

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD FOR THE PLACEMENT AND WORDING OF A STATE HISTORIC MARKER FOR THE COCO PLUM'S WOMAN'S CLUB LOCATED AT 1375 SUNSET ROAD, A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.

WHEREAS, the Coco Plum's Woman's Club is the third oldest woman's club in the Miami area founded in 1912; and

WHEREAS, the present club house located at 1375 Sunset Road was built in 1926 and is highly representative of the Mediterranean Revival Style of architecture; and

WHEREAS, George Merrick, founder of the City of Coral Gables, was a supporter of the Coco Plum's Woman's Club; and

WHEREAS, the Coco Plum's Woman's Club was designated as a Local Historic Landmark on March 24, 1988;

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Board unanimously (5-0) passed a motion to recommend to the Coral Gables City Commission the placement of a state historic marker bearing the wording proposed by the Coco Plum Woman's Club on the property at 1375 Sunset Road also known as the Coco Plum's Woman's Club; and

WHEREAS, the marker will be funded by the Coco Plum Woman's Club; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to approve the marker.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are hereby adopted by reference thereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth in this section.

SECTION 2. That a state historic marker will be placed on the property located at 1375 Sunset Road.

SECTION 3. That the following wording is approved for the above referenced marker:

Marker Front:

GFWC COCO PLUM WOMAN'S CLUB

Pioneer women from distant urban areas were lonely and isolated in the pines and palmettos of South Florida. On February 14, 1912, six of these ladies met at Mrs. Eleanor Jordan's home and founded the Coco Plum Thimble Club. "Mother" Jordan became the first president. Within a year membership grew so rapidly that a clubhouse was needed. Mrs. Mary Dorn, the second president, found five acres owned by FEC Railway for \$150. The club had only \$100 from events and 50 cent annual dues. She wrote to Mr. Ingraham at FEC, offering the \$100 and suggested that a public building on the site would be an asset for Larkins. He agreed, replying, "The land will be yours." With no money left for construction, the club issued scrip in \$5 denominations, redeemable when the club had the funds. Thus a simple frame clubhouse with wide porches was built on the Larkins Wagon Trail. In 1916 the club was incorporated as the Woman's Club of Larkins. In 1926 George Merrick's Coral Gables Corporation was expanding and paid \$100,000 for four of the five acres. Under the presidency of Mrs. Carrie Ravlin, the present Mediterranean Revival clubhouse, designed by Howard & Early, was built by the Knight Construction Company for \$75,000.

Marker Back:

For more than 100 years the club has served as a community center and has been affiliated with other woman's clubs, FFWC and GFWC. In 1926 the club's name was changed to Coco Plum Woman's Club. Begun for social purposes only, the club quickly adopted literary, scientific, and philanthropic goals. In 1915, a lone book, *Pollyanna*, was the start of a free library that continued for 56 years. The summer of 1948 the club's "Book Wagon" became the first traveling library operating in the State of Florida. Beginning in 1945 the club housed a kindergarten, lasting for 26 years. In the fifties Coco Plum was recognized three years in a row as one of the 250 Honor Role Clubs in the nation for its community service. The "Round the Clock" Civil Defense Program, on September 16, 1957, brought county, state, and national recognition. The clubhouse was registered as a National Historic Place in 2006. On February 14, 2012, the Mayor presented to the club a Key to the City of Coral Gables and the Proclamation acknowledging a century of its service. A time capsule, replacing the 1926 one opened during the Centennial, holds both past and current memorabilia, depicting the club and the women who brought it to life.

The Board of Directors and Members of GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF JUNE 13, A.D., 2017.

RAÚL VALDÉS-FAULI
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY