

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, April 10, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	A 24	M 24	J 24	S 24	O 24	N 24	D 24	J 25	F 25	M 25	A 25	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	P	E	*	*	E	P	P	P	E	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	E	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Saralane Conde	P	P	P	*	*	E	E	E	E	P	P	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	P	P	E	*	*	E	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	E	P	P	*	*	E	E	E	E	U	P	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	P	P	E	*	*	P	U	U	P	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
U – Unexcused
(-) – 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.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed March 13th, 2025, minutes. A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of March 13th, 2025”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- EVENT PLANNING 2025:

Arbor Day 2025 – Board members reviewed last draft of the pamphlet. The Tree of the Year Centennial award will be presented during the Arbor Day ceremony in 2025. The President of the Garden Club is scheduled to speak at the event, sharing insights into the history and significance of Arbor Day. Ms. Bell said that two Lignum Vitae trees have been purchased by the city at a wholesale cost of \$3,500 each. Greenspace team will pick up the trees one week prior to the event to ensure their readiness. The board decided that the Tree of the Year presentation will take place at the conclusion of the ceremony, followed by the physical presentation and planting of the tree. The Garden Club will provide cookies. Greenspace division will provide tents, chairs, a podium, and a microphone.

Ms. Bell shared with the board that Greenspace Division was recently contacted by Michelle Danielson, Senior Forester for the Florida Forest Service under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. She expressed interest in attending the upcoming Arbor Day celebration after noticing that the city has achieved Tree City USA designation for 40 consecutive years.

- TREE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2025: The Tree of the Year competition for Centennial 2025 has officially concluded. During the final review, the board spent a few minutes sorting through the submitted entries and identifying their top choices. The main discussion centered around two prominent submissions: the Pink Shower Tree and the Oak Tree, the latter having received the highest number of nominations. Ms. Boynton-Trigg suggested that each board member select their top three trees to help guide the conversation. She also raised an objection regarding submissions that included religious organizations in the background, noting that such imagery was inappropriate for this public recognition.

The board ultimately narrowed their focus to two finalists: the Oak Tree located in Young Park and the Flowering Silk Floss Tree, affectionately referred to as the “Community Tree” due to its preservation during a recent development project. Ms. Boynton-Trigg proposed a voting process where the board would highlight the most impactful submission and allow each member to share their thoughts. Following this discussion, a consensus was reached. The board unanimously selected the Silk Floss Tree, titled “Very Demure,” as the Tree of the Year for Centennial 2025. *A motion was made to “select the Silk Floss tree, titled ‘Very Demure’ as the Tree of the Year for Centennial 2025.”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.*

- UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:

Ms. Bell provided an update on the 2024 Tree Succession list. So far, 125 trees have been planted in the right-of-way, with 90% of the project completed. Greenspace is on track to plant an additional 100 trees as part of the 2025 plan and is currently ahead of schedule.

Another project recently approved by the city commission involves the creation of a Centennial Flower Display at City Hall, located at the intersection of Lejeune Road and Biltmore Way. This installation is currently under construction. A large grassy area has been removed to make space for 2,000 flowers, which will spell out "100" in honor of the City's Centennial year. The display will be officially unveiled on April 29, 2025, as part of the Centennial celebration.

Ms. Bell said that the city has begun construction on improvements to the historic entrances, starting with the intersection of Granada Boulevard and 8th Street. This project includes re-landscaping the entire entrance and reintroducing the historic bougainvillea's originally featured at the site, in alignment with archival photographs.

At the last meeting, Ms. Boynton-Trigg raised concerns regarding the poor landscaping along Riviera Drive across from the high school. In response, Ms. Bell explained that the Manatee Overlook, located in that area, has been proposed in past years but has never been formally included in the city's budget by the commission. She plans to bring the project forward again for consideration in the upcoming budget cycle. Following this discussion, ***A motion was made to "request that the city fund the beautification of the Manatee Overlook on Riviera Drive in the next budget." The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.***

There were two unclaimed plaques from the Landscape Beautification Awards: for 1 Casuarina and 242 Camilo. Ms. Conde volunteered to personally deliver the plaques to the respective residents.

It was also announced that September 11th is now officially recognized as Patriots Day and has been designated a city holiday. As this date coincides with the scheduled board meeting, the City Clerk's office requested the board either cancel or reschedule the board meeting. Ms. Boynton-Trigg reminded the board that during a previous LBAB meeting, it was stated they have autonomy over their calendar. She proposed shortening the number of annual meetings from ten to eight, noting the board typically does not meet during the summer. The board agreed and decided to cancel the September meeting.

Lastly, there was a discussion about low attendance at the board's presentation table at the Farmers Market. The board explored potential solutions to increase

engagement and mentioned the possibility of collaborating with the Special Events team to allocate more room in the budget for outreach efforts.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:28am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025, 10:30 AM