -- again, all of this is in detail in the actual report, but this is just a quick overview. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful, as per the resolution that was passed at Commission in July of 2019, is going to be a subcommittee of the Sustainability Advisory Board. Its executive directors are Matt Anderson and myself. And the mission statement for Keep Coral Gables Beautiful that was brought to the Board and approved is "To promote environmental sustainability and educate the community to take action every day to reduce litter from our open spaces and waterways, improve recycling efforts and keep our city beautiful." So, that was the organizational structure. A quick look at the community appearance index, like I was mentioning, which was postponed due to COVID-19, the backend of information that we've already done is created a GIS map that broke down the city into five areas, with ten sites per area, each site being about a half mile to full mile in length. And all that work was already done. All we were missing to completely the appearance index was actually getting in the van and driving around to do that evaluation. So, all that backend work is already completed and we're ready to go as soon as COVID passes to be able to go out and complete that appearance index. This GIS map is also available on our website at CoralGables.com/KeepCoralGablesBeautiful, for anybody that wants to take a look at it. So, the focus area, research and inventory, like I said, that section of the report was divided into litter prevention, beautification and waste reduction. And a lot of research went into that in terms of actually putting together contacts that we have, both within the City itself and outside sources, along with looking through and providing a list of all resolutions and ordinances that have to do with these different sections that the City has already passed, and all put in that one report so that we have a full inventory of where we stand as a city on these three pillars. Finally, the next step in the application and the affiliate process timeline was that the affiliate report was completed and submitted to Keep America Beautiful on July 10 of this year. And then on July 22, we had our Keep America Beautiful affiliate training workshop. It was held virtually via Zoom, and as of that day, we are now officially affiliates of Keep America Beautiful as Keep Coral Gables Beautiful. And that's just a quick snapshot of the certificate that will be mailed to us in the near future. And that's the presentation as we have it. Matt and I can answer any questions you might have. Moving forward, we'll start looking at the requirements to

keep our affiliate status and different events and ways that we can engage the community in different cleanup efforts and the like to continue to touch on those three pillars of litter prevention, increased recycling and beautification in our city.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Solanch. Thank you very much for your participation and presentation. Are there any questions or comments to Solanch, from or to?

Vice Mayor Lago: Solanch, congratulations, along with Matt. Great work. I just -- will you do me a favor, Solanch? Once we finalize the event that we've been planning for the last few months for the cleanup effort, the one that we're doing with Lucy and the volunteers, can you provide that information to my colleagues in the Commission so that they can also get engaged, if they have the time and if they have the interest. I know that a lot of them are busy, so I think it's a good opportunity for the community and the Commission to come together and work on this cleanup together.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much. Now we'll go on to the next -- I want to announce something. At a Zoom conference call about an hour ago, Mayor Gimenez announced that tonight he's going to put out an order lifting the restrictions on restaurants and allowing them to open with the same restrictions that they were in the past; far-apart table, 50 percent capacity. But Monday, our restaurants are going to be open, which is very good news. Very good news.