

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

Minutes of Meeting, May 1, 2008
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	M	A	M	APPOINTED BY
Barbara Katzen	P	-	-	P	E	P	P	-	P	P	P	-	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Jack Elmore	E	-	-	P	E	P	P	-	P	P	P	-	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Maricris Longo	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	-	P	Maria Anderson
George Blet	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	-	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Linda Lawrence	E	-	-	E	P	P	E	-	P	P	P	-	E	Wayne "Chip" Withers
Joanna Lombard	P	-	-	P	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	-	P	Board-As-A-Whole
Robert Parsley	P	-	-	P	E	P	P	-	P	E	P	-	E	David Brown

STAFF:

Daniel Keys, Public Service Director

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

GUESTS:

Donna Box, Coral Gables Garden Club President

RECORDING SECRETARY: Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Joanna Lombard, opened the meeting at 9:16 a.m. and the roll was taken. Janet Carrasquillo brought to the boards' attention that Linda Lawrence and Robert Parsley had contacted the Public Service Department requesting excused absences for this meeting. Members agreed that they should be granted excused absences. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the March 27, 2008 meeting." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN: Dan Keys reported that there were no additions made to the map. He will bring it to the June 5th meeting.

TREE EDUCATION/WEBSITE CONTENT: Members requested that the appropriate arrangements be made to have an IT representative attend the June 5th meeting to go through the City website with the board.

GREENING OF THE GABLES: Dan Keys stated that the Greening of the Gables committee has offered to finance more landscaping on Alhambra Circle. He explained that there are two landscape plans for the two block section of Alhambra Circle. The first which has already been approved by the City Commission featured only palm trees, and the second a combination of palms at the focal points and shade trees in center areas. The second plan could be completed with the funds currently being offered by the Greening of the Gables committee whereas the currently approved plan would cost 3-4

times that. Members discussed the two plans and their attributes with the thought of suggesting to the Commission that the second "palm/tree" planting be approved as an alternate. It was the consensus of the board that the initial plan had the idea of introducing palms as a signature element and the current plan has changed that by adding the benefit of shade trees for their ecological benefit along with keeping the boulevard as a botanical garden. They agreed that this would be more consistent with the original intent for Alhambra Circle making it a preferable plan in their view.

NEW BUSINESS:

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Dan Keys reviewed the City's policy for board attendance. He noted that there are two excusable reasons for absence; they are for illness or being out of town.


BOARD MINUTES AND AGENDA: Janet Carrasquillo informed members that all future meeting agendas and draft minutes will be sent via email. She requested that members in turn reply via email that they have received the email and whether they will be attending. She will also be emailing the scanned approved minutes.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: No new items.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: Dan Keys informed the board about the proposed landscape plan for the Spanish Village area around Ponce Circle Park, with funds from the developer of one of the new buildings. He presented the preliminary plans to board members for their information and comments. Discussion followed regarding the purposes of the park itself, the size of the park, the designs being proposed, and the materials being proposed. Board members agreed that the park needs to be true to itself and reflect atmosphere of the City of Coral Gables as a whole. The band shell feature was believed to not be a beneficial use of space. The pergolas were well liked, but it was suggested that they be moved closer to the street, which would serve to slow the traffic around the park. It was agreed that the proposed fountain was larger than necessary. It was noted that Coral Gables' signature materials are oolitic limestone with stucco; members would like to see them used as in the Prado entrance. Dan noted that efforts are being made to change the wide intersections into green spaces to shorten the space necessary for pedestrians to access the park. Discussion also included the differences between urban and suburban parks; what their features include and the overall look of the park. The consensus was that Ponce Circle Park should be considered an urban park. Members agreed to research other urban parks and what has worked, or not worked for them and bring their research and suggestions to the June 5th meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

APPROVED:


Joanna Lombard, Chairman *Acting Chair*

ATTEST:


Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2008, 9:15 a.m.

Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida