

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Draft Minutes of Meeting, February 3, 2011  
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	APPOINTED BY
Barbara Katzen	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Jack Elmore	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	E	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Vacant													Comm. Maria Anderson
Carlos Perea	P	P	P	A	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Linda Lawrence	E	P	P	P	-	-	E	P	-	P	E	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Paul Zamek	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole
Robert Parsley	P	E	P	P	-	-	P	E	-	P	P	P	City Manager

**STAFF:**

Dan Keys, Public Service Director, Board Secretary  
Aylie Hernandez, Public Service Department

**A = Absent  
P = Present  
E = Excused**

**GUESTS:**

Ana Arvelo, Florida Department of Transportation  
Tere Garia, Bermello Ajamil and Partners, Inc.  
Evelio Chavez, Consul-Tech (CSA Group Company)  
Natalie Garganta, Consul-Tech (CSA Group Company)

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Robert Parsley, opened the meeting at 9:22 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the January 6, 2011 meeting as written." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**TRAFFIC CIRCLE UPDATE:** Dan Keys reported the three Simpson stoppers were planted at the Circle on Indian Mound Trail. The remaining plant materials will be planted next week.

**SEGOVIA STREET UPDATE:** Dan Keys advised that the schedule is still for the project to start in February and to be completed by the end of the summer, as Public Works had previously reported.

**MIRACLE MILE AND GIRALDA UPDATE:** Dan Keys informed that the Commission passed a Resolution approving a strategic downtown initiative for Miracle Mile and Restaurant Row and directing the City Manager to move forward with the implementation process. No specific design was approved through this resolution. Dan mentioned that e-News has an article on this project and recommended that the Board refer to it for more information.

PONCE DE LEON UPDATE: Dan Keys advised that the root pruning on the Oak trees in the median was started and the disturbance of the existing landscape was minimal.

ARBOR DAY PLANNING: Paul Zamek reported that last year's agenda will be followed. The Children's program will start at 9:30 with the Adult program to follow at 10:15. The speaker has not been confirmed, but Mr. Zamek will inform everyone via e-mail once all the details have been arranged.

Dan Keys recommended the trees to be planted at the Arbor Day event, an Adansonia za, a type of Boabab and two yellow Poinciana Trees, one on each end of the island. He presented the Board with a photo of an Adansonia za and pointed out the dominant feature is the monumental size. The Poinciana trees will provide shade as well as a unique yellow flower.

Paul Zamek inquired on the possible threat that a hurricane could have on the Baobab. Dan responded that it could fall over as could any tree, but special effort will be made to provide root space by digging trenches out from the planting hole. Linda Lawrence inquired on precisely where the planting will take place and Dan replied two blocks south of Coral Way on Country Club Prado. Robert Parsley made a motion to "Approve the Adansonia za and the two Poinciana trees for planting at the Arbor Day event." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

Robert Parsley inquired on whether the Board would meet the day of the event. Dan replied that the Board will briefly meet just before the event. Paul Zamek inquired on the photography and Dan replied the City provides a Cable TV and Photography crew. Dan added he will also be taking pictures.

Dan informed that parade barricades will be set up around the perimeter of the median and there will need to be an organized and safe process of street crossing.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Dan distributed photographs of the selected homes along with a ballot for each board member. He requested that each Ballot be returned with three properties selected. Dan tallied the votes and the following homes were selected: 8585 Old Cutler Road, 918 Madrid Street, Sunrise Harbor Guard Gate and Traffic Islands, 6908 Portillo Street and 11800 SW 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

BOARD MEMBER TERM LIMITS: Dan Keys informed the Board that some members will reach their term limit (eight years) in August 2011. The Board will be given a list with the dates of the terms that they have served so that they can plan accordingly.

RED ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: A full presentation was made by the Florida Department of Transportation on the Traffic Improvement Project for Red Road. Dan Keys introduced the project, the scope of which is limited due to the fact that Red Road is a historic roadway and can only be modified for safety reasons. The project will extend turn lanes to add functionality and it will add bike lanes on both sides of the roadway. The project requires some

tree removals and the FDOT has advised that they have made every possible effort to replace those trees with suitable trees. On the Coral Way end, there will be Sabal Palm trees within close proximity of each other providing a mass of foliage just above eye level. Oak trees will also be included where possible. Coral Gables will be gaining large growing shade trees, drainage, decorative lighting and there will be an improvement with the wider pavement for the bike lanes which will have the added benefit of reducing some of the worn areas on the edge of pavement as cars will be further from the side of the road.

After the presentation by the FDOT, Paul Zamek asked if the bike lane area could be, in the interest of safety, used as a buffer between the road and the sidewalk rather than a bike path. FDOT representative advised that the bike lanes are required by Florida Statue. FDOT further mentioned they plan to send this project out for bids in February 2011 and hope to commence construction in Spring of 2012.

Robert Parsley emphasized concern that the Adonidia palms proposed for the East side (near 8<sup>th</sup> Street) are significantly different in form and texture from the proposed Alexander palms on the West side, and that matching the palms on either side of the street would look better. Mr. Parsley advised that with a diligent search, Thrinax palms of sufficient height could be found and would look better than what is proposed. The FDOT representatives replied they would take into consideration of any recommendations the Board made. The Board made the following motion, "The Board compliments the project even in light of the fact that few recommendations from the Board are possible due to the historic designation restrictions in place for the roadway; furthermore, it requests that the Adonidia and Alexander palms proposed for the North end of the project be replaced with Thrinax radiata." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** Dan informed that the monument on Red Road and Old Cutler Road was pressure cleaned as had been requested by the Board.

Barbara Katzen commented that the Coco Plum Circle has a deteriorated appearance. Dan replied there have been three separate incidents recently where cars have driven through the Circle causing substantial damage. The shrubbery was recently modified and new flowering trees were planted to replace those that had died or been hit by cars. Also, one additional tree still needs to be replaced.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Robert Parsley, Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

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Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011, 9:30 a.m.

Arbor Day event, Sevilla Avenue and Country Club Prado, Coral Gables, Florida