



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 7, 2009**

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on First Reading. An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables granting site plan approval for a proposed one story, less than 1,000 square feet "Plant Conservation Building", located centrally within the Montgomery Foundation Property, and legally described as a portion of the Robert H. Montgomery Section (11901 Old Cutler Road), Coral Gables, Florida; providing for a repealer provision, a savings clause, and a severability clause, and providing for an effective date.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Approval.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the proposed site plan for the new "Plant Conservation Building", located centrally within the Montgomery Foundation Property.

Exhibit A – Ordinance.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning and Zoning Board at their 06.03.09 meeting unanimously recommended approval of the proposed site plan (vote: 5-0).

BRIEF HISTORY:

The Montgomery Botanical Center is an approximately 120 acre tropical plant research institution located in the south end of the City at the intersection of Old Cutler Road and Red Road. The Center is proposing to construct an office / work space for visiting scientists and academics that would be referred to as the "Plant Conservation Building". One full time employee would work in the plant conservation building and up to 3 or 4 part time visiting professionals could use the facility for limited periods of time.

The proposed building is located centrally on the property, and would be part of the Center's existing guest house and studio complex. The building is relatively small, consisting of a one story (15'-4") structure containing a total of 957 sq. ft. As a tropical plant research institution, the property is heavily landscaped and since the Plant Conservation Building is centrally located, it cannot be seen from either Old Cutler Road or Red Road.

Staff's report and background information is provided as Exhibit B. The Planning and Zoning Board's 06.03.09 meeting minutes are provided as Exhibit C. A summary of public comments submitted to the City is provided with Exhibit B.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments

OTHER ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date	Board/Committee	Comments (if any)
06.03.09	Planning and Zoning Board	Recommended approval (vote: 5-0)

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION(S):

Date	Form of Notification
05.21.09	Published Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Agenda in newspaper.
07.03.09	Posted City Commission memo and all attachments on City web page.
06.23.09	Memo to City Clerk requesting advertisement of Ordinance heading on First Reading.

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	City Manager
Eric Riel, Jr. Planning Director		

EXHIBIT(S):

- A. Ordinance – Site plan review.
- B. 06.03.09 Staff report and attachments.
- C. 06.03.09 Planning and Zoning Board meeting minutes.

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