

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

Draft Minutes of Meeting, June 1, 2017
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	J	A	S	*O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	
Ana Martin-Lavielle	-	-	E		E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Bonita Norman	-	-	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Vice Mayor Patricia Keon
Kay Murff	-	-	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Frank Quesada
Barbara Perez	-	-	E		P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Rahul Kothari	-	-	P		E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Michael Mena
Vacant	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Robert Berman	-	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Board as a Whole

STAFF:

Brook Dannemiller, Landscape Services Director, Board Secretary
Ayliin Hernandez, Landscape Services, Recording Secretary

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

OPEN MEETING: The Chair, Kay Murff, opened the meeting at 8:38 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of May 4, 2017.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.** Prior to the meeting, Ms. Martin-Lavielle sent an e-mail requesting that the board excuse her absence. **A motion was made to “Excuse Ana Martin-Lavielle’s absence. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

SOURCE OF INCOME STATEMENT: Blank copies of the Source of Income Statement form were distributed. The board was advised that members serving during calendar year 2016 will need to fill out and submit the form, to the City Clerk, by July 1st, 2017. Mr. Berman handed his completed form to Ms. Hernandez. She will forward it to the City Clerk.

OLD BUSINESS:

FARMER’S MARKET EVENT: Discussion developed on the event date. **A motion was made to “Request that the 2018 Farmer’s Market Event be held on Saturday, January 27th or on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018, respectively. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

ARBOR DAY: Ms. Murff submitted a list of suggestions, previously compiled by the board, to improve future events. The list included the following: 1) Start the Junior Program at 10:15 am. 2) Telephone and personally invite the Landscape Award recipients. 3) Schedule the event date on an earlier day, such as March. 4) Provide crossing guard to ensure safety. 5) Have the tents set-up earlier or on the grass. The following comments were added to the list. 5) Change text on the program to “Official Program.” 6) Reserve the STEM Bus from Coral Gables Fairchild Tropical Garden. 7) Look for potential Arbor Day sites near Carver Elementary/Middle School and/or Ponce Middle School. Discussion developed on the event date. Displaying the children’s

artwork at the Library was mentioned. Ms. Perez confirmed it had been arranged. Discussion focused on the date of the Arbor Day event. The board selected several dates in order of preference. **A motion was made to “Request that the following dates be reviewed for the 2018 Arbor Day Celebration, March 16, April 13th or April 27th, 2018, respectively. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:

PASSIVE PARKS UPDATE: Mr. Dannemiller advised once the required fence height for around a playground area at Majorca Park is determined, a follow-up community meeting will be schedule, likely in late June or July.

BETSY ADAMS PARK: Mr. Dannemiller described the playground equipment, the landscape buffer around the perimeter and the lighting. The park opening date has not been determined.

MERRICK HOUSE UPDATE: The house renovations are scheduled for completion sometime in July. The landscape improvements are currently ongoing.

HISTORIC ENTRANCES UPDATE: The Granada Entrance and 8th Street project has been delayed due to roof structure repairs. The fountains are operable. The landscape improvements will be reviewed by Historic Preservation.

STREETSCAPE UPDATE: The project should be completed approximately in early 2018. The Streetscape website provides the most current details on the completion dates and schedule of the progress. Giralda Ave is further along in the construction process.

DISCUSSION: Discussion developed on member reappointments. Ms. Murff and Mr. Kothari advised they had been appointed. Ms. Martin-Lavielle had electronically notified the board that she had been reappointed. Voting for the Chair, Vice Chair and Board as a Whole positions will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

On behalf of the Sustainability Board, Ms. Murff inquired on the health impact of the herbicide RoundUp used by the Landscape Division. Mr. Dannemiller advised RoundUp is used in limited amounts. It is used as a weed and grass killer. It does not contaminate the soil or the groundwater when handled and applied properly. Round-up is also used when re-sodding as necessary to kill the existing grass and weeds to reduce weed infestation and prevent fungal issues from decomposing grass under the sod. The golf course renovation is an example of an area where the use of RoundUp was critical in the success of reestablishing healthy, weed-free grass. The search for organic chemicals is also being looked into.

Mr. Berman mentioned a public park has been established on Alhambra Circle without public access, specifically sidewalks. Mr. Dannemiller advised that he will check with the Transportation and Sustainability Asst. PW Director, Jessica Keller. Discussion focused on the need for sidewalks. **A motion was made to “Voice concern that there are no sidewalks providing safe pedestrian access to the new Betsy Adams and Coral Gables Garden Club Park currently under construction on Alhambra Circle, and to recommend providing a sidewalk along Alhambra, from Blue Road to Bird Road, to provide safe pedestrian access to the park.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

An inquiry was made on the east bound lane construction of Sevilla Ave. Mr. Dannemiller advised a turning lane is being added.

An inquiry was made on the valet attendants parking cars one of the lanes. Mr. Dannemiller advised the Parking Director, Kevin Kinney, is working on addressing those situations, and violations should be reported to him.

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

APPROVED:

Kay Murff, Chair

ATTEST:

Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room-, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida