

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, March 13, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

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

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
U – Unexcused
nq – No Quorum
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant PW Director, Greenspace

Sayleen Arocha-Quian, Landscape Designer, Greenspace

Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

Imelys Sansores, City Clerk's office

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed February 13th, 2025, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of February 13th, 2025”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

City Clerk's Agenda Coordinator Imelys Sansores joined the meeting to explain the board rules and process for renewing board positions. She said that board positions run through May 31st of this year, and members can serve consecutive two-year terms for up to 8 years. Reapplication is strongly suggested, and a notice for reapplication has already been sent to all board members. The board has the option to set its own meeting schedule by vote. A discussion was held regarding the upcoming renewals of board positions. It was suggested that one person not be renewed in the upcoming cycle to help strengthen the board and ensure commitment to meeting attendance. Mr. Schubert noted that the board is the oldest in the city of Coral Gables.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **EVENT PLANNING 2025:**

Arbor Day 2025 – The program for Arbor Day has been drafted, and the board members were asked to approve the pamphlet. A graduate student from the University of Miami has been arranged to sing the national anthem as a backup in place of Nikki. A micro-forest planting for the Centennial celebration has been designed, and Greenspace Landscape Designer Sayleen Arocha will present it at the Arbor Day event. The board plans to purchase two Lignum Vitae trees to kick off the event. Invitations will be sent to elected officials, and the event will be broadcasted through e-news after the program names are finalized. ***A motion was made to “approve the Arbor Day program, with the amendment that the performer for the national anthem be left open to a member of the choir group at the church.”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.*** The Garden Club's donation will cover part of the cost of the Lignum Vitae trees, with the remaining amount funded through the Tree Trust Fund.

Beautification Awards 2024 – The Landscape Beautification Awards for 2024 were presented during the City Commission meeting on March 11th. A PowerPoint presentation featuring images of the winning properties were shown, and the winners were invited to the meeting to receive a plaque of recognition of their properties. 1400 S Greenway Dr., 3201 Alhambra Cir., 242 Camilo Ave., 500 Hardee Rd. (6200 Maggiore St.), 1 Casuarina Concourse., and 11030 Paradela St. were the properties selected for 2024. It was a heartfelt occasion where the city took the opportunity to recognize residents for their effort and work to beautify the city. The recipients were deeply appreciative of the recognition. Ms. Parnes shared with the board that the gardener who takes care of the landscaping at 1400 S. Greenway Dr. and was in attendance on behalf of the owner, brought his daughter to the ceremony and was later showing photos of the event to family and friends, proudly showcasing how much it meant to receive the award.

- **TREE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2025:** The submission deadline has been extended to April 6, 2025, due to low participation. Some of the trees already submitted include Banyan trees, Royal Poincianas, and Rainbow Eucalyptus. The board encourages spreading the word to raise awareness of the event

Ms. Boynton-Trigg nominated the area along Riviera Dr., across from the high school where the canal ends, as a potential site for beautification. This area, which is used by visitors to observe manatees, is currently a mix of gravel, scrubby grass, and dirt, making it appear unkempt. The proposal is to beautify the area, allow for parking, and improve its aesthetic appeal. Ms. Bell provided an update, noting that there had been previous discussions regarding this area and its potential funding. She will review the commission's budget process to see if funds have been allocated for this area. If not, the board can recommend that funding be directed there.

- **UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:**

Black Olive Treatment: Ms. Bell said that Davey Tree has been contracted to inject 2,000 black olive trees. Residents may apply annually for their trees to be treated, with the deadline for submission being the first week of January. Treatment requests are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tree Succession Project: Ms. Bell said that the Tree Succession Project for 2024 is currently being planted by the Greenspace team for the last 120 trees on the list, which should be completed by the end of March. Following the completion of this phase, the 2025 Tree Succession project list will be sent out for bids by May, with plans to plant over 200 trees for this year. Funding for this project comes from the Tree Succession Fund managed by Public Works. Additionally, funds from the city's Tree Trust Fund, which is sourced from private developers and residential areas when tree removal permits are submitted, are also used. The Tree Trust Fund currently exceeds \$300,000.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025, 10:30 AM