

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, January 9, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	J 24	F 24	M 24	A 24	M 24	J 24	S 24	O 24	N 24	D 24	J 25	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	E	P	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	E	P	P	E	*	*	P	P	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Sara Lane Conde	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	E	E	E	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	E	P	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	P	E	P	E	P	P	*	*	E	E	E	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	-	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	P	A	A	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 Wiese, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

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

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **EVENT PLANNING 2025:**

Arbor Day 2025 – Ms. Bell said that at the last meeting the location to plant the tree for Arbor Day was voted to be on the grounds of City Hall. She will need to work with the project manager for the renovation currently happening at City Hall and look for an area that will not be affected by the construction. The options for trees to be considered at the last meeting were Orange Geiger and Lignum Vitae trees. Ms. Bell said that, in her opinion, the Lignum Vitae tree will be the best choice for the occasion; it is a native tree, very vital, does not overgrow. Orange Geiger trees are small, will not grow more than ten feet, it will not give a symmetrical look as they are very loose and have an erratic look. She suggested two Lignum Vitae trees by City Hall. She said that being the Arbor Day celebration for the centennial year, the tree(s) should be something spectacular. The Garden Club will donate toward the tree for Arbor Day as they have done in the past and the city tree trust fund will supplement the cost of the trees. ***A motion was made to “plant two Lignum Vitae trees at City Hall for Arbor Day”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.***

Beautification Awards 2024 – Ms. Bell informed the board that the plaques have been ordered, and professional photos are going to be taken for the plaques. Letters with invitation to receive a plaque of recognition at a city commission meeting will be mailed as soon as the date is provided by the City Clerk’s office. Ms. Estefan-Chahine suggested contacting the property owners by phone to personally deliver the award letter. Ms. Parnes said that she knows somebody who is receiving the award, and a personal invitation will be nice. The board selected the following award recipients: 1400 S Greenway Dr., 3201 Alhambra Cir., 242 Camilo Ave., 500 Hardee Rd. (6200 Maggiore St.), 1 Casuarina Concourse., and 11030 Paradela St.

- **TREE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2025:** Ms. Bell informed the board that the Tree of the Year competition for 2025 is being advertised in E-News, the city’s weekly digital newsletter. She asked board members to spread the word with their friends, family, and community organizations and to encourage them to go to the city website to vote and nominate a tree for the competition. Ms. Bell said that she has requested the PR office to make a flyer to hand around at the Farmer’s Market to promote the competition. Nominations will remain open until March 1st, 2025. The Arbor Day event will celebrate the announcement of the Tree of the Year winner.

- **FARMERS MARKET:** Ms. Bell informed board members that the spot for the presentation at the Farmer's Market has been secured for March 1, 2025, at 11am. Ms. Boynton-Trigg said that Mr. Shubbert has agreed to be the speaker with the topic "*Where the Grass will Grow.*"
- **UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:**

Black Olive Treatment: Ms. Bell said that Black Olive trees are about 25% of city's tree canopy. They are very resilient, very sturdy, and great shade trees, but they have a big problem with staining. The staining is caused by mites and caterpillars that eat the leaves; stains come from the pests not from the tree. Up to 2000 trees are budgeted to be treated. Trees will be treated by request only. Treatment is applied during the months of February and March.

Tree Succession 2024: Ms. Bell said that the bid has been awarded. The contractor will plant more than a hundred new trees on the swale. A diverse list of different tree species focusing on native, flowering trees. The planting is expected to start by the end of February 2025, pending procurement contract underway.

US 1 Relandscaping of the Medians: Ms. Bell informed board members that the plan and design are done, and the project is going to the procurement office for the bidding process; it is a long process that could take some time.

Update Tree Inventory: Ms. Bell said that it is time to update the inventory of assets, and the city is hiring a company to update the tree inventory citywide. The IT department is interviewing three companies to start the work this year. They are going to drive through the city with the most sophisticated cameras and AI technology, photographing the right of way assets, locating all tree locations, and make sure the GIS map system is completely updated. The project might take a year or two to finish. This technology will be a game changer as it will provide crucial information to be more efficient with the tree pruning schedule, invoicing, tree inspections, etc. It will tell the location of the tree, size, species and condition of the tree, and other environmental information.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025, 10:30 AM