



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
October 26, 2010**

ITEM TITLE:

Landscape Beautification Advisory Board Meeting of October 7, 2010

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

TRAFFIC CIRCLE UPDATE: Dan Keys presented a Traffic Circle Map to provide the board an overview of the traffic circle locations. He also distributed pictures of the circles to discuss the landscape materials used. The elements of discussion were landscape materials, the visibility and height, the color and contrast opportunities and no irrigation. Dan mentioned the use of Crotons, Crepe Myrtles, Schefflera, and Bougainvilleas as some of the understory plantings. Depending on the size of the circle, various palms may be used. For the smaller circles, he expressed his preference for palms that had a multi-stem nature based on their genetics as opposed to palms that were grown to look like multiples through the use of multiple seedlings. In some cases small trees have been used and these will continue to be an option keeping in mind the Board's desire to have a fuller look than the palms can provide. Dan advised that the Public Service Department would be reviewing the photo survey of the traffic circles with goal being to replace plantings that due to their present condition no longer served their original purpose. Recommendations from the Board were welcomed.

SEGOVIA STREET UPDATE: Dan informed the Board that the Segovia Street project became an agenda item for the City Commission. During the presentation by staff on the subject, the Commission was advised that in order to plant large shade trees in this median, a curb would be necessary. The Commission concurred that the project should move forward with a curbed median and irrigation. The Board inquired about curbing "in the swales" and Dan Keys responded by pointing out that the curb installation only pertained to the median. The Board commented that no curbing "in the swales" is a signature element of Coral Gables and with that thought a motion was made, "The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board recommends that no curbing be installed in the swales as part of the existing Segovia median plan or any future plan" The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

Paul Zamek inquired on the status of the Segovia Street project and Dan responded that the project was out to bid and offered to look into the construction commencement date. Dan mentioned the landscape materials would include sod and oak trees. Mr. Zamek requested renderings that would provide a visual perspective and Dan advised that he would bring any available drawings to the next meeting.

Dan mentioned the landscape in the right-of-way of the Valencia and Indian Mound Trail circle has been completed with Crepe Myrtles. The landscape inside the circle at this location is still under consideration.

GIRALDA & RESTAURANT ROW: No new activity.

MIRACLE MILE UPDATE: No new activity.

Dan handed out a Public Works update on the Alhambra Water Tower and the Ponce Median Projects as had been previously requested.

CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: Dan confirmed there is a new budget and mentioned that privatization of some additional areas of landscape maintenance was included this year.

Paul Zamek commented that a telephone pole had been installed in the sidewalk on the NE corner of Venetia Ave. and Country Club Prado. Dan replied he would have Public Works look into it. Mr. Zamek also inquired about the trash holes in the swale and Dan informed that they can be reported to Public Service so they can be filled.

The Board was provided with a copy of the ordinance setting up the Green Task Force as had been previously requested. Paul Zamek inquired on the Green Task Force member appointments and Dan agreed to provide the information.

Dan informed the Board that the old Ficus Whitefly is again affecting hedges and trees in Miami-Dade County and that there is a new Whitefly that is affecting a broader host range of plants. As both of these insects would be very difficult to eradicate completely with pesticides, it is generally accepted that the best approach to eventual suppression of the insect populations is to allow the natural predators present and active in the environment to reduce the infestations that will occur.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.