

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

Minutes of Meeting, November 2, 2017
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

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

STAFF:

Jessica Keller, Asst. Public Works Director of Transpt. & Sustainability	A = Absent
Brook Dannemiller, Landscape Services Director, Board Secretary	P = Present
Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Landscape Services, Landscape Architect	E = Excused
Ayliin Hernandez, Landscape Services, Recording Secretary	

OPEN MEETING: The Vice Chair, Robert Berman, opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of October 5, 2017, as corrected.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

SIDEWALK PROGRAM UPDATE: **SIDEWALK PROGRAM UPDATE:** The Public Works Asst. Director, Jessica Keller, explained the opportunities for installation of sidewalks. Under the *Neighborhood Enhancement Program* the City will cover all costs on collector and arterial streets and 50 percent of the costs on other roadways. Another opportunity is a grant that was received for installation of the sidewalks and bicycle lanes on Alhambra Circle between Coral Way and San Amaro. In either opportunity, two-thirds of the residents will need to approve the sidewalks. Discussion developed on the need for a sidewalk on Alhambra Circle, from Bird Road to Blue Road, providing accessibility to the new *Betsy Adams and Coral Gables Garden Club Park*. The board mentioned how the increase in pedestrian traffic requires pedestrian safety on Alhambra Circle, from Bird Road to Blue Road. **A motion was made to “Propose a resolution that the City consider pedestrian access to the new *Betsy Adams and Coral Gables Garden Club Park*, a special pedestrian safety circumstance given the new park and playground being installed, as such the City should install the appropriate pedestrian sidewalk or pathway along Alhambra Circle, from Blue Road to Bird Road, regardless of the number of property owners that approve or oppose the sidewalk or pathway.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.** An inquiry was made on the sidewalk along University Drive. Ms. Keller advised that community meetings have been held and a subsequent meeting will be scheduled during the early part of the new year. An inquiry was made on the responsibility of the sidewalks. Ms. Keller advised that under the current code

*Hurricane Irma – no meeting

the maintenance of the sidewalk is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The swale maintenance is also the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Ms. Keller introduced a pilot program, *Gables Greenways*. The program consist of accessible bike infrastructure. More information can be found at www.gablesgreenways.com.

TREE CODE PROPOSED CHANGES: Mr. Garrigo advised that the Tree Code should be in compliance with the pending FPL discussions. Mr. Dannemiller advised that the City Arborist, Jorge Riviera, is looking into incorporating procedures for trimming fruit trees to avoid contact with power lines.

ROYAL POINCIANA FESTIVAL PLANNING: The Landscape Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 7TH, 2018. Discussion developed on presenting the workshop at the Boy Scouts of American Hut. A Special Events Application will need to be approved by the Special Events Committee. Discussion developed on designating a new liaison. **A motion was made to, "Appoint Elizabeth Parnes to serve as liaison between Landscape Beautification Advisory Board and the Royal Poinciana Committee for the planning of the Landscape Workshop scheduled for June 2018." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.** The City Arborist, Jorge Riviera, will be the speaker. Recording the workshop will need to be confirmed with Public Affairs.

OLD BUSINESS:

FARMER'S MARKET EVENT: The event date is Saturday, January 27, 2018. Victor Lazzari will be the speaker. Mr. Berman will contact Mr. Lazzari. The topic was not confirmed. Mr. Dannemiller and Mr. Rivera will be available to answer City related questions.

ARBOR DAY EVENT: The event is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 2018. Discussion developed on the location. An e-mail from the Coral Gables Government Affairs Manager, Naomi Levi, confirmed that Coral Gables Preparatory Academy confirmed an interest in having the 2018 Arbor Day Celebration at their school. **A motion was made to "Designate Barbara Perez, Board Chair, as the liaison between the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board and the Miami-Dade County Public School System for the 2018 Arbor Day Celebration." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:

MERRICK HOUSE UPDATE: The City Landscape Architect, Deena Bell-Llewellyn, is working on the landscape plans.

HURRICANE DEBRIS REMOVAL: Mr. Dannemiller provided an overview on the debris removal process. Trash service provided by City crews fell behind schedule. Ficus tree stumps throughout the City are in the process of removal. Discussion developed on replacement trees and the process.

DISCUSSION: Kay Murff will be moving and had to resign. Commissioner Quesada will be appointing Lucy Reinhardt to fill the vacancy. Discussion developed on the Waterway Advisory Board and the waterway activities. Discussion developed on orchids being planted throughout the City of Coral Gables.

*Hurricane Irma – no meeting

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

APPROVED:


Barbara Perez, Chair

ATTEST:


Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

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

*Hurricane Irma – no meeting

