

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	*	P	*	P	P	A	P	P			Mayor Lago
Elizabeth Parnes	*	P	*	P	P	P	P	E			Vice Mayor Mena
Maria Counts	*	P	*	E	P	P	P	E			Commissioner Anderson
Carmen Lizama	*	P	*	P	P	P	P	P			Commissioner Fors, Jr
Nancy Leslie	*	E	*	P	P*	P	P	P			Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	*	P	*	P	P	P	P	P			City Manager
Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			Board-As-A-Whole

- P – Present**
- P*- Present (zoom)**
- E – Excused Absence**
- A – Absent**
- (-) – No Appointment**
- (*) – No Meeting**

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Asst PW Director-Greenspace/Board Liaison
 Jose Fonseca, Landscape Designer
 Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Joanne Matthews, Coral Gables Garden Club
 Anne Boynton-Trigg, CG resident

CALL TO ORDER:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn led the meeting as Chair Liz Parnes was out of the country. 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 the March 10th, 2022, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of March 10th, 2022” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **ARBOR DAY EVENT:** Ms. Bell informed the board that City of Coral Gables Mayor and Commissioners have been invited and there is also an interest from some Miami-Dade County elected officials to attend Arbor Day at West Lab. Approved program from City Manager’s office was passed around. Ms. Bell said that as more elected officials confirm attendance, their name will be added to the program. Ms. Bell went through the program to check that all items are being worked on, getting ready for the event. She informed the board that two Cassia Bakeriana trees have been bought and Greenspace Management staff will go to the school the day before event to prepare the area where the trees are going to be planted. She said Maria Counts sent her an email saying that she is planning to submit her story to the news media marketing department the Monday before the event and she is ready for her talk.
- **LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** Ms. Bell informed the board that congratulation letters have been sent out inviting award recipients to receive their awards at the City Commission meeting on April 26, 2022 and that some property owners have already RSVP. A brief power point presentation with pictures of awarded properties will be shown on the screen. She will be presenting the plaques to award winners along with Chair Liz Parnes and a representative from the Garden Club.
- **FARMER’S MARKET:** City Arborist Jorge Rivera did a presentation at the Farmer’s Market for the Landscape Advisory board with the topic “Sustainable Trees for Sustainable Cities.” Ms. Bell suggested to start thinking about next year’s topic and a host to talk, to schedule with the special events coordinator as spots fill up quick. Ms. Lizama-Gaspa commended that the presentation was at the courtyard and no signage was outside to guide or advise people of the presentation. Ms. Bell said that issue had come up before and she suggested that board members get together to create some signage, flyers to hand out through the audience, people who attend farmer’s market every Saturday know that there is always a talk at 9 o’clock. The city disseminates information in its website, E-News, etc. Ms. Leslie asked if maybe the city can make a permanent sign. Ms. Bell said that farmer’s market is run by the special events people through the

Community Recreation department, and they are the ones who manage the signage. It will be brought up to them.

- **BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE VACANCY:** Ms. Bell informed the board that Ms. Anne Boynton-Trigg was visiting the board as she has submitted an application for the vacancy for Board-As-A-Whole opening. Ms. Trigg introduced herself. She moved to the city last year from Brooklyn, New York. She and her husband are very happy living in Coral Gables. She has a life-long interest in plants outside her professional life which was publishing. She loves plants and would like to help, to contribute and be active in the city, to make it the most beautiful place it can be. She is a lifelong member of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and love what New York City has done to beautify Brooklyn. She was not aware the open position has specific requirements. Ms. Bell intervene saying that the Board-As-A-Whole position has a requirement for a professional in the landscape field (landscape architects, planners, certified arborists, architects or degree horticulturists, botanists or foresters, or any related profession) as it states in Resolution 2005-121. She said that there might be movement within the board members to open a position for Ms. Trigg that is not the professional category, and one board member is even willing to speak to her commissioner to move her appointment to the Board-As-A-Whole, to open her position. Ms. Bell will ask Ms. Counts to contact City Clerk's office and make her formal application. The board might have to vote on that change.

- **UPDATE MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:**

AGAVE PROJECT: Agave project is moving along and finishing phases little by little. The whole Craft Section, where they have planted all trees and bridal veils in the right-of-way, is finishing soon. City is doing final inspections to make sure all the work complies with their permit drawings.

PONCE CIRCLE PARK: Design of the plans of the park is in Miami-Dade County for permit review for design development stage, waiting on comments from the county so Urban Robot landscape architects can start moving on their next steps. Plans will be shown to the board when ready for presentation.

LAMAR CURRY PARK: Lamar Curry Park, a little triangle just north of Venetian Pool, is under construction. Stone walls are going up now and large trees are being planted, electrical and plumbing are being installed underground.

LANDSCAPE AROUND CITY: Greenspace Management division is going through all the sites that have been identified in the trolley ride with the mayor. There are 20-30 sites to improve that will be worked over the year. The seven

entrances are priority. Old landscaping is being taken out and replaced with new plants. A big issue is that some sites do not have an irrigation system. There are many sites without irrigation and no budget to install irrigation systems. Native and sustainable plants are best for those sites. Planting should be done during rainy months to take advantage of water. Board members gave input on type of plants and flowers that are sustainable and can beautify sites. Ms. Lizama-Gaspa suggested a plant called ‘variegated juniper’; they look like little pine trees, are pretty, and can take care of themselves. Ms. Dash suggested to have a program with local farms to maintain main areas, a site or a corner and they can get a plaque for the donation of that site. Ms. Bell informed the board that “Keep Coral Gables Beautiful” will present a project to the next board meeting with a program for that.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, MAY 12th, 2022, 10:30 AM
2151 SALZEDO ST, CORAL GABLES, FL