

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

Thursday, June 9, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

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

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

STAFF:

Jose Fonseca, Landscape Designer
Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

Carolina Estefan-Chahine led the meeting as Chair Liz Parnes could not attend. 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 the May 12th, 2022, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of May 12th, 2022” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- Board members welcomed new member Anne Boynton-Trigg to the Landscape Beautification Advisory board. Ms. Boynton-Trigg was appointed by Commissioner Anderson to serve through the end of term on May 31, 2023.
- KEEP CORAL GABLES BEAUTIFUL: Discussion took place as board members expressed concern for what it seems the commercial awards will be an overlapping over the existing landscape annual awards which already has commercial property covered. Mr. Fonseca was asked to clarify. He said that although he was not present at past Keep Coral Gables Beautiful (KCGB) presentation to the board, he understands there is no obligation for the landscape beautification board to participate but can help while on the research and selection of location; he said that if a board member sees a commercial property in the area, it can be presented to the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful committee to be considered. It is an option to help KCGB committee. Board members also talked about changing its criteria to remove the commercial property part from it. Landscape Beautification advisory board to do residential awards and the other committee to do commercial, that way duplication will be avoided; it does not make sense to have two commercial awards. Board considered the idea to accept the invitation to be on their jury to give input on the nominated properties, and KCGB run independently from landscape beautification board. Board members would like to have more information about the KCGB commercial awards, and they want to extend invitation to the Economic Development director and Solanch Lopez to provide more information and details for the board to decide to participate or not.
- BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE VACANCY: Board voted for Ms. Maria Counts to serve as a Board-As-A-Whole member. ***A motion was made “to vote for Ms. Maria Counts to serve as Board-As-A-Whole member to the board.” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.***
- UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS: Mr. Fonseca shared with the board that the general contractor for the Lamar Curry Park has handed the keys to the city and one more maintenance run needs to be done before open the park to the public. There is no official ribbon cutting date yet.

Discussion took place about the landscape work status on historic entrances. Mr. Fonseca said there are some entrances being worked on. A new volunteer program will help at the entrance of 8th St. and Granada Blvd. Volunteers are

going to help with the donation of plants and installation. Greenspace division will design drawings and landscaping. Ms. Leslie said that someone from the Garden Club should be involved as in the past they coordinated and managed to get the funds and donations for every single one of the historic entrances; they are supposed to be maintained by the city. Board would like a liaison to inform and present to the board regular updates on significant historic projects or any visible landscaping greenspace owned by the city so board members can have the opportunity to give their feedback, input and recommendation before project starts, prior installation, either if the city is doing it in-house or not. Ms. Counts was asked to draft a letter to the Public Works director requesting for the LBAB liaison to provide significant updates to the board, not just verbal but with the drawings and schedule for board to have an opinion on them or to provide feedback; most of the time, updates the board receives are on projects that have already been decided and accomplished. The board feels that as an advisory board, they have not been given the opportunity to give its opinion before installation or approval of projects. Additionally, the board would like to request Public Works director to have maintenance division to maintain the building structures and repair lights at the historic entrances.

A motion was made “to have a liaison from the city update the board on projects from inception so board may give advisory opinion on green space and capital improvement projects that involve landscape beautification.” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

A motion was made “to appoint Ms. Counts to write a letter on behalf of the board to the Public Works director requesting that the board be updated on landscape beautification projects, and to provide an update on the maintenance of building structures of the historic entrances.” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 2022, 10:30 AM
2151 SALZEDO ST, CORAL GABLES, FL