

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd, 2021

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	
Fadi Bahri			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Lucy Reinhardt			E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	-	Commissioner Pat Keon
Diane Perez			P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	E	-	Commissioner Fors, Jr.
Carolina Estefan-Chaine			-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Elizabeth Parnes			P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Susan Rodriguez			P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	-	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Bonita Norman			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	Board as a Whole
 New Members													
Maria Counts													P Ronda Anderson
Nancy Leslie													P Kirk Menendez

STAFF:

Brook Dannemiller, Asst Public Works Dir., Landscape Architect
 Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Landscape Architect and Board Secretary

A = Absent
 E = Excused
 P = Present

GUESTS:

Joanne Matthews, Coral Gables Garden Club

OPEN MEETING: The Chair, Elizabeth Parnes, opened the meeting at 8:40 am. **A quorum was present.** Ms. Estefan-Chahine, Mr. Bahri, Ms. Counts and Ms. Leslie and were physically present. Ms. Parnes, Ms. Mathews and Mr. Dannemiller attended virtually. Discussion developed on approving the minutes for March 4, 2021, April 1, 2021 and May 6, 2021. Ms. Counts and Ms. Leslie were not present during the March, April and May meetings as a result, they abstain. Since the new board members were not present in March April and May 2021, the City Clerk’s Office will advise if the can approve these minutes.

The board reviewed the March 4, 2021 minutes. **A motion was made to, “Approve the March 4, 2021 minutes.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and the new members abstained, and the remaining members approved.**

The board reviewed the April 1, 2021 discussion. **A motion was made to, “Approve the April 1, 2021 discussion.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and the new members abstained, and the remaining members approved.**

The board reviewed the May 6, 2021 discussion. **A motion was made to, “Approve the May 6th, 2021 discussion.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and the new members abstained, and the remaining members approved.**

Deena Bell presented the City Manager’s Administrative Order which states that effective June 14th, 2021 City facilities will be open to the public. All City Advisory Boards shall resume in person meetings. The meetings will be held in designated City facilities. Also, the Clerk’s office issued parking passes for the board members.

FARMER’S MARKET: Ms. Parnes mentioned the board participates in educational workshops at the Farmer’s Market. In 2020 they participated in the Million Orchid Distribution with Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The event was very successful. Future participation should be considered. She expressed appreciation for the E-News publication.

ARBOR DAY EVENT: Ms. Bell briefly described the activities that take place during the Arbor Day Celebration. The board decides the theme, a school is selected, and the presentation details are reviewed/approved by the principal of the school. The Coral Gables Garden Club contributes to the cost of the tree planting. Discussion developed on the school selection process. The school must be in Coral Gables jurisdiction. It will also need to be approved by the City Manager.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Ms. Estefan-Chahine presented Ms. Bell with a the Merrick House Landscape Award. Discussion developed on whether the property should be recognized or the property owner. **A motion was made to, “Award the property and recognize owner with a letter.” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and unanimously approved.** Ms. Parnes described the nomination process. The City is divided into 7 zones. Each member selects five properties within the zone that they select. It was noted that several years ago an award recipient, owner of a plant nursery, decided to donate \$50,000 in flowering plants on a perpetual basis.

ROYAL POINCIANA FIESTA: Ms. Parnes gave a brief history on this event. Ms. Bell advised that Steve Pearson submitted the proposal to the City Manager. Ms. Parnes will follow up with Steve Pearson.

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:

PONCE CIRCLE PARK: Urban Robot prepared the concept plans. The City’s Board of Architects approved them. The design will now move to the next phase. A presentation will be requested for the September 2021 meeting.

LAMAR CURRY PARK: The Garden Club donated \$200,000 for the improvements. The plans are in the bid process. Construction will begin soon. The Garden Club President would like the board to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony.

CATALONIA PARK: Ms. Bell advised that any requests to change the designation of this park to a “Dog Friendly Park” should be forwarded to the Parks/Recreation Department. Ms. Estefan-Chahine mentioned that the Parks/Recreation Director advised her that the community was not in agreement. Any inquiry on parks should be submitted to the Parks/Recreation Department. Ms.

Bell referred inquiries on minutes of public meetings should be directed to the Clerk's Office. Ms. Counts mentioned requests for dog parks can also be submitted using the online portal, One Hundred Days of Listening. Ms. Bell added that a dog park will be constructed in the Underline's space. It was noted that board members can communicate with their commissioners. Ms. Bell mentioned that members can also attend the Parks Advisory Board meeting as guests. Mr. Dannemiller recommended a review of the Parks Master Plan. He also mentioned the board can make a motion to Request Commission Action. Chapman Field has a large dog park. The board concluded that inquiries related to parks should be directed to the Parks Advisory Board.

NORTH PONCE STREETScape: Ms. Bell encouraged board to drive north on Ponce De Leon to see the recently planted shade trees. Further tree plantings are also in the process.

DISCUSSION: Discussion developed on a request to change the schedule of the board meetings. The board requested a change in the date and time. Discussion developed on limiting the meeting to one hour. The board agreed to move the meeting date to the second Thursday of the month. They also agreed to change the time from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 am. This request will need to be reviewed by the City Clerk's Office. Ms. Estefan-Chahine requested an FPL presentation on the new Solar Program. Mr. Dannemiller pointed out the City's online Sustainability web page. Mathew Anderson is the contact person. It was noted the any agenda items should be submitted to Pilar Wiess, Deena Bell-Llewellyn and Brook Dannemiller.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, 9:00 A.M.
CORAL GABLES PUBLIC SAFETY BLDG
2151 SALZEDO ST, CORAL GABLES, FL
<https://zoom.us/j/94816686579>**