



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
September 28, 2010**

ITEM TITLE:

Landscape Beautification Advisory Board Meeting of September 2, 2010

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

TRAFFIC CIRCLE UPDATE: Dan Keys informed the Board that a new traffic circle was installed at Valencia Avenue and Indian Mound Trail. The landscape in the right-of-way will continue with the existing Crepe Myrtles, however, the landscape in the center of the circle has not been decided yet.

Recommendations were made with reference to the landscape design of the traffic circles in general. Robert Parsley suggested looking at the most cost efficient and attractive circles built within the last three or four years and using them as a guide for future plans. He also mentioned creating a map with the traffic circles marked and a legend providing a brief description of the landscape in each circle. Carlos Perea indicated that low maintenance should be taken into consideration when designing the landscape. Maricris Longo suggested comparing the plans for future circles with the successful existing circles. Barbara Katzen suggested taking pictures of the circles.

SEGOVIA STREET UPDATE: Dan Keys prefaced that this project was still under analysis and reminded the Board they made a motion, at the June 3rd meeting, requesting that any changes made to this project should be brought before them for comment. This is the intent of the City.

Concerns were expressed for the time frame and how any delays could affect the allocated resources. Dan Keys recommended waiting for a comprehensive plan from the Administration and Maricris Longo stated that she would research the status of the project and would report to the Board at the next meeting.

Further discussion unfolded regarding the impact this project will have on the neighborhood. The topics mentioned were the charter school, a traffic study and curbs no curbs. However, it was concluded that either way the results would be an improvement to the area.

GIRALDA & RESTAURANT ROW: No new activity.

MIRACLE MILE UPDATE: Dan Keys mentioned that a Senior Residential Facility will be built at the Zero Block of Andalusia Avenue. The existing City parking garage will be demolished as a part of the project and a new larger one will be built.

Barbara Katzen mentioned that two blocks south of Miracle Mile on Ponce de Leon (near Fleming's) business owners have planted hedges next to the parking meters, making it unsafe and difficult to park there. She requested the hedges be trimmed back by the City.

Paul Zamek mentioned adding the Ponce Median Project as an agenda item for monthly reports. Dan Keys agreed.

OFFICER ELECTIONS: Maricris Longo was nominated as Chairperson and Barbara Katzen was nominated as Vice Chairperson. A motion was second for each position, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

ARBOR DAY: Dan Keys and Paul Zamek discussed that Arbor Day planning should start earlier than usual; they mutually agreed that the 2011 Arbor Day plans need to be substantially underway by January of 2011.

CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: Dan Keys mentioned that the City's workforce is currently under modification as a result of the pursuit of a balanced budget.

Discussion was initiated by Paul Zamek regarding the Green Task Force and how their plans could overlap with the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board plans. Dan Keys offered to bring official information on the Green Task Force to the next meeting. Barbara Katzen mentioned that inviting a member of the Task Force, as a guest to a future meeting, would be favorable.

Paul Zamek inquired about the water tower and a restoration project. Mr. Keys stated he was not fully informed on the status of repairs, but he agreed to look into it and pass on the information to the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

