

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, June 5, 2014
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Ana Martin-Lavielle	-	-	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	P	A	E	P	P	P	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Barbara Perez	-	-	P	A	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Kay Murff					P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Robert Berman					E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager, Patrick Salerno
Paul Zamek	-	-	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	A	P	Board as a Whole

STAFF:

Brook Dannemiller, Public Service Director, Board Secretary
Pilar Wiese, Administrative Assistant, Recording Secretary

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

GUESTS:

Cindy Birdsill, Interim Assistant City Manager
Julia Abraham, Public Works Civil Engineer
Gregory Ault, AECOM Vice President
Gustavo Santana, AECOM

OPEN MEETING: The Vice Chair, Anna Louise Fulks, opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of May 1, 2014 with the following changes.**

- Cartagena Plaza Landscape Improvements: The board requested a pedestrian connection across LeJeune Road and connecting to the new development.
- Kerdyk Tennis Center Improvements: The board requested removal of invasive species.

The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.”

NEW BUSINESS:

SEVOGIA CIRCLE PROJECT: Ms. Birdsill mentioned there is a Monumental Art Sculpture project with a fountain in the process. A sculpture will be located on Coral Way and another on Biltmore Way. The Request for Qualifications was sent out and five (5) semi-finalists were selected: Ilan Averbuch, Alice Aycock, Douglas Hollis, Harry Kirkland and Brad Goldberg. The artists are expected to present their concepts before a judging panel in September 2014. The presentations will be open to the public. The panel will then make their recommendation to the City Commission. The artists were advised to focus on the natural world as well as the Coral Gables community and history. The artists should also consider a connection between the two locations on Coral Way and Biltmore Way.

JEAN WARD SCULPTURES: Ms. Birdsill mentioned seven (7) sculptures donated by Jean Ward, a University of Miami artist. She pointed out that the sculptures located on the Library grounds need restoration and better bases. The sculpture by the main door is covered by foliage. Ms. Birdsill would like to work with Public Service to have the foliage be cut back. She also recommended a stone walkway and the installation of a bench with a plaque. This should make the area more inviting to the community. Ms. Birdsill also recommended that the sculpture on the Segovia St. side be moved to Young Park and to coordinate the location and landscape with Public Service. This request has been approved by the Cultural Development Board. But, it also needs to be approved by the Library Advisory Board as well as the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board. Discussion took place. **A motion was made to “Approve the relocation of a Jean Ward Sculpture from the Library to Young Park and to restore the sculptures, bases and landscape.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

Mr. Ault and Mr. Santana gave a presentation on the following park projects:

PASSIVE PARK ON ALHAMBRA CIRCLE (MERCADO AVENUE and MENDAVIA AVENUE, South side):

AECOM presented the concept plan for the passive park on Alhambra Circle. The park consisted of a small active play area, an oval shaped open lawn area, a slightly sunken passive use area, and low buffer plantings along Alhambra Circle. Amenities included in the park are a low stone wall, playground equipment, a trellis structure, a chilled drinking fountain, landscape and pedestrian lighting, and planting.

Board was concerned about sidewalks and pedestrian safety around the park. Consultants had taken that into consideration because of the high activity on the area and outside sidewalks are part of the park’s design. The idea is that in the future, sidewalks will be connected to the City’s sidewalk network.

Board members generally liked the plan. The members requested that the trees around the oval lawn area be flowering trees and that native plants be used as much as possible. The board members also discussed potential parking issues and encouraged the consultant and City to consider parking in the design and be prepared to mitigate adverse parking issues if they arise after the park is constructed. The City pointed out that parking was a major concern of residents during the Ingraham Park design process; however, there have been no parking issues since the park's opening. Consultants noted parking issue concerns and they will talk to Public Works Department to accommodate Board’s desires.

MAGGIORE PARK (SANSOVINO AVENUE and MENENDEZ AVENUE)

AECOM presented the concept plan for the passive park adjacent to the Chinese Village. The park consisted of a small active play area, a trellis structure with a Chinese inspired roofline on a raised ridge through the middle of the park, terraced planting areas, and an open lawn area. Amenities included in the park are a low stone wall, playground equipment, a trellis structure, a chilled drinking fountain, landscape and pedestrian lighting, and planting. Board members generally liked the general layout of the plan. However, the Board members would like to see a stronger emphasis on incorporating elements of a Chinese garden into the park. Examples given were plant material, architectural details, stones/boulders, a dry creek bed, a water feature such as a fountain, pond, or other feature to create the sound of trickling water. The Board proposed that the low wall on the western end of the park be replaced with boulders and planting.

TREE SUCCESSION PLAN:

Mr. Dannemiller gave an overview of the Tree Succession Plan. The final plan is scheduled for the next Commission meeting. The plan proposes to plant over 3,000 trees in the single family residential areas of the City. Each street has an established theme that was determined by the predominant species of tree on the street. Surveys were sent out to residents on coconut palm themed streets that had 30% or more of the palms missing or in decline. The surveys allowed the residents on those streets to vote on whether to change the theme of their street from coconut palms to shade trees. The implementation of the project will most likely start in Fall 2014. Planting will take 6-12 months, and the contractor is responsible for the watering and maintenance of the trees for the establishment period of one year after the last tree is planted.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- Discussion took place on the functioning of the fountains.
- Ms. Birdsill mentioned that the Bike Master Plan will be presented at the Commission Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2014.
- The board requested a presentation of the Tree Succession Plan.
- Ms. Fulks inquired on the status of Hartnett Park.
- Mr. Ault advised a meeting is scheduled for the week of June 16, 2014. Connectivity will be improved. Property values will improve. Mr. Dannemiller advised public meetings will be held.
- The board requested that the September agenda include the Durango / Riviera Tree Replacement Update.
- Mr. Dannemiller also mentioned that hopefully the Country Club Prado improvements will include crosswalks and bike lanes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ana Martin-Lavielle, Chair

ATTEST:

Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida

