



LANDMARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2023, at 9:00 am.
Coral Gables City Hall, City Commission Chamber
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

*Historical Resources &
 Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	M 22	A 22	M 22	J 22	J 22	A 22	S 22	O 22	N 22	D 22	J 23	F 23	APPOINTED BY
Don Slesnick (Chairperson)	P		P			P			P			P	Mayor Vince Lago
Lauren Dowlen			P			#			P			P	Commissioner Kirk Menendez
Ramona Busot	P	N O M	E	N O M	N O M	P	N O M	N O M	E	N O M	N O M	P	City Manager, Peter Iglesias
Alice Goldhagen	P	E E	P	E E	E E	E	E E	E E	P	E E	E E	P	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Donna Heisenbottle	P	T I N G	P	T I N G	T I N G	P	T I N G	T I N G	E	T I N G	T I N G	P	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Jane Maranos (Vice- Chairperson)	P		P			P			P			P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ajit Asrani			P			P			P			P	Board-As-A- Whole

LEGEND: A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; * = New Member;
 ^ = Resigned Member; - = No Meeting; # = Late meeting arrival.

STAFF: Warren Adams, Historic Preservation Officer

RECORDING SECRETARY/PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Nancy Kay Lyons, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Lyons called the names of the board members in attendance.

Chair Slesnick welcomed board members to the first meeting of 2023 and thanked everyone for coming. The Board will be taking a tour of historic sites after the meeting and having lunch at the Merrick House.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The approval of the minutes from the Joint Meeting of the Historic Preservation Board and the Landmarks Advisory Board will be taken up later in the meeting.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Maranos and seconded by Ms. Busot to approve the minutes from the meeting November 28, 2022, with corrections.

The motion passed with a collective aye.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Previous requests from the Board:

- a) For the Landmarks Advisory Board to meet every two months instead of every three.
- b) To have a staff member from Public Works present at each meeting.
- c) For the Board to have input into any future historic landmark type signs that the City proposes.

When Mr. Adams brought these items up to the City Attorney at a senior staff meeting the response was as follows:

- a) There is support for the board to meet every two months and for the board to have input for the signs.
- b) It was suggested that instead of requiring someone from Public Works to be present at each meeting, board members email any issues to Mr. Adams prior to the meeting, he will notify Public Works who will attend meetings with answers on an as-needed basis.
- c) The City Attorney advised that the board could put whatever they want into the Resolution.
- d) If the board wants to move ahead with their original request without making any changes Mr. Adams will put it onto the Commission Agenda. However, they do have the option to amend the request.
- e) The Resolution was already prepared based on the initial requests; and will be submitted after the board's response to the suggestions.

2. Future handling of issues:

- a) Board members should send their questions, comments, and concerns to Mr. Adams no later than a week before the meeting.
- b) Prior to the meeting Mr. Adams will send an email to the board members requesting their feedback.
- c) Public Works does not have an issue being present at the meetings if required, however they would like the opportunity to research any issues prior to the meeting and be prepared to answer any questions.

3. Resolution to be presented to the City Commission:

- a) Someone from Public Works will attend the Landmarks Advisory Board meetings as required.
- b) The Landmarks Advisory Board meetings shall be changed to every two months instead of every three.
- c) The board will be authorized to meet every two months but are not required to do so. If the board chooses to take a break the next meeting can be postponed to a later date.
- d) The Board shall have input into any new historic landmark type signage in the City, not necessarily site signs or park signs, instead signs with historic information or anything else that the board thinks they should have input on.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Maranos and seconded by Ms. Busot to put forth the resolution as initially requested for the City Commission with the amendments stated above.

The motion passed with a collective aye.

4. Meeting Date Flexibility:

- a) Mr. Asrani requested that there be flexibility with the meeting dates, either to be moved earlier or later to accommodate board members.
- b) It is understood that not everyone can attend every meeting. Members can request approval of absences.
- c) If a quorum cannot be reached the date can be changed.
- d) Board members will be sent the upcoming meeting dates.

5. Proposal for a new park to be named in honor of Arva Moore Parks McCabe:

- a) Mr. Adams spoke with the Parks Director, and there is a process to go through to name a park. There does not seem to be a problem, but Mr. Adams has not received the details even though they have been requested a couple of times.
- b) It is difficult to rename a park that already has a name, and the Parks Department is not keen on renaming an existing park.
- c) The process to name a park will be sent to the board members when received.
- d) A list of parks eligible to be named has been requested.
- e) Once both items are received, the process can begin.

- f) Chair Slesnick had suggested naming the park across from Arva Moore Parks McCabe's house, this is currently named Young Park, however no one seems to know who it was named after and there is no signage in the Park. If it is named after someone a sign needs to be placed there with information.
- g) An alternative site of the right location and size needs to be found to be dedicated to Arva Moore Parks McCabe if this one is not available or find another way to honor her such as a historical site.
- h) Different suggestions were made to name various buildings, parks, fountains, or plazas in her honor.
- i) Board members should email any suggestions to Mr. Adams.

6. Sally Jude:

- a) Discussion regarding naming something in honor of Sally Jude should be added to the agenda.

7. Renaming of streets:

- a) Some residents are not in favor.
- b) Streets are not actually renamed, there is an honorary street sign added.

8. Plaque at the Merrick House:

Former Board Member Gay Bondurant requested board members consider relocating the plaque honoring W.L. Philbrick it to a more prominent location.

9. Budget:

- a) Finance advised that no board made up of the public has a budget.
- b) Non-city employees cannot control City funds.
- c) New needs will have to be submitted when the budget preparation starts based on the Board's recommendation of what they think they will need.
- d) The board needs to determine what the requested funds will be used for.
- e) Funds for repair of a landmark, plaza, monument, or something historically significant will be \$50,000 to \$100,000 and falls under Public Works. Repairs to markers are also paid by Public Works.
- f) Funds may be available from the Historic Preservation Fund which is funded by the sale of TDRs (Transfer of Development Rights) on City owned historical properties. Unused development rights of buildings which are in certain areas are sold (this does not include City Hall or the Venetian Pool). After the funds received are used for the repair of the buildings any leftover funds will be put into the Historic Preservation Fund and can be used for the repair of City owned buildings which could include landmarks. This is a relatively new process. The sale of TDRs from the Miracle Theater, Coral Gables Museum, Starbucks Building, and the Fink Studio have been approved. The transaction is private, so it is not known if the funds have been received. This is a one-time process.
- g) The board requested to have input into the Historic and Public Works budget preparation and requested both budgets to be brought to the next meeting. They will either support it by a formal resolution or suggest that it be increased as it pertains to Landmarks.
- h) The board can apply to the State grant program for funds for markers.
- i) The Historic Preservation Office provides plaques to residents for their houses.
- j) City markers requested by the Board will go through the Historic Preservation division.
- k) An option would be to create a new city marker program with a specifically designed marker for specific sites, for which a budget would need to be created.
- l) The board would review any suggestions for markers.
- m) The specifics of the application and review process will have to be determined and whether the focus will be on significant sites or keep it general. The program would focus on the replacement of damaged or old markers and the creation of new markers for current and former historic sites.
- n) There is an inconsistency between the different types of markers. One option would be to address the issue of markers that no longer look good and make them look consistent when they are replaced.
- o) Mr. Adams was asked to help fine-tune the process. The board would provide any support needed. He would put the proposal together and bring back suggestions and a proposal to the board. He will investigate other sign programs from other cities.
- p) Recognition for the board could come from markers having the board's name at the bottom of the markers.
- q) Funds should be used for promoting the City, the sites, and the work of the Landmarks Advisory Board.
- r) There is a better chance of creating a program that has all of the above advantages rather than requesting money for the repair of sites that are covered by Public Works.

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- s) It was suggested that a proposal for a walking tour that includes the historic markers could be included in the budget. The cost would mainly be for the printing brochures.
- t) The money could also be used for the matching funds for the application of grants.
- u) The original ordinance that created the Landmarks Advisory Board addresses many of these items.
- v) An online GIS map showing the location of the landmarks could probably be funded in-house. A map showing the markers and maybe a photograph could be possible. Anything beyond that such as apps or interactive websites would require funding.
- w) Cultural Arts has gotten signage for artwork which was also in braille.

10. Board Members Appointments:

- a) Ms. Heisenbottle was appointed by Commissioner Fors who is no longer on the commission. Mr. Adams was asked to check with the City Manager's office if it was required for her to be re-confirmed by the interim commissioner. He said he did not think it was necessary as there were only a few months to the election but would check on what happens after the election of new commissioners.
- b) Chair Slesnick and Mr. Adams were in favor of keeping the board as is.
- c) Appointments are for two years which were almost up. The re-appointment of the board will be due in April.

11. Marker Update

- a) **Frank Button Marker:** There were no updates.
- b) **Marker at 308 Miracle Mile in the small, landscaped area:** Mr. Adams would check and see if it was installed.
- e) **Kings Bay, Maggiore Park (5028 Maggiore Street) and Lamar Louise Curry Park (2665 DeSoto Boulevard) Markers:** Mr. Adams did not have an update.
- f) **List of Markers:** This was sent to Board members. Mr. Adams said he would send it again but was only sending the spreadsheet as the file of the photos was too large.
- g) **MacFarlane Marker:** No location decision has been made. The marker is with the Department.
- h) **Bahamian Statue:** Still in progress, there has been no movement. Neighborhood involvement is proving to be tricky.
- a) **Next Joint Meeting:** The next joint meeting of the Landmarks Advisory Board and the Historic Preservation Board will be in the fall of 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Next meeting of the Landmarks Advisory Board.

- a) Will either be 2 or 3 months from today depending on whether the resolution is passed.
- b) Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month.
- c) The dates will either be April 4th (in two months) or May 2nd (in three months).
- d) Chair Slesnick might not be present.
- e) If a quorum cannot be reached the date will be changed.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY: None

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING:

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Maranos and seconded by Ms. Dowlen to adjourn.

The motion passed with a collective aye.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.

MEETING RECONVENED:

Chair Slesnick reconvened the meeting to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Ms. Dowlen and seconded by Ms. Busot to approve the minutes from the Joint Meeting of the Historic Preservation Board and the Landmarks Advisory Board of October 19, 2022.

The motion passed with a collective aye.

The board adjourned to be reconvened at approximately 10:30 a.m. at the Merrick House. At that time, the Board members will embark on a trolley tour of eight different historic sites, after which they will have lunch at the Merrick House. Minutes will be taken.

MINUTES FROM THE TROLLEY TOUR:

The trolley tour began at the Merrick House at 10:30 am where the trolley picked up all the board members, Chair Meagher from the Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board and staff members Warren Adams and Nancy Lyons. The trolley stopped at the following locations:

1. **Alcazar Plaza (700 Alcazar Avenue)**
 - a) The board got off the trolley and walked around the Plaza.
 - b) This might be a potential for the park to be named in honor of Arva Moore Parks McCabe.
 - c) It was suggested that benches could be installed in the park. It was noted that benches were installed at the library by the Coral Gables Community Foundation in conjunction with the City.
 - d) The wall was repaired by someone who was not qualified. The repairs were a short-term solution and will have to be redone.
2. **Majorca Park (937 Majorca Avenue)**
 - a) Historic Preservation and Cultural Arts are pushing for the City to hire a conservator. Initially it was thought that it would be a Public Works person with a conservator background. Hiring a conservator would pay for itself as hiring an outside conservator is very expensive.
3. **Alhambra Water Tower (2000 Alhambra Circle):**
 - a) AGC Electric was also present at the tower.
 - b) It is currently being used as a storage building. The board suggested that a use for the tower be discussed which would be minimally invasive to residents.
 - c) Various types of repairs were discussed.
 - d) Lime-based paint should last but not as long as regular paint.
 - e) Grants can be gotten for the repairs.
4. **No Stops:** The trolley drove past DeSoto Plaza (2799 Granada Boulevard), the Venetian Pool (2701 DeSoto Boulevard), and Fred Hartnett Park (2810 Ponce de Leon Boulevard) but did not stop.
5. **Fink Studio (2506 Ponce de Leon Boulevard):**

The board did a walk-through of the Fink Studio and took photos, commenting on how beautiful the building was.
6. **Coral Gables Merrick House:**
 - a) The trolley dropped everyone off at the Merrick House where lunch was served on the porch.
 - b) No other issues were discussed.
 - c) The board dispersed at different times with clean up lasting until 2:45 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



Warren Adams
Historic Preservation Officer