

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Draft Minutes of Meeting, December 6, 2012
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	J	J*	F	M	A	M	J	J	A*	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY
Ana Martin-Lavielle	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	-	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Anna Louise Fulks		P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	-	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Alexander Adams	P	P	P	E	P	P	P		P	P	P	-	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Barbara Perez									P	P	P	-	E	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Leona M. Allison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	E	P	-	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Paul Zamek	P	P	P	P	P	E	P		P	E	P	-	P	Board-As-A-Whole
Robert Parsley	P	P	P	P	P	E	P		P	P	P	-	P	City Manager

*Special Meeting

STAFF:

Patrick Salerno, City Manager
Jessica Keller, Community Service Director
Dan Keys, Public Service Director, Board Secretary
Carlos Hernandez, Public Works Director
Ernesto Pino, Public Works Assistant Director
Ayliin Hernandez, Public Service Department

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

GUESTS:

Evelyn Budde, Garden Club
George Puig, AECOM

OPEN MEETING: The Chairman, Alexander Adams, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes of October 4, 2012." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Discussion took place and Ms. Fulks inquired on nominating a previously awarded home that had a new resident. Mr. Zamek pointed out that taking a picture of the landscape would help determine if the landscape had a different design and if so he felt that they could be awarded again. Ms. Allison turned in her nominations and inquired on the criteria involved in the selection process. Mr. Adams advised that the landscapes vary depending on the size of the budget involved. He also mentioned that the selection process is a personal choice and that a variety is something to keep in mind. Mr. Adams also stated that by the January 2013 meeting all the Board Members should have forwarded their recommendations to the Public Service Department. Selection of winners is scheduled for the February meeting and advance notice of the nominations is necessary for the process to be ready for this meeting.

UPDATE ON NRP PROJECTS: The City Manager, Patrick Salerno, introduced Carlos Hernandez as the new Public Works Director. Mr. Hernandez was previously with Miami Dade

County DERM and holds a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering and a Master's in Environmental Engineering.

The City Manager mentioned that the Ingraham Park project is not an NRP Project but was recommended by Commissioner Quesada and is being funded separately; it will follow a separate approval process. He advised the Board that all of the recommendations the Board had made were taken into consideration and incorporated into the plan. The City Manager introduced Mr. Puig, the Landscape Architect for the project, who reviewed each of the recommendations and showed how they were implemented into the revised version. The revisions included were:

1. Removed the oaks from behind the main entrance feature
2. Moved the relocated pine trees to the Eastern perimeter
2. Relocated the exercise area to a shady location
3. Reconfigured the pathways in a manner to make clear which is for bikers and which is for pedestrians
4. Removed the berm completely

The City Manager advised that the project was out to bid and construction was expected in early 2013.

Mr. Adams mentioned that he had E-mailed Miami-Dade County and was advised that they would pay for crosswalk connections to the other side of Le Jeune Rd. The Manager advised that these changes would need to be reviewed by City traffic engineer and staff to ensure that the changes meet the City's needs as well as those of the County. Mr. Adams agreed to forward the E-mail correspondence to the Public Works Director for his reference in pursuing this issue.

Mr. Zamek asked about the Segovia/Biltmore Way Circle landscape project. The City Manager advised that this was actually a cultural amenity project. An RFP for an international call for artists has been issued and a juried committee will be formed to narrow the applicant artists down to three or four. There will be a lot of community and public input. It is planned that there will be a fountain. This will be the first City funded effort since Merrick. The three or four artists will be given a stipend of \$3,000 to \$5,000 to take and develop concepts for the Biltmore way and Coral Way circles. One million dollars is available from the City and the National Endowment for the Arts has provided a grant for an additional \$40,000. Fairchild garden will be providing \$35,000 in in-kind services for the area surrounding the circles. Once the artists come back with their projects and the juried selection process has made a recommendation, the City Commission will make the final decision.

Ms. Folks asked if the final product would be Mediterranean in nature and the City Manager advised that he could not say that at this time. The RFP for artists included photos of the various monuments and entrances in the City to give artists a feel for its natural form and history. It is possible to have a design of a more contemporary nature that would complement the historic aspects of the City. All of the background that the artists have been given is available on the City's website. Ms. Folks commented that the City should not skimp on the quality of the project. The City Manager advised that if the goal is to produce a public civic monument of a caliber that endures over time like the Desoto Fountain, and you can't do that with \$50,000. Therefore, a substantial budget is being provided. The City Manager advised the Board that if they happen to know a high quality artist then they should contact Cindy Birdsill of Economic Sustainability so that she can ensure that they are provided the information on how to participate.

Mr. Adams asked about the downtown Ponce corridor landscape improvement process. The City Manager advised that this project was largely a maintenance project that would provide an irrigation system and new planting which would replace the old material that is not in good shape. The 200 and 300 blocks of Alhambra Circle will have up lighting for the new palms and low shrubs and grass installed as a finishing touch to the earlier planting of Phoenix and Bismarkia palms. Irrigation would also be included. The projects are expected to be started at the end of the first quarter of 2013.

Mr. Adams asked about the Coco Plum Circle landscaping and The City manager advised that this would be expected to move forward after the County finishes the bridge project.

Mr. Adams thanked The City Manager for the time he had taken to provide the update on these projects to the Board.

ARBOR DAY: The April 26th date for the event was confirmed at the intersection of Augusto St., Marius St. and Mall. Barbara Perez's E-mail, outlining and confirming the participation of the Ponce Middle school students was read and discussed. The School asked how many students could be accommodated. Mr. Keys asked the Boards opinion as to when these students should participate and it was decided that they should do so as part of the adult program.

Mr. Keys described his thoughts for planting Dade County pines and a large native shade tree with under planting of saw palmetto to match the rest of the park. It was decided that he pines would be planted as part of the adult program with the children's group planting the large shade tree. Pine seedlings were the agreed upon give away tree.

Discussion took place about the possible program with Mr. Zamek recommending that the students themselves should provide the program as a class project. The idea of having information about native plants was put forward as well. More discussion on this and the division of responsibly for providing labor and refreshments would take place next meeting. Confirmation from the local Temple school as to the participation of their students in the children's program is still needed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Mr. Adams asked that the street lighting downtown be checked as many lights were not functioning.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

APPROVED:

Alexander Adams, Chair

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2013, 8:30 a.m.

Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida