

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, May 12, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

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

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

**STAFF:**

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Asst PW Director-Greenspace/Board Liaison  
 Jose Fonseca, Landscape Designer  
 Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary  
 Solange Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager  
 Matt Anderson, Resiliency and Sustainability Manager

**GUESTS:**

Joanne Matthews, Coral Gables Garden Club  
 Anne Boynton-Trigg, CG resident

**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 the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

### **PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:**

- **ARBOR DAY EVENT:** Ms. Parnes congratulated everyone for their work for a successful Arbor Day event at West Lab school. She said the event was the best ever. She thanked the Greenspace team, the Coral Gables Garden Club; Denise West and Maria Counts for their exceptional presentations. All board members agreed that the event was a great success.
- **LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** Ms. Parnes and Ms. Bell represented the Landscape Beautification Advisory board at the City Commission meeting on April 26, 2022. A brief power point presentation with pictures of awarded properties were shown at the meeting. Ms. Parnes and Ms. Bell presented the landscape beautification plaques to the property owners along with Joanne Matthews representing the Coral Gables Garden Club. Award recipients for 2022 went to 1414 Capri St., 4615 San Amaro Dr., 285 Aragon Ave -Coral Gables Museum, 231 Fluvia Ave., 6500 Leonardo St., and 9375 Balada St. The proclamation for Arbor Day 2022 was received at the City Commission that day.
- **KEEP CORAL GABLES BEAUTIFUL:** Solange Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager and Matt Anderson, Resiliency and Sustainability Manager made a presentation to the board. Ms. Lopez said that they wanted to brainstorm together about the new program to beautify downtown and the business district. The idea is to create a subcategory of the existing landscape beautification awards for commercial awards, focusing on businesses only, to recognize businesses going above and beyond in the beautification and maintenance of their storefronts and surrounding areas. Criteria will be similar as the one for residential with little tweaks to focus primarily on businesses. Ms. Lopez did a quick overview saying that 3 to 5 winners will be selected per year, depending on the number of nominations and the candidates that are nominated. The winners will receive a plaque with a picture (similar to residential awards), a window sticker, be recognized at commission meeting, listed on City website as award winner, and a social media shout out (LinkedIn & Instagram). Nominations will come from Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, Business Improvement District (BID), Keep Coral Gables Beautiful (KCGB), Landscape Beautification Advisory board,

Sustainability Advisory board, and Code Enforcement, Development Services, and Economic Development officers. They are planning to select some winners for 2022. Information has already been passed along to code enforcement officers. This first year will be a little different as landscape awards have already been presented but starting 2023 the cycle will match up with landscape advisory board program cycle. Criteria will be as follows:

**NOMINATION CRITERIA:**

- Property must be within City of Coral Gables limits
- Has not previously been awarded an award in the past 5 years
- Does not have any active zoning/code enforcement violations
- Utilizes plants, vines, and other landscaping around property, where possible
- No visible litter or trash daily from the pedestrian area, green spaces and/or parking lanes in front of the business
- Pressure cleaned sidewalks\* and clean/maintained facades, including storefront windows \*(Pressure cleaning not allowed on Streetscape areas).
- No damaged sidewalks
- Three pictures of property at time of nomination required

The Commercial Beautification Awards will serve to recognize those businesses that have gone above and beyond in the beautification and maintenance of their storefronts and surrounding areas. Nominations should be submitted to [kcgbc@coralgables.com](mailto:kcgbc@coralgables.com)

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- Exhibits maintained and beautiful landscaping features
- Stands out as a planned/designed space that blends color and details together
- Enhances the community through clean and maintained façade
- All exterior space is kept litter free (storefronts, alleyways, etc.)
- Is ecologically conscious / sensitive
- Enhances the quality of life for citizens in Coral Gables

Discussion took place as board members expressed some concerns about the process, their involvement and contribution to the project. Ms. Lopez said that initial phase will be a test cycle, to see what needs to be adjusted and changed. Board talked about being a participating guest for the nominations or to have a representative board member as a joined member. Ms. Estefan-Chahine suggested to talk about this item more thoroughly at next board meeting.

- BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE VACANCY: Ms. Counts will formally send a letter of resignation to Commissioner Anderson to open her spot for Ms. Anne Boynton-Trigg. Board will vote at later meeting to appoint Ms. Counts to serve as a Board-As-A-Whole member.
- FARMERS MARKET: Ms. Parnes wanted to make sure to be in Farmer's Market calendar next year and to have a good time slot. She asked board members to start thinking about a topic to submit request early.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
THURSDAY, JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10:30 AM  
2151 SALZEDO ST, CORAL GABLES, FL