

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, June 12, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	M 24	J 24	S 24	O 24	N 24	D 24	J 25	F 25	M 25	A 25	M 25	J 25	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	E	*	*	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	E	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Commissioner Fernandez
Saralane Conde	P	P	*	*	E	E	E	E	P	P	E	U	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	P	E	*	*	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Lara
Amy Dash	P	P	*	*	E	E	E	E	U	P	P	P	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	P	E	*	*	P	U	U	P	P	P	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
U – Unexcused
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant PW Director, Greenspace
Sayleen Arocha-Quian, Landscape Designer, Greenspace
Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed May 8th, 2025, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of May 8th, 2025”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

The board discussed whether to maintain the current chair or vote in a new one for the upcoming year. The board voted and unanimously approved to retain Ms. Boynton-Trigg as the Chair for the Landscape Beautification Advisory board for another term. **A motion was made “to retain Ms. Boynton-Trigg as the Chair for the Landscape Beautification Advisory board for another term.” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

There was a brief discussion regarding the reappointment or replacement of board members by the incoming commissioners. Ms. Bell noted that no decisions had been finalized, and she recommended contacting the City Clerk’s Office for further information. Ms. Boynton-Trigg also asked about a list of benefits available to board members and their immediate families. The City Clerk’s Office is going to send out benefits information along with new IDs directly to board members.

- **LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** The board reviewed the finalized zone reconfiguration, and assignments for the 2025 Landscape Beautification Award scouting process. There are a total of seven zones, each assigned to a board member:
Zone 1: SW 8th St to Anastasia Ave, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Kurt Schubert
Zone 2: 8th St to Grand Ave, Douglas Rd to LeJeune Rd – Liz Parnes
Zone 3: Anastasia Ave to Blue Rd, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Nancy Leslie
Zone 4: Blue Rd to S Dixie Hwy, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Anne Boynton-Trigg
Zone 5: S Dixie Hwy to Sunset Rd, Red Rd to Grand Ave – Amy Dash
Zone 6: Davis Rd to Arvida Pkwy, Sunset Rd to the Bay – Carolina Estefan-Chahine
Zone 7: Arvida Pkwy to Dolphin Dr, Red Rd to the Bay – Sara Lane Conde
- **EVENT PLANNING 2025:**

Tree of the Year: Mr. Schubert followed up on the discussion from the previous meeting regarding the continuation of the Tree of the Year event. He shared that he researched whether other municipalities, such as Palmetto Bay, conduct the event annually and raised the question of whether this reduces its significance. He supported making it an annual event, while Ms. Boynton-Trigg expressed concern about the level of public participation. Mr. Schubert made a motion to continue the Tree of the Year competition annually, the motion was seconded by Ms. Dash; however, after board discussion, it was agreed not to continue the event annually. It will not occur in 2026 but may be revisited in the future for special occasions.

- LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD OBJECTIVES FOR 2026: The board discussed continued participation in the Coral Gables Farmers Market. Ideas included hosting a booth and providing lectures to draw public interest. Ms. Parnes suggested arriving early and staying late to better engage with the community and increase visibility.
- UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:

Tree Succession Plan: The 2024 planting phase is complete, with approximately 130 trees planted. For 2025, 120 right-of-way tree locations have been identified, with a focus on species diversity and developing a healthy urban forest.

Microforest Project: Currently in the design phase. Once complete, funds will be allocated, and the project will go out to bid. Ms. Bell estimated that planting may begin within two years following the Commission presentation and budget approval.

Country Club Prado: A re-landscaping plan, including a new irrigation system, has been submitted for budget review through the Capital Improvement division.

Library Sculpture Garden: The Garden Club's butterfly sculpture project is in permitting and construction phases. Completion is anticipated by fall 2025.

US-1 Relandscaping: The Commission has approved the bidding award. The project includes replacement of over 20 royal palms, repairs to irrigation systems, and the introduction of native plantings in the medians.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:0am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025 at 10:30 AM