

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

Minutes of Meeting, October 4, 2007
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	APPOINTED BY
Barbara Katzen	P	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	-	-	P	E	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Jack Elmore	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	E	-	-	P	E	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Maricris Longo	P	P	E	A	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	Vice-Mayor Maria Anderson
George Blet	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Linda Lawrence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	E	-	-	E	P	Wayne "Chip" Withers
Joanna Lombard	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole
Robert Parsley	E	P	E	P	E	-	E	P	-	-	P	E	David Brown

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

STAFF:

Daniel Keys, Public Service Director

GUESTS:

Donna Box, President, Coral Gables Garden Club
Frank Diaz, Miami Lakes Beautification Committee
Felicia Salazar, Miami Lakes Cultural Affairs Committee

RECORDING SECRETARY: Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Joanna Lombard, opened the meeting at 9:25 a.m. and the roll was taken. Introductions were made by everyone present. A discussion of the previous meetings minutes took place during which Joanna Lombard asked that the sentence in the third paragraph under 'New Business' that states "Other projects were discussed by the committee, but it was decided to go forward with the one on Old Cutler Road" be struck from the record because it gives the impression that the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board approved of the project. Discussion was held and a motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the September 6, 2007 meeting as amended." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN: Dan Keys reported that the idea of making the map showing the projects being done or proposed is a good one, but the information is not all in one place. He will continue to work toward getting together the necessary information. Joanna Lombard asked if maybe a student could be used as an intern to help put the map together. She also mentioned that in an effort to help visualize these projects, there is a 3D version of Google-Earth that may be

used for this purpose. The City would need to download the file from Google-Earth to use as the base and developers would need to provide a 3D file of their project that could be plugged into the City's base to see how it would look in context with the surrounding area. Mr. Keys advised that he would investigate these suggestions further.

WEBSITE CONTENT: Dan Keys handed out an information sheet on the Ponce de Leon Blvd. median installation and roadway improvement project that he will be using as a base for the website content on this project. Dan noted that this project's goal was to improve traffic flow and provide trolley stop locations. Joanna Lombard told the board about a presentation she heard by Rick Hall regarding the designing of traffic lanes and medians. She mentioned that removing medians, narrowing the traffic lanes and widening the sidewalks would create a more pedestrian friendly street atmosphere.

Joanna Lombard asked what had happened with the articles about Frank Button that were mentioned at the January meeting when Kara Kautz and Simone Chin were in attendance. Dan Keys will check into what is available.

GREENING OF THE GABLES: Maricris Longo stated that the 100 block of Giralda Avenue might be a good location to make an impact by implementing the Landscape Master Plan because there are a lot of small commercial buildings and many pedestrians. Dan Keys stated that he had brought that location before the Greening of the Gables committee a while back and at that point they decided that it was too large of a project. He stated that a group of merchants on the street have gone to the BID to do an interim upgrade in which each of the strip planters would be removed and replaced with a tree planter. This would provide additional sidewalk space for café areas. This is in the discussion stage at this time. Dan Keys reported that two projects that the Greening of the Gables committee is planning are the 300 block of Alhambra Circle and the one on Old Cutler Road.

Board discussion regarding projects came to the conclusion that a list of five locations should be defined that could be recommended to the Greening of the Gables committee. Three locations were brought up. They are, Giralda Avenue between Galiano Street and Ponce de Leon Blvd., Aragon Avenue between Ponce de Leon Blvd. and Salzedo Street, and Salzedo Street from Coral Way Northward to the residential area.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dan Keys brought forward a proposal of the Coral Gables Community Foundation, Greening of the Gables Committee, to plant Date palms in the Western half of the median of the 300 block of Alhambra Circle and their proposal for a planting on Old Cutler Road at Saldano Street. Discussion was held regarding the 300 block of Alhambra Circle landscape plan. Following the discussion, George Blet made a motion stating that "The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board does not advocate permanent or interim plantings of palms or shade trees in the median of the 300 block of Alhambra Circle according to the Perez plan and supports a focused study of how Alhambra Circle

can become a pedestrian boulevard.” The motion was seconded by Maricris Longo, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote.

Discussion has held regarding the Foundation’s Old Cutler Road landscape project. Members agreed that this is a beautiful plan, but could think of other areas within Coral Gables that would have more impact on the overall public.

ANNUAL REPORT: Copies of the draft Annual Report for the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board were passed out and discussed. George Blet made a motion to “Approve the Annual Report as written for submission to the City Manager.” The motion was seconded by Maricris Longo and a vote was taken. The motion was adopted with a unanimous vote.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: None.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

APPROVED:

Joanna Lombard, Chairman

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007, 9:15 a.m.**
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida