

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 Minutes of Meeting, November 6, 2014  
 War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	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	A	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	Comm. Pat Keon
Barbara Perez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Kay Murff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Robert Berman	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			P	E	P	Interim City Manager, Carmen Olazabal
Paul Zamek	P	E	P	P	P	A	P	-	-	P	P	E	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:**

Judy Mangasarian, Coral Gables Garden Club Member  
 Lis Ferrer, Public Works Project Engineer  
 Robert Parsley, Geomantic Designs, Inc.  
 Misha Adir, Geomantic Designs, Inc.

**OPEN MEETING:** The Chair, Ana Martin-Lavielle, 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 October 2, 2014. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.”** Introductions took place.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PLANS FOR SOLANO PRADO GUARDHOUSE AND LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS:**  
 Ms. Ferrer, the Project Manager, mentioned that Robert Parsley would provide a presentation. Mr. Dannemiller mentioned that these improvements are for the Old Cutler Bay Entrance. He requested the Board’s review and feedback upon completion of the presentation. Mr. Parsley advised that although this is a City Project, the Homeowner’s Association will have input on the material selection and the layout. Mr. Parsley used a slide presentation to show the design. There will be a sidewalk along the entrance for the domestic employees. The exiting Oak trees will remain. Soft plantings will be used. Decorative pavers will serve as traffic calmers; a sample paver was displayed. The homeowners will make the final decision on the pavers. Mr. Parsley advised that the basic concept has been accepted by Public Works and the homeowners. The budget is \$230,000. Discussion developed on the installation of a black aluminum picket fence covered by plantings. Mr. Adams mentioned that Australian Pines are invasive and should be

removed. Mr. Parsley replied they can be kept clean and aesthetically they serve a purpose. Discussion developed on native plantings. The plantings at Fewell Park were referred to as an example. Mr. Adams recommended the use of Wild Coffee trees. He added that the pavers should have a more natural looking finish. **A motion was made to “Approve the Plans for the Solano Prado Guardhouse and Landscape Improvements with consideration to native plantings and pavers with a more natural finish.”**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**ARBOR DAY PLANNING:** Ms. Mangasarian presented the available dates and sites. She mentioned that the following dates are available: 3/6, 3/13, 4/17, and 4/24/2015. The Board and the Garden Club gave preference to April 25<sup>th</sup>, the National Arbor Day. **A motion was made to “request consideration of April 24, 2015 as the Coral Gables Arbor Day. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.”** Discussion developed on various event sites. The following were selected for consideration: Merrick Park, Phillips Park and San Amaro Dr. & Mendavia Ave. **A motion was made to “request consideration of Merrick Park, Phillips Park or San Amaro Dr. & Mendavia Ave, respectively, as the Arbor Day Celebration site. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.”** Discussion on the attending school was deferred.

**DURANGO & BANOS TRIANGLE:** Mr. Dannemiller confirmed there is a budget. A public meeting will be held to get the public’s input on the Ficus tree that was removed. Mr. Parsley’s, design plans are under review. As the process develops, Mr. Dannemiller will update the Board.

**PONCE DE LEON LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS NORTH OF 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET:** A public meeting was held. Traffic concern was expressed. The design was approved. A budget was confirmed.

**PONCE DE LEON PHASE III STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS:** The improvements will take place from Menores Ave. to 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The theme from the first three phases will be repeated. Pedestrian crossing modifications are under review. Bismarck Palms will not be planted.

**COUNTRY CLUB PRADO:** Mr. Parsley is working on the design. A public meeting should be held within a month or two.

**FRED B. HARNETT PONCE CIRCLE PARK:** The consultant is on board and there is funding. The success of this park depends on the connectivity to the surrounding streetscape. Discussion developed on an isolated palm tree.

**LIBRARY GARDEN:** The Butterfly Garden plantings have begun and a tree will be removed to provide more sunlight.

**MAGGIORE PARK:** A public meeting was held. The public approved of the design. Concern was expressed for the parking. Mr. Dannemiller advised that parking accommodations will be looked into.

**ALAHAMBRA PARK:** A public meeting was held. The consensus of the group was for the installation of sidewalks. There is now a schematic design, a concept with everyone's input. The next phase will be the construction drawings where the details will be ironed out.

**KINGS BAY WATERFRONT PARK:** Mr. Dannemiller advised that the public meeting went well. This is a neighborhood streetscape going to the marina. There is a schematic design, a concept with everyone's input. The next phase is the construction drawings.

**GRANADA GOLF COURSE:** The public meeting was well attended. The pedestrian path became a main topic of conversation. The golf course renovations were approved. The next phase will be the construction drawings which include renovating the tees, the greens, repairing the fairways, extensions for the golf cart paths, the rain shelters, water fountains, and up lighting of the Banyan trees. The construction should begin in April 2015. The pedestrian path and the intersection improvements are part of the Master Plan; these renovations will begin at a later time. An inquiry was made on the selection of the pathway material. Mr. Dannemiller advised it had not been decided. Another inquiry was made on whether the up lighting would affect the bats. Mr. Dannemiller replied that the consultant contacted the appropriate environmental agency and that the environmental groups did not have any concerns. Discussion developed on the re-sodding of the golf course. Mr. Dannemiller advised that the golf course is expected to be closed between April and October 2015.

**TREE SUCCESSION PLAN:** This project is in the procurement process. It should go before Commission at the next meeting and is should commence in January 2015.

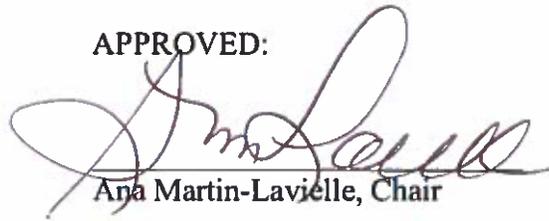
**REMOVAL OF HAZARDOUS DYING OAK TREE IN MERRICK PARK:** Tree was removed.

**REPAIRS AT DOUGLAS AND MIRACLE MILE:** The fountain on the S.E. corner of Miracle Mile was repaired. The traffic signal mast arm on the NW corner will be moved approximately 4 feet NW of its current location. There is existing electrical in place at the column that appears to be intended for uplighting the columns. The City is looking into the feasibility of installing uplighting on the columns using the existing electrical. The annual plantings (red Begonias and white Impatiens) are being planted. There are also plans to improve the landscape in front of the Ross department store. The Desert Cassia tree that is in poor condition will be removed. The Cardboard Palms around the columns will also be removed. The Miracle Mile project will incorporate improvements west of the archways.

**DISCUSSION:** An inquiry was made on planting flowers at the base of the statue in front of City Hall. Mr. Dannemiller advised that it is not feasible at the moment because there is no irrigation in that area. A comment was made on using the Garden Club funds for the irrigation. Mr. Dannemiller advised that the improvements to this area will likely be incorporated with the Miracle Mile improvements. Discussion developed on the Venetian Pool renovations. Mr. Dannemiller advised that the improvements should begin around the end of November. An inquiry was made on restoring the base of the street lights on Riviera Drive. Mr. Dannemiller advised that Dona Spain would be the person to speak with. A comment was made on the poor condition of the landscape between the Court house and the parking lot. Mr. Dannemiller advised he would look into it. Another comment was made on the poor conditions of the landscape between Publix and the post office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

APPROVED:



Ana Martin-Lavielle, Chair

ATTEST:



Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014, 8:30 a.m.**  
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida