

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

Minutes of Meeting, December 1, 2016
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	*O	N	D	
Ana Martin-Lavielle	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	E		E	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Kay Murff	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P		P	P	Vice Mayor Frank C. Quesada
Bonita Norman	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	P		P	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Barbara Perez	P	P	P	E	P	E	-	-	E		P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Rahul Kothari	-	-	-	P	P	P	-	-	P		E	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Joyce Meyers	E	P	E	P	A	E	-	-	-		-	-	City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Robert Berman	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	E		P	P	Board as a Whole

STAFF:

Brook Dannemiller, Landscape Services Director, Board Secretary
Ayliin Hernandez, Landscape Services, Recording Secretary

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

*Hurricane Matthew - No Meeting

GUESTS:

OPEN MEETING: The Chair, Kay Murff, 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 November 3, 2016, as corrected.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

Discussion developed on the attendance. The members with unexcused absences requested the board’s approval. **A motion was made to, “Approve the unexcused absence for Rahul Kothari. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously. A motion was made to, “Approve the unexcused absences for Barbara Perez.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously. A motion was made to, “Approve the unexcused absences for Ms. Ana Martin-Lavielle.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

FARMER’S MARKET WORKSHOP: The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Discussion focused on a speaker. The board decided on having (2) speakers, Victor Lazzari and Jorge Rivera. Discussion focused on topics such as shade plants, landscape improvements of the swale areas and the city’s landscape permitting process. Mr. Berman reiterated the board’s request for a sign informing the public of the workshop. Mr. Dannemiller advised that Ron Crumbley is looking into it. Ms. Hernandez will prepare a flyer when the event details have been confirmed.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARD NOMINATIONS: Ms. Martin-Lavielle selected Zone #4 and Mr. Kothari selected Zone #7. The board was reminded the nominations are due in January 2017.

ARBOR DAY: The event date is Friday, April 28th, 2017. The event site is located on the north east corner of Sevilla Ave. and De Soto Blvd. The underground utility clearance is pending. The intersection of University Drive and Segovia Street was selected as a secondary location. Ms. Martin-Lavielle suggested the entrance of Ponce de Leon and Douglas Road as an alternate location. Ms. Murff pointed out the board should look for future event sites. Ms. Murff confirmed Katy Sobrado is the Garden Club Liaison. Discussion developed on the speaker of the Children's program. The following individuals were mentioned: Katy Sobrado, Charlotte Simile or Joan Visual. Ms. Visual is a Master Gardener. She is also in charge of the Children's program at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden. Discussion developed on ensuring a quorum at the next meeting. Rescheduling the meeting date was suggested. **A motion was made to "Reschedule the next board meeting to Thursday, January 12, 2017, to ensure a quorum is present. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:

TREE SUCCESSION PROJECT: Mr. Dannemiller provided an update by zone. In Zone 1 the braces are being removed. In Zones 2 and 3 all the initial plantings were completed. In Zone 4 plantings are in process. The Coconut Palm relocations are also in process. The large Ficus Benjamina trees are being removed and will be replaced with large oak trees.

MIRACLE MILE PROJECT: Mr. Dannemiller advised that the project information is available on the Coral Gables website, www.gablesstreetscape.com/

CONCEPT DESIGN FOR (3) PASSIVE PARKS: Public meeting have been held. Concept plans should be ready in early 2017. Public meetings will be scheduled.

MERRICK HOUSE RENOVATIONS: Mr. Dannemiller advised the parking lot is under construction as well as the residence. The landscape improvements will follow when the construction has been completed.

PURCHASE OF (5) PROPERTIES FOR PASSIVE PARKS: The Betsy Adams Coral Gables Garden Club Park and the Maggiore Park were sent out for bids. Mr. Dannemiller requested the board's thoughts on a resident's suggestion of closing the curved right hand turn lane on Alhambra Circle and the intersection of Granada Blvd. headed northbound.

JEAN WARD SCULPTURES: Ms. Norman advised that Catherin Cathers mentioned the sculptures would be installed at the Library, but not in the butterfly garden. Ms. Hernandez advised Ms. Cathers will be presenting renderings at the Library Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. Everyone is welcome to attend.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Dannemiller mentioned a Black Olive treatment study is in the process. A list is being put together of the residents that would like to participate. Requests can be made via e-mail at landscapeservices@coralgables.com or trees@coralgables.com. The board was informed of the Boards and Committees Reception Dinner date change. The new date is

Thursday, January 12, 2017. The lighting of the Christmas tree will be held on Friday, December 2, 2016. The 1st United Methodist Church will have a children's event before the tree lighting. The board vacancy was mentioned. Interested parties should be referred to the City Clerk's Office. Discussion developed on a residence on the corner of Alhambra Circle and Cortez St. Mr. Dannemiller advised it will be renovated. But, it has federally endangered Florida bonneted bats that need to be removed in a humane and legal way.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:


Kay Murff, Chair

ATTEST:


Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room-, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida

