

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, December 12, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	D 23	J 24	F 24	M 24	A 24	M 24	J 24	S 24	O 24	N 24	D 24	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	E	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	*	*	P	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Sara Lane Conde	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	E	E	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	E	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	*	*	E	E	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	-	-	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	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

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present. Ms. Conde joined the meeting via zoom.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed the May 9th, 2024, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of May 9th, 2024”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.** The board also reviewed workshop minutes from May 16th. **A motion was made to “Approve the workshop minutes of May 16th, 2024”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **EVENT PLANNING 2025:**

Arbor Day 2025 – Ms. Bell suggested for the location of the tree on Arbor Day to be near a historic structure as this special tree planting will be for the centennial year celebration. Ms. Parnes suggested the location of the tree be on the front lawn of City Hall. Ms. Bell said that the spot in front of City Hall will have to be somewhere where the tree does not interfere with Merrick’s statue nor the Christmas Tree. Ms. Estefan-Chahine suggested incorporating the tree into the landscape of City Hall. Ms. Bell said that City Hall is currently under construction, and a consultant is being hired for landscape renovations. Ms. Bell said that a small tree might work if not interfere with construction. **A motion was made to “have the 2025 Arbor Day celebration tree planting at City Hall.” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.** Ms. Bell will bring photographs of the area to the next meeting for the board to pick the type of tree that fits best in the area. Ms. Conde suggested an Orange Geiger tree being a flowering, small, and native tree. It was also suggested the Lignum Vitae as it is a native flowering tree. Ms. Bell said that both will work. She said that the Lignum Vitae is more a symmetrical tree, and the Orange Geiger is more erratic, open tree, that can be seen through.

Beautification Awards 2024 – Board members reviewed photographs of nominated properties. All properties have been vetted and are cleared from code enforcement violations. The board selected the following award recipients: 1400 S Greenway Dr., 3201 Alhambra Cir., 242 Camilo Ave., 500 Hardee Rd. (6200 Maggiore St.), 1 Casuarina Concourse., and 11030 Paradela St. Winners will be invited to receive a plaque of recognition at a future City Commission meeting.

- **TREE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2025:** Ms. Bell informed the board that the city is celebrating 40 consecutive years of being designated and recognized as a Tree City USA. She also said that the Tree of the Year competition for 2025 is on the city website, where residents can vote and nominate trees. Nominations will remain open until April 1st, 2025. The office of communications is advertising the event through the E-News newsletter and other marketing ways to promote the competition. The Arbor Day event will celebrate the announcement of the Tree of the Year winner.
- **FARMERS MARKET:** Ms. Bell suggested board members start working with special events team for a date, and to come up with a topic and speaker for the future presentation at the Farmer’s Market.

- UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:

Tree Succession 2024: Ms. Bell showed the board members the current list of trees with the location and species for the 2024 Tree Succession project. She said that the Procurement office is working on the bid award and that the trees are going to be planted as soon as the bid is awarded to the contractor. She is expected to start the project in January 2025. More than a hundred new trees will be planted on the swale. A diverse list of different tree species focusing on native, flowering trees. The list for 2025 is being compiled now. Ms. Bell asked members if they see an open location where a tree will fit to let her know to add it to the list.

Fewell Park: Ms. Bell said last Friday, December 6th students from University of Miami in partnership with Keep Coral Gables Beautiful, had a volunteer event at Fewell park where native planting took place. She invited board members to participate in future volunteer events at Fewell Park.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025, 10:30 AM