

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

Draft Minutes of Meeting, September 2, 2010
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	APPOINTED BY
Barbara Katzen	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Jack Elmore	P	P	-	E	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Maricris Longo	P	P	-	P	P	E	P	E	P	-	-	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Carlos Perea			-	P	P	P	P	P	A	-	-	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Linda Lawrence	P	P	-	E	P	E	P	P	P	-	-	E	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Paul Zamek			-	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Board-As-A-Whole
Robert Parsley	A	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	-	-	P	City Manager

STAFF:

Dan Keys, Public Service Director
Ayliin Hernandez, Public Service Department

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

GUESTS:

Chairperson, Maricris Longo opened the meeting at 9:18 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the June 3, 2010 meeting as written." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

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. Maricris Longo pointed out that once the landscape is decided, it should be brought before the Board for further comment. Mr. Keys concurred.

Robert Parsley recommended we look at the most efficient and attractive traffic circles built within the last three or four years and use them as a guide for future plans. Mr. Parsley used the term "post construction review" to highlight his point. He also mentioned creating a map with the traffic circles marked and a legend providing a brief description of the landscape in each circle. Mr. Parsley used the Blue Road and Alhambra Circle intersection as an example of a circle that could use landscape improvement. Maricris Longo mentioned that the landscape of the Hernando Street circle was not very attractive, either. Dan Keys informed the Board that the landscape design depended upon the size of the circle. Carlos Perea indicated that low maintenance should be taken into consideration when designing the landscape. Maricris Longo questioned whether the City had plans for the future circles and recommended a comparison of

those with the successful existing circles. Barbara Katzen suggested taking pictures of the circles and Mr. Keys affirmed that was a practice when taking inventory.

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.

Maricris Longo asked Mr. Keys if the Segovia Street Project had been on the Commission meeting agenda as an agenda item. Mr. Keys responded that the minutes were presented to and approved by the Commission. Maricris Longo expressed her concern for the time frame involved in this project with regards to delays and how it would affect the funding that had been allocated. She also asked for advice regarding this matter and Mr. Keys recommended waiting for a comprehensive plan from the City's Administration. Paul Zamek questioned what the time frame would be for the comprehensive plan and pointed out that if the scope changed, the project would have to go back out for bids. Mr. Keys concurred and added that the Administration was cognizant of this, as well as, the motion requesting that any changes be brought before the Board. 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 Segovia Street Project and the impact it will have on the neighborhood. The topics mentioned were the charter school, a traffic study and curbs no curbs. In conclusion, Robert Parsley mentioned that either way the results of this project 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 on the North side of the zero Block of Andalusia Avenue. The existing City parking garage on the South side of Andalusia will be demolished as 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

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. Dan Keys stated he was not fully informed, 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.

APPROVED:

Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2010, 9:15 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida