

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, September 4, 2014
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	APPOINTED BY
Ana Martin-Lavielle	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Anna Louise Fulks	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Alexander Adams	P	P	P	A	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Barbara Perez	A	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Kay Murff		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Robert Berman		E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	City Manager, Patrick Salerno
Paul Zamek	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	A	P	-	-	P	Board as a Whole

STAFF:

Brook Dannemiller, Public Service Director, Board Secretary
Ayliin Hernandez, Clerical Assistant, Recording Secretary

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

GUESTS:

Julia Abraham, Public Works Civil Engineer
Robert Parsley, Geomantic Designs, Inc
Misha Adir, Geomantic Designs, Inc
Gustavo Santana, AECOM

OPEN MEETING: The Vice Chair, Anna Louise Fulks, opened the meeting at 8:37 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of June 5, 2014. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.”**

NEW BUSINESS:

PONCE DE LEON BLVD - 8TH STREET TO FLAGLER ST: Mr. Parsley (Geomantic Designs) gave a presentation on the landscape improvement plans. A slide presentation provided an overview of the existing theme as well as the health of the landscape. He pointed out the following species, Royal Poinciana, Jacarandas and Canary Island Date Palms. He distributed a copy of the plans that analyzed the trees that will be transplanted, the diseased trees that will be replaced and the trees that are in good condition that will remain. He mentioned the City’s desire for permanent colorful trees, a consistent theme and a decrease in mowing. He mentioned proposed landscape. The Board complimented the plans. Ms. Fulks requested consideration of the Florida Geiger Tree in future projects. Mr. Parsley noted her request. He mentioned curbing and irrigation are included. Mr. Adams inquired on trimming all of the trees; existing as well as newly planted trees. Mr. Parsley replied that all of the trees will be trimmed. Mr. Adams inquired on the installation of a solar light to light up the “Welcome to Coral Gables” sign at the Douglas Entrance. Mr. Parsley responded that lighting was not included in this project. Mr. Dannemiller

advised he will ask Mr. Pino, Asst. Public Works Director, to look into it. Ms. Fulks inquired on lighting for the trees. Mr. Dannemiller replied this project was tailored for a residential neighborhood which called for a soft colorful theme, as oppose to, the formal Ponce de Leon theme that includes Green Island Ficus, Date Palms, and lighting. Mr. Parsley welcomed the Board's comments. The Board approved of the plans with two comments. **A motion was made to "Approve the Ponce De Leon Boulevard Landscape Improvement Project with the following recommendations.**

- Ensure that all the landscape is trimmed upon completion.
- Look into the installation of a light facing the "Welcome to Coral Gables" sign.

The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously."

COUNTY CLUB PRADO - 8TH STREET TO SEVILLA AVE: Mr. Parsley gave a presentation on the landscape improvement plans. He advised that this project focused on the center median landscape. He used the slide presentation to show the existing theme and the large open spaces. He mentioned this project does not include a fountain, jogging path or playground equipment. The concept of this design is to keep the existing open spaces. He identified the trees that would be transplanted, the diseased trees that would be replaced and the trees that are in good condition that would remain. He pointed out that the colorful trees were incorporated at Mr. Dannemiller's request. The following species will be used between canopy spaces; Royal Poinciana, Cassia Bakeriana, White Geiger and Kapok. He complimented several existing Royal Poinciana Trees. He added they will try to improve the health of the existing trees. Mr. Parsley also used 1930's photographs of County Club Prado to show how impressive appearance of the coconut palms. He mentioned that the City would like to recreate that same look. An inquiry was made on the trellises. He replied that the bougainvillea vines will be cut back and the trunks will be correctly tied. The exiting Oaks were noted. A Board member compared the project to a tropical paradise.

Mr. Zamek complimented the plans. He also expressed concern for several issues such as the resurfacing of the street, the speeding traffic and parking availability. Although, these issues are not part of the project they should be addressed. He mentioned that closing Milan Ave. may be a possible solution. Discussion developed on the public using the median for parking. Mr. Dannemiller replied there is enough space for two traffic lanes and for parallel parking. He will ask Mr. Pino to look into the traffic and parking concerns

Mr. Adams inquired on having a drinking fountain and a bicycle rack installed. Mr. Zamek disagreed. He added that it would give the appearance of a park. Mr. Dannemiller mentioned that the intersection of Granada and 8th Street would be a possible location for these features.

The Board's approval was requested. **A motion was made to "Approve the Country Club Prado Project. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously."**

A motion was made to, "Improve the landscape at the entrance of Coral Way & Red Rd.; address traffic calming; develop a parking plan; and enforce no parking on the median along Country Club Prado. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously."

KINGS BAY WATERFRONT PARK: Mr. Santana (AECOM) gave a presentation on the design. He mentioned that a preliminary plan, created by the Kings Bay Community, was updated to include the exiting utilities and vegetation. He pointed out that the plan includes sustainable materials and practices to ensure the community's long term enjoyment. The

perimeter of the plan is from the sea wall to the street. The sea wall is not included in the scope of the plan. Concrete bricks will be used to create a safety zone at the community entrance on Mitchel Drive. The berms and the retaining wall will be incorporated to create sitting stations. Landscaping will be incorporated around the sitting stations as well as the end of the streets to create focal points. A survey was taken of the existing vegetation. It included Coconuts, Purple Tababulias, Mahogany and Oak Trees. It will be feasible to keep as much of the exiting landscape as possible. The selected new plant material is to be salt and drought tolerant. The connectivity of a semi-public boardwalk marina will be addressed at a future public meeting. The plans include more golf cart parking spaces, than those originally requested. The benches and lighting will be the same as the furnishings used at Ingraham Park. Discussion developed. An inquiry was made on the color of the brick pavers. Mr. Sanatana advised that they will be the same as those used throughout the City, for maintenance purposes. Improper parking will need to be controlled by using No Parking signs. Mr. Adams inquired on a landscape buffer. Mr. Santana replied that another public meeting will be held and the public will be able to make their inquiries. The Board generally liked the design. **A motion was made to, "Approve the Kings Bay Waterfront Park Design. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously."**

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ana Martin-Lavielle, Chair

ATTEST:

Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida