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ASCA AMERICAN SOCIETY of CONSULTING ARBORISTS

June 11, 2014

Mr. Richard Heisenbottle
R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, PA
2199 Ponce De Leon Blvd., Suite 400
Coral Gables, FL 33134

RE: 6801 Granada Boulevard
Coral Gables, Florida

Dear Richard:

On May 21, 2014 we met at the above-referenced property where you provided me with a tree survey and requested that I locate and tag all specimen trees within the area of the property south of the proposed boundary line.

METHODS
The City of Coral Gables Standards for Removal and Relocation of Trees (Article II) addresses tree protection and permitting but does not provide a definition of "specimen tree". However, the Miami-Dade County Tree Preservation and Protection code (Section 24) defines a specimen tree as follows:

"A specimen tree is almost any tree with a trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) of 18 inches or greater (or a circumference of 56.5 inches and greater) when measured at a point 4.5 feet from the ground at natural grade. The following trees are not considered specimen:

-Non-native fruit trees that are cultivated or grown for the specific purpose of producing edible fruit, including, but not limited to mangos, avocados, or species of citrus.

-Non-native species of the genus Ficus.

- All multi-trunk palms except Paurotis palm/Everglades palm (Acoelorrhaphe wrightii) and Reclinata palm (Phoenix reclinata), which have a minimum overall height of 15 feet."

Also, prohibited species, a list of which is provided by the County, are never specimen trees.

For the purpose of this study, I have used the Miami-Dade County definition of "Specimen Tree" to determine which trees on this site are specimen trees. I tagged each of them with orange flagging tape with the tree number written on it and highlighted them on the tree survey. I identified each tree by common and scientific name, measured its trunk diameter using a diameter tape, and estimated overall height and crown spread.

On May 5, 2014, we met at the site with City of Coral Gables staff Brook Dannemiller, Troy Springmyer, and Charles Wu and evaluated the condition of those specimen trees. Tree health and structure were evaluated to determine overall condition, and whether or not, in the event of new construction, those trees warranted retention or relocation.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

This site has dense canopy coverage which is composed of both native and non-native species. The predominant native species are live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*), and strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*). There are also some exotic species including sausage tree (*Kigelia pinnata*, native to Africa), copperpod (*Peltophorum pterocarpum*, native to Malaysia), and Manila tamarind (*Pithecellobium dulce*, native to the Mexico/Central America and considered weedy/invasive here). There are numerous palms, both native species (*Sabal palmetto*) and non-native (various) and some fruit trees (avocado and sapodilla). There are some non-native *Ficus* species and some invasive/prohibited Australian pines (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) along the water's edge.

Due to the dense canopy coverage, most of the hardwood trees have high crowns, many of which are somewhat sparsely foliated due to shade. They have twig dieback and in some cases, dead branches or leaders. Some trees have bent trunks where they have grown beneath the canopies of other trees. Most of the larger trees have incurred storm damage through the years; some have been topped either to remove storm damaged limbs or reduce their size. As individuals, most of the trees are not particularly high-quality specimens and are generally in fair condition.

INDIVIDUAL TREE EVALUATIONS

We determined that there are 18 specimen trees worthy of retention or relocation. They are as follows:

Tree #17

Tree #17 is a strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*), a native *Ficus* species. It is growing on top of the rock wall with a trunk diameter above the wall of approximately 36 inches. The tree is about 60 feet in height, with a 50-foot crown spread. It is in good general condition but dependent on the wall for support.

Tree #95

Tree #95 is a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Its trunk diameter is 22.5 inches, overall height 40 feet, and crown spread of 40 feet. It has a high crown which is slightly sparse, with dead branches up to 4 inches in diameter. The tree is generally in fair to good condition.

Tree #119

Tree #119 is a gumbo limbo (*Bursera simaruba*). Its trunk diameter is 24 inches measured below its double leaders. The leaders measure 15.5 and 16 inches, respectively. The tree is about 40 feet in overall height with a 35-foot crown spread. It has a high crown which is slightly sparse, and one main branch is broken and decayed. The tree is generally in fair to good condition.

Tree #144

Tree #144 is a strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*), a *Ficus* species native to South Florida. Its trunk diameter measures approximately 52 inches and includes numerous trunks and trunk-like aerial root structures. It is about 35 feet in overall height with a 55-foot crown spread. With the exception of one dead/decaying limb lying laterally through the center of the crown, the tree is in very good condition.

Tree #173

Tree #173 is a live oak. Its trunk diameter is 19.5 inches. It is approximately 40 feet in overall height, with a 30-foot crown spread. Its crown is high and sparse, and has been pruned at the property line. The tree is generally in fair condition.

Tree #186

Tree #186 is a gumbo limbo. Its trunk diameter is 24 inches, height 35 feet, and crown spread 25 feet. It has some old topping cuts and is generally in fair to good condition.

Tree #196

Tree #196 is a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). It has a trunk diameter of 26 inches, an overall height of approximately 50 feet, and a 50-foot crown spread. It is in good general condition (seen below with orange tag).

Tree #198
Tree #198 is a gumbo limbo. It has a trunk diameter of 28 inches and an overall height of about 30 feet. It has two main leaders that are widely-spread, resulting in a total crown spread of about 50 feet. Its crown is slightly sparse due to shade. It is very close to live oak #200 (seen behind). The tree is generally in fair to good condition.

Tree #200
Tree #200 is a live oak with a 36-inch trunk diameter. It is about 30 feet in height with a 50-foot crown spread. Its crown is sparse and it has one dead limb about 12 inches in diameter (the one with the orange tag). It has numerous other dead branches up to 6 inches in diameter. The tree is generally in fair condition.

Tree #211
Tree #211 is a live oak with a trunk diameter of 18.8 inches. It is about 45 feet in height with a 35-foot crown spread. It is tall, thin, and sparse, with dead branches up to 6 inches in diameter. This tree is in fair to poor condition.

Tree #216
Tree #216 is a live oak with a trunk diameter of 23.8 inches. It is about 40 feet in height with a 30-foot crown spread. The crown is very sparse with numerous dead branches up to 10 inches in diameter. This tree is generally in fair to poor condition.

Tree #226
Tree #226 is a live oak with a 27-inch trunk diameter. It is approximately 50 feet in overall height with a 35-foot crown spread. Its crown is slightly sparse and it has dead branches up to 8 inches in diameter. It is generally in fair condition.

Tree #228
Tree #228 is a live oak with a trunk diameter of 23 inches. It is approximately 40 feet in overall height with a 30-foot crown spread. Its crown is slightly sparse and has dead branches up to 6 inches in diameter. The tree is generally in fair condition.

Tree #312

Tree #312 is a live oak with a 27.5-inch diameter trunk. It is about 40 feet in overall height with a 45-foot crown spread. It has one dead leader 14.5 inches in diameter (seen on left side of tree). This tree is in fair to good condition.

Trees #313 and #314

Trees #313 and #314 are both live oaks, growing close to one another near the driveway where they have had ample space and sunlight. Tree #313 has a trunk diameter of 23.5 inches. It is approximately 50 feet in height with a 40-foot crown spread. Tree #314 is a live oak. Its trunk measures 31 inches in diameter. It is approximately 50 feet in overall height, with a 50-foot crown spread. Both trees are generally in good condition. In the photo below tree #313 is in the front and #314 is behind it.

Tree #315

Tree #315 is a live oak. Its trunk diameter is 20.3 inches and the trunk is leaning/bent under the shade of other trees. It is about 35 feet in height with a 30-foot crown spread that is one-sided. The tree is in fair to good condition.

Tree #322

Tree #322 is a live oak with a trunk diameter of 25 inches. It is approximately 40 feet in overall height, with a crown spread of 40 feet. Its crown is slightly sparse with a little twig dieback. It is generally in fair condition.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I have located, tagged, and evaluated the specimen trees on this site. The predominant species are live oaks and gumbo limbos, with a few strangler figs and some exotic species. Some trees are in good general condition, but most are in fair condition due to shade, crowding, and old storm or pruning damage. A few are in poor condition due to damage or disease. Together with City staff, 18 specimen trees have been determined to be worthy of retention or relocation should new construction occur.

Thank you for calling on me to assist with this project. Please let me know if you have any questions or additional needs for assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa H. Hammer, RCA
Horticultural Consultant