

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

Minutes of Meeting, January 8, 2009
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	F	M	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	N	D	J	APPOINTED BY
Barbara Katzen	P	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	E	E	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Maricris Longo	E	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	A	P	P	P	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
George Blet	P	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Linda Lawrence	P	P	P	-	E	A	-	-	P	A	P	E	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Robert Parsley	P	E	P	-	E	P	-	-	P	A	P	P	E	P	Board-As-A-Whole David Brown

STAFF:

Daniel Keys, Public Service Director

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

GUEST:

Donna Box, Coral Gables Garden Club President

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Maricris Longo opened the meeting at 9:23 a.m. and the roll was taken. Donna Box noted that her attendance at the December 4, 2008 meeting was not noted on the minutes. She also requested that Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park be referred to by its proper name in future minutes. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the December 4, 2008, meeting as amended." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE APPOINTMENT: Discussion was opened and Linda Lawrence stated that she attempted to contact Larry Schokman from The Kampong, but he was unavailable. She will try to contact him again. Maricris Longo stated that she spoke with Stanley Matz, a landscape designer and felt he would be a good candidate for the position. Robert Parsley stated that he felt the board needed a degreed professional for the position and suggested Bruce Brockhouse, a local Architect. After discussion, the board decided to meet again on Monday, January 12, 2009 to finalize the decision.

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN: Dan Keys brought the landscape plan for 1505 Ponce de Leon Blvd. that included proposed landscaping for the Menores Ave. and Mendoza Ave. sides. There was a stipulation in an ordinance related to this project that required approval of this specific plan by the board. After discussion regarding types of trees and plant materials Robert Parsley made a motion to “Recommend that the landscape plan for the right-of-way of the Paladin development as shown with the caveat that the variegated liriopie is repeated on the two beds on the north entrance and that the north and south entrances be accented further with large scale bromiliads such as blanchetiana.” The motion was seconded by Linda Lawrence, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote. There is a possibility that the Commission approval for this project has expired. In that event, this approval would have no affect.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS: No new activity.

GREENING OF THE GABLES: Dan Keys reported that the trees donated to the Merrick Educational Center have been planted. There are no new projects at this time.

SPANISH VILLAGE: No new business.

FRED B. HARTNETT/PONCE CIRCLE PARK: No new business.

MIRACLE MILE/GIRALDA STREETSCAPE: Dan Keys noted that the BID will be returning to the City Commission with an estimate on the project cost at next Tuesday’s meeting.

TRAFFIC CIRCLES: Dan Keys brought a general location map of all traffic calming devices throughout the City, which was furnished by the Public Works Department. Board members looked the map over and discussed it briefly.

Dan Keys presented a photo of the roundabout at S. Alhambra Circle and Pallazzo Street asking for the board’s opinion of the proposed landscaping that would include one Phoenix palm with basic shrubbery around it. Robert Parsley recommended that a Phoenix Sylvestris palm be used for this roundabout. The landscape plan was approved in general by the board.

Dan Keys presented a landscape plan for the roundabout at Coral Way and Segovia Street which includes 8 Royal Palms and a bed of red plants. Discussion was held regarding various challenges that face this location including the overhead power lines and the shape of the roundabout. The board stated they do not agree with this proposal and would like to see additional proposals that take into consideration the surrounding islands and the overhead wires. Linda Lawrence motioned that “The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board does not agree with the design proposed for the Coral Way and Segovia Street roundabout because there are issues with the power lines, and that at least one more comprehensive design should be developed that will consider the power lines and oval nature of the area.” The motion was seconded by Barbara Katzen, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote.

Dan Keys advised board members that there is a proposal in process for the NW corner of Miracle

Mile and LeJeune Road that includes the use of some of the City's grass area for outdoor seating. He noted that the final landscape design will be brought before the board prior to the final approval.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: No new items.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: Dan Keys reported that there is a proposal for a traffic circle at San Amaro Drive and Miller Road. There will be a new entrance to the University of Miami at that location, but no design for landscaping is ready at this time.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Board members extended the deadline for Beautification Awards nominations to January 16, 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

APPROVED:

Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009, 9:15 a.m.**
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida