

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	D 22	J 23	F 23	M 23	M 23	J 23	S 23	O 23	N 23	D 23	J 24	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	P	P	P	E	A	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Sara Lane Conde	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	A	P	P	P	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	P	P	E	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	City Manager
Vacant	E	P	P	P	P	P	A	-	-	-	-	Board-As-A-Whole

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

**STAFF:**

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

**GUEST:**

Kurt Schubert, Landscape Architect

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The board reviewed the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:**

- **BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE VACANCY:** Ms. Bell said that Mr. Kurt Schubert was attending the meeting as a potential candidate for the open vacancy as a board-as-a-whole position. He introduced himself to the board. He is a professional landscape architect and has major in music composition in German. He had worked as special operations in the military and since then he was looking for a place that is peaceful where he can just sit, feel the sun, and listen to the birds; that is his philosophy when working for anybody’s garden. He has been working at the Coral Gables Congregational church for the last 11 years; the church is a sanctuary and so is the garden. He is currently working exclusively in Coral Gables. He is fascinated with the community as a landscape architect, and he would like to use his experience and expertise to do service for the city he loves so much. Mr. Schubert showed the board some of the work he has done around Coral Gables.

Discussion took place and board members talked about the two applicants for the board-as-a-whole position. Board members voted for each candidate, Mr. Comas and Mr. Schubert, separately. Mr. Schubert was voted unanimously. **A motion was made to “elect Mr. Kurt Schubert as a board-as-a-whole member for the Landscape Beautification Advisory board”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

- **EVENT PLANNING 2024:**

*Farmer’s Market 2024* –Ms. Boynton-Trigg said that Farmer’s Market presentation has been set for January 27<sup>th</sup>. She inquired about how the presentation was going to be publicized as she had looked for information on the website but could not find any. Ms. Bell said that it was going to be in E-News and that she had already sent an email to Norma Gavarrete asking for a full schedule. She suggested that the members reach out to their network, friends, and organizations. Swale packages will be at the presentation. The presentation will explain to the residents what they can do in their swales where grass will not grow below the shaded trees. Examples of plant materials will be given and crushed stone and gravel for parking areas. She will also explain the process for permitting.

Arbor Day 2024 – Ms. Boynton-Trigg suggested a flowering tree for Arbor Day called African Tulip tree. Ms. Bell said they are beautiful. Grow very tall, and they do not survive heavy winds. They should be planted in protected areas, not be planted in highly traffic public right of way. Ms. Leslie said that an area to be considered to plant the tree could be the big open area on University Dr. south of the Youth Center. Ms. Leslie suggested that board members should also visit the Granada entrance at Eight Street too, to take that site into consideration at the next meeting.

Beautification Awards 2024 – Submission of nominations for the Beautification Awards will be due at the board meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Each board member should provide addresses and photographs of their 5 nominations. Code Enforcement will need to check if any of the nominations have any violation. Beautification awards presentation will be scheduled for a City Commission in October 2024. Zones have been assigned as follows: Liz Parnes (Zone 1). Nancy Leslie (Zone 2). Sara Lane Conde (Zone 3 & 4). Carolina Estefan-Chahine (Zone 5). Amy Dash (Zone 6a-north), and Anne Boynton-Trigg (Zone 6b-south).

- **STATE OF ROAD AT THE INTERSECTION OF OLD CUTLER AND RED RD.:** Ms. Estefan-Chahine excused herself for arriving late at the meeting because she had a traffic incident on her way to it. She showed the board a draft letter she has written for the board's consideration, and the one the Transportation Advisory board has sent to the county. Both letters were similar in their essence, requesting the county do something at that dangerous and despaired area; to extend the right lane, repave the deteriorated swale at the intersection of Old Cutler Rd and Red Rd. Discussion took place as members suggested that the letter should have, besides widening right lane and take care of the swale area, more emphasis on the how the area has become unsightly in the city beautiful, as a bad reflection to the city; it aligns more with the board's role on landscape beautification. Ms. Estefan-Chahine agreed to redraft the letter with the board's intentions and bring the draft letter to the next meeting for board consideration.

- **UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:**

Tree Succession 2023: Ms. Bell said that the Tree Succession project was approved by the Commission last Tuesday. Procurement and awarded vendor will execute the contract next week. Planting of 111 trees will start shortly after that. Greenspace Management is already working on the tree succession project list for 2024 as it is a long procurement process. The division has been working with residents on the tree

species, to see if it is appropriate for the size of the area. We encourage diversity of species, different sizes of trees, and good big size native trees.

*Coral Gables Library:* Ms. Bell said that the county has hired their landscape architect, and they are currently working on their drawing for a new irrigation system and landscape. She will be working with the Coral Gables Garden Club on their input for the restoration of the butterfly garden area.

*Ponce de Leon medians:* Ms. Bell said she will be working on enhancing medians around downtown. A lot of new ground covers have already been damaged by cars from Miracle Mile up to Menores Avenue. Plant materials are being ordered to fill all of them.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:53am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024, 10:30 AM