

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

<https://zoom.us/j/83110285038>

Thursday, September 8, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	O 21	N 21	D 21	J 22	F 22	M 22	A 22	M 22	J 22	S 22	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	*	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Lago
Elizabeth Parnes	P	*	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	E	Vice Mayor Mena
Anne Boynton-Trigg	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	P	P	Commissioner Anderson
Carmen Lizama-Gaspa	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Fors, Jr
Nancy Leslie	E	*	P	P*	P	P	P	P	P	E	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	City Manager
Maria Counts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
A – Absent
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant PW Director, Greenspace
Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary
Daniela Maria, Intern Greenspace Management division
Solange Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager, KCGB

CALL TO ORDER:

Carolina Estefan-Chahine led the meeting as Chair Liz Parnes was out of town and attended meeting through zoom. Nancy Leslie was also out of town and joined the meeting via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed the June 9th, 2022, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of June 9th, 2022” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **KEEP CORAL GABLES BEAUTIFUL:** Solange Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager made a thorough presentation to the board about the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful program for the Landscape Beautification Advisory board to decide if they want to participate in their commercial landscape beautification award. She said that the commercial beautification award is one of the many things they do. Ms. Lopez shared a PowerPoint presentation to show everything Keep Coral Gables Beautiful is focusing on. She said that KCGB has been affiliated to Keep America Beautiful since 2020. Keep Coral Gables Beautiful is a subcommittee of the Sustainability Advisory board, and its focus is to promote environmental sustainability and educate the community to take action every day to reduce litter from open spaces and waterways, improve recycling effort, and keep the city beautiful. KCGB organizes several programs throughout the year with volunteers for coastal and downtown community cleanups, hazardous and electronic recycling drive-thru collection, etc. They also have community beautification events with volunteers helping the city with the planting on open spaces and entrances around the city. They have planted a butterfly garden at the Youth Center and organized Pollinator Pallooza events.
Ms. Lopez said that they have created the commercial beautification awards in partnership with Economic Development and Development Services departments. Commercial awards will serve to recognize businesses that have gone above and beyond in the beautification and maintenance of their storefronts and surrounding areas. She said that landscape is just one of the criteria but not the main focus of the commercial award, landscaping is an added bonus. Commercial award is to encourage businesses to have their sidewalk cleaned, maintain store front spotless, free of litter, etc. She invited the board to get involved in the nomination process or any other way.
Discussion took place as the board members expressed some concerns about having redundancy with their beautification awards. Ms. Parnes suggested to add the item to next board agenda to decide if board would like to participate in their organization representing landscape beautification board and make sure there is not redundancy and/or overlapping.

Ms. Boynton-Trigg suggested that items on the board agenda be prioritized with a time slot for each topic to have enough time for each item. It was also suggested that the agenda and minutes be sent the day before the meeting.

Ms. Counts commented that as an advisory board their role is to provide advice and recommendation to future city projects, but it is difficult to provide any feedback when plans are not being presented to them for review. Ms. Bell intervened saying that board is an advisory board and does not review plans but review comments and make recommendations. She said that the role for greenspace management division is to manage the landscaping and tree maintenance to existing sites in the city. There are many city projects and she suggested providing a link for the board to start following the DRC submittals online from city website. She also recommended the board of architects where submittals are presented at the very beginning stages of large projects and residential homes. She encouraged board members to follow community meetings scheduled for new park design projects and other important ones.

Carolina Estefan-Chahine summed up the discussion for the agenda to prioritize city projects and that they should go at the top of the agenda. Each agenda item should have a time slot. A board member can send an email to the liaison to add an agenda item. Link will be sent to board members to look for city projects to decide which ones they would like to look closer.

- **UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:** Ms. Bell said that the Ponce median project is an internal city work project where Ficus green islands are being replaced from Miracle Mile north to Menores Avenue. Ficus green island collects a lot of debris so they will be replaced with new ground covers, naturally lower than 24 inches tall so visibility will not be blocked. Plants being used are very simple such as liriopie, annual flowers, purple queens, wax jasmine, lantana, etc.

She said that drawings of the Ponce Park project are still being reviewed by the county and she will show the board the drawings when consultant Urban Robot releases it; preliminary design was passed and some comments from the board of architects are going to be addressed.

Lamar Louise Curry Park ribbon cutting has been scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 5:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 2022, 10:30 AM
2151 SALZEDO ST, CORAL GABLES, FL 33134