

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

Minutes of Meeting, November 6, 2008
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

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

Acting Chairman, George Blet opened the meeting at 9:24 a.m. and the roll was taken. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the September 4, 2008 meeting." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously. A motion was made to "Approve the Annual Report for fiscal year 2007-2008 as written." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE APPOINTMENT: Discussion was held as to prospective nominees for the position of 'Board-As-A-Whole Appointment.' George Blet stated he had spoken with one person and others had not returned his calls. Robert Parsley suggested someone and Maricris Longo said she would contact some architects that she knows. It is hoped that an appointment will be made at the December 4, 2008 meeting.

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN: Dan Keys noted that the trees have been installed on Alhambra Circle. The Spanish Village project is also moving along and proposed buildings on LeJeune Road known as Gables Gateway and DYL are moving forward in their respective processes. Streets in the area will be landscaped with new trees planted by the developers. There are no updates on Ponce Circle Park and the related Charrette. George Blet stated he heard that the Charrette would be held after the holidays.

Discussion was held regarding the BID and the restaurant row and Miracle Mile area. Dan Keys reported that the BID has made recommendations for proposed design concepts for Miracle Mile and Giralda Ave which can be found on the BID Website.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS: Photos of the 2008 Beautification Award winners have been posted on the City of Coral Gables website.

SPANISH VILLAGE/PONCE CIRCLE PARK: Dan Keys noted that design work for the streetscape is progressing on the project, but not for Ponce Circle Park.

Linda Lawrence asked what type of tree had been used to line Grand Avenue recently. Dan Keys informed the board that they were Yellow Cassia trees. Robert Parsley noted that flowering trees are normally weak rooted and advised that they should be used as accents rather than lining entire streets. Maricris Longo stated that she would like to see a theme adopted for landscaping traffic circles that would include flowering trees. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of the various types of trees.

GREENING OF THE GABLES: Dan Keys noted that there are no new proposals.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The table was opened for nominations for the position of Chairman. Robert Parsley made a motion to "Nominate Maricris Longo to serve as Chairman of the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board." The motion was seconded by Linda Lawrence. No other nominations were made and a vote was taken. Maricris Longo was elected Chairman by a unanimous vote. The table was opened for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Barbara Katzen made a motion to "Nominate George Blet to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board." The motion was seconded by Robert Parsley. No other nominations were made and a vote was taken. George Blet was elected Vice-Chairman by a unanimous vote. New Chairman, Maricris Longo, took charge of the meeting.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Maps were distributed to board members indicating areas that they are responsible to cover. Dan Keys explained that members may nominate properties from any area within the City of Coral Gables, but they are asked to canvass their area completely for prospective nominees. Each member may nominate 5 properties total. Maricris Longo noted that she would like the board to focus on commercial properties. The deadline for nominations is December 31, 2008. It is also noted that nominations for awards may be made by any member of the public as well.

US #1 ISLAND 16: Island 16 is the northern most island on US #1 in Coral Gables at the intersection of Douglas Road. Dan Keys advised board members that the City is working on improving the condition of this island. He brought a landscape plan showing proposed plantings of Green Island Ficus and Dwarf Fakatchee Grass winding through the Royal Palms with Batik Crotons on either end of the island. Robert Parsley moved to support the proposal; the motion was seconded by Jack Elmore and approved unanimously by the Board.

Robert Parsley asked about the lack of plantings at the new building at US #1 and Santona Street. Dan Keys stated he would look into the issue.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: No new items.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: No new items.

Donna Box noted that at the June 5, 2008 meeting, Suzy Amerkan was in attendance in her place. She requested that the record be corrected.

Linda Lawrence commended the Garden Club for the Ponce de Leon Blvd. and 8th Street entrance project which they recently completed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

APPROVED:

Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008, 9:15 a.m.

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