

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

<https://zoom.us/j/83110285038>

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	N 24	D 24	J 25	F 25	M 25	A 25	M 25	J 25	O 25	N 25	D 25	J 26	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	U	Commissioner Fernandez
Preston Dickerson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	Commissioner Lara
Amy Dash	E	E	E	E	U	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	P	U	U	P	P	P	P	P	U	P	P	U	Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present

E – Excused Absence

U – Unexcused

(-) – No Appointment

(\*) – No Meeting

**STAFF:**

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant PW Director, Greenspace  
Sayleen Arocha-Quian, Landscape Designer, Greenspace  
Pilar Wiesse, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The board reviewed December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

## **PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:**

**LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** The Board selected one award recipient per zone for the 2025 Landscape Beautification Awards, resulting in seven total recipients. Award recipients will receive an invitation to receive a plaque of recognition at a city commission meeting in April 2026.

### **2026 Award Recipients:**

- Zone 1: 800 Catalonia Avenue
- Zone 2: 242 Camilo Avenue
- Zone 3: 4504 Alhambra Circle
- Zone 4: 4900 Granada Boulevard
- Zone 5: 6506 Leonardo Street
- Zone 6: 600 & 620 Arvida Parkway
- Zone 7: 11090 Snapper Creek Road

**FARMER'S MARKET PRESENTATION:** The Board discussed an educational presentation addressing street tree and sidewalk maintenance responsibilities, including ADA compliance, pruning standards, and repair obligations. Coordination with Special Events staff is underway to confirm potential presentation dates.

### **EVENT PLANNING 2026:**

*Arbor Day Celebration:* The Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for April 24, 2026, in partnership with the Coral Gables Garden Club. Following a site evaluation, the Board identified an alternative City-owned location in the green space in front of the Biltmore Hotel, across from the Garden Club Cottage, as a potential site for the Arbor Day tree planting. Approval of the use of the site is pending coordination with Biltmore management and confirmation of underground utilities. Correspondence was prepared to request approval and initiate utility review. Infrastructure considerations discussed included electrical access, irrigation availability, and long-term maintenance requirements.

Proposed tree species under consideration include Rainbow Cassia and Pink Tabebuia, which were noted as appropriate due to their moderate mature size. A letter requesting site approval and utility clearance was sent to Mr. Tom Prescott. The correspondence will be forwarded to Paige Perez, the Biltmore liaison.

Program planning is ongoing. Carolina was identified as a potential speaker to present information on the selected tree species. Final confirmation of the planting location and event details depend on infrastructure review and site feasibility.

### **LBAB OBJECTIVES – PLANNING 2026**

The Board discussed concerns regarding swale damage caused by construction activity. In response, Planning and Zoning prepared a proposed amendment to the construction zoning code requiring a construction parking plan as part of the permitting process. The amendment would apply to both residential and commercial projects and include requirements for designated parking locations, duration of use, and post-construction restoration, with enforcement measures for non-compliance. The draft ordinance was presented to the Board for input prior to ratification, and Code Enforcement will apply the requirements to active projects.

UPDATE CITY PROJECTS:

*Micro Forest Project:*

Funding efforts are underway for the Micro Forest Project. The Coral Gables Garden Club has raised \$25,000, with additional support from the Vice Mayor and private donors. Project plans have been completed. A presentation is being prepared for a Garden Club meeting to be presented by the Greenspace Division. The next phase will focus on securing remaining funding, with a tentative presentation date of January 26.

*Biltmore Way Streetscape:* The Capital Improvement Project for street tree planting along Biltmore Way between Segovia Street and Anderson Road is approximately 80% complete. Final consultant plans are anticipated this month and will be presented at the next Board meeting. The project includes full sidewalk replacement, installation of shade trees, and new irrigation infrastructure.

*Tree Succession:* The City is planting and staking 125 trees at designated locations. Contract was awarded to SFM as the lowest bidder.

*Historic Entrances:* The historic entrance located at Country Club Prado and 8th Street is currently undergoing a redesign. The project includes new irrigation infrastructure, updated landscaping, and crushed stone walkways. Design plans are approximately 60 percent complete, with bidding anticipated to begin in the upcoming year.

*US-1 Relandscaping:* Construction is in progress and nearing completion. Improvements include native landscaping, reinstallation of royal palms, and irrigation upgrades. Site maintenance will be managed by SFM.

*City Hall Reconstruction –* A comprehensive renovation of City Hall is planned to restore the building to its original design. The project includes interior and exterior improvements and the removal of the Cottage in the Courtyard to reopen the historic central courtyard. Plans will be presented at future Commission meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 at 10:30 AM