

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	F 23	M 23	M 23	J 23	S 23	O 23	N 23	D 23	J 24	F 24	M 24	A 24	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Sara Lane Conde	-	-	-	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	A	P	P	A	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	P	P	P	P	A	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole

**P – Present**  
**E – Excused Absence**  
**A – Absent**  
**(-) – 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. Amy Dash’s absence was excused by the board. Carolina Estefan-Chahine joined the meeting via zoom because she was not feeling quite well.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The board reviewed the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024”** The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:**

- **EVENT PLANNING 2024:**

*Arbor Day 2024* – Board members revised draft program for Arbor Day, scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the corner of Camilo Ave. and University Dr. and made final adjustments to the program. Ms. Bell said that the program has been sent out as an invitation citywide and to city officials; the Mayor and Vice Mayor have confirmed attendance. The Communications and Public Affairs office will publicize the event throughout all city social media, e-news, etc. She said that Baobab tree is ready to go for planting. Welcoming, introduction of elected officials, Arbor Day proclamation, joined honor guard, national anthem, pledge of allegiance, introductions, speaker, and singer for event were discussed. Ms. Bell said that the Greenspace division will provide tents, tables, chairs, a podium, microphone, etc.; they will also be in charge of the clean-up after the event. Ms. Leslie said that Garden Club members will provide cookies and water. Ms. Boynton-Trigg inquired about contacting Coral Gables branch librarian to participate in the event. Ms. Bell said that she sent information to Ms. Sardina, secretary for the Library Advisory board, to share it with the library through the city manager’s office but has not heard back from her. Ms. Boynton-Trigg said that she would reach out to the librarian to invite them to the event. Ms. Estefan-Chahine is going to talk about the baobab tree, read excerpts from the book and use it in her presentation. Ms. Bell said that after the planting it could be explained how to plant a tree as a lot of people do not know how to plant. Ms. Parnes suggested that at the introduction of the board members, Ms. Boynton-Trigg could point out which commissioner each member represents on the board. Ms. Boynton-Trigg inquired about the plaque. Ms. Bell explained that Susan Rodriguez from the Garden Club submitted the permit application to the Public Works department to have a plaque for the tree on Arbor Day. Unfortunately, Public Works cannot approve the installation of a plaque on the right-of-way, it must be approved by the City Commission. Plaque will not be there for Arbor Day but it could be presented to the city commission for their review if the Garden Club wants to go that route.

*Beautification Awards 2024* – Submission of Beautification Awards nominations is May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Each board member should provide addresses and photographs of their 5 nominations. Zones have been assigned as follows: Liz Parnes (Zone 1). Nancy Leslie (Zone 2). Sara Lane Conde (Zone 3 & 4). Carolina Estefan-Chahine (Zone 5). Amy Dash (Zone 6a-north), and Anne Boynton-Trigg and Kirk Schubert (Zone 6b-south). Board members talked about the criteria to be considered for beautification awards that was approved previously by the board.

- **TREE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2025.:** Ms. Bell said that the city centennial is coming in 2025. She asked the board members to start thinking about some special way to celebrate the centennial. She brought to the meeting a letter sent to the city commission from a resident recommending the city to join other cities to create a Tree of the Year competition like The Village of Palmetto Bay. Their idea is to invite residents to participate in submitting their favorite tree through an online nomination and the winner will receive a proclamation from the city commission. The winning tree will be featured on the website and social media outlets and will be recognized on national Arbor Day, which is celebrated on the last Friday in April. Board members liked the idea very much. Mr. Schubert recommended that for a centennial, a centennial tree should be chosen. **A motion was made to “explore creating the tree competition for representing the centennial for 2025; more details to follow”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**
- **UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:**  
*Tree Succession 2023:* Ms. Bell informed that the Tree Succession project is full and underway, almost finished. Greenspace is inspecting the 111 planted trees citywide, making sure all trees are high quality. Planted trees are a combination of native, flowering trees; all shade flowering trees on city swales, no palm trees are being planted.  
  
*Other Projects:* Ms. Bell said that new landscaping and crushed stone for parking areas is being installed by Public Works at Salvatore Park swale area; big improvements will be seen there over the next month. Another project coming up is US1 medians. Greenspace division is designing US1 medians, from Douglas Road to Red Road. There will be a volunteer event at Fewell Park in May. This is an effort between Keep Coral Gables Beautiful and the University of Miami to remove invasive plants, overrun air potato and oyster plants among others; after the clean-up, the greenspace division will buy and install new native plant material.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024, 10:30 AM