



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 26, 2016

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution authorizing the Public Works Department to proceed with the implementation of a permit process to allow decorative crushed stone and low, non-woody landscape plants in the public right-of-way.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval.

BRIEF HISTORY:

At its January 26th meeting, the City Commission considered alternative options for swale areas where growing and maintaining grass is not practical – for example, deep shade areas under Banyan trees, excessive parking conditions in transition zones between commercial and single family neighborhoods, or areas adjacent to high density, multi-family complexes.

Subsequent to that meeting, staff has been developing swale enhancement solutions that are affordable, long lasting, attractive, and that meet the following key objectives:

- Preserve the lush, green, vegetative character our City swales to the greatest extent possible;
- Maintain the capacity of the swales to continue to percolate rainwater as a vital part of the City's storm water management system;
- Assure consistency by developing a clear process for reviewing and approving alternative swale solutions.

Staff will provide the following action items for Commission consideration at the July 26th meeting:

- Decorative crushed stone design guidelines; overview of pilot program conducted at the Coral Gables Public Library;
- List of recommended low, non-woody landscape plants;
- Procedures for initiating special improvements in the right-of-way.

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney	Assistant City Manager	City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):
1. Proposed Resolution
2. Presentation