

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Special Called Meeting, December 4, 2008

War Memorial Youth Center, 2nd Floor Lobby

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

STAFF:

Daniel Keys, Public Service Director

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

GUEST:

Gilda Moreno, City resident

RECORDING SECRETARY: Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Maricris Longo opened the meeting at 9:28 a.m. and the roll was taken. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the October 2, 2008, November 6, 2008, and November 13, 2008 meetings." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE APPOINTMENT: Discussion was held regarding the search for a professional to fill the Board-as-a-Whole appointment position. Linda Lawrence will be contacting Larry Schokman from The Kampong, Maricris Longo will be contacting Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, and Barbara Katzen will be contacting Joanna Lombard to see if she can recommend someone.

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN: Dan Keys noted that there is nothing new to report.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS: No new activity.

GREENING OF THE GABLES: Dan Keys reported that there are no major projects going on right now. The group is donating a couple of trees to Merrick Educational Center, a public school in North Gables.

SPANISH VILLAGE/PONCE CIRCLE PARK: It was noted that a date for the Charrette has not been set. Maricris Longo stated that she heard there was opposition to the development in the park. George Blet stated that he has been watching this project closely and has not heard anything about any organized opposition to the project. It was noted that the next step for the project was to have a Charrette to develop the plan for the park. The board will be kept informed of any updates.

MIRACLE MILE/GIRALDA STREETSCAPE: Dan Keys reported that the BID will be returning to the City Commission with an estimate on the project cost. It should be on the agenda for the December 16, 2008 City Commission Meeting.

US #1 ISLAND #16: Dan Keys advised the board that the plants as approved in concept by the board at its November 13, 2008 meeting, have been installed on the northernmost island of US #1. They will be growing into their spaces in the next few months.

Maricris Longo, regarding Segovia Street, asked if the plans for the traffic circles had been received. Dan Keys stated that he had not, but that Albert Perez, the City's consultant, does not have any plans yet. Maricris Longo asked about the traffic circle at Palermo Avenue and Cardena Street; if anything is known about it yet. Discussion was held by the board on the funding for traffic circles and where the money is coming from. Dan Keys noted that funding comes from several places including City funds, road tax funds, and development funds. He advised that the Traffic Advisory Board is charged with making recommendations on these circles and there is a long process that they go through before a circle is fully approved. The board asked that Dan Keys check out one particular circle on South Alhambra Circle. Discussion was held regarding how to request that the landscape plans for traffic circles be brought before the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board before the final approval is made. George Blet moved to "Recommend that the Public Works Department, as a policy, forward design plans for street calming devices as an agenda item of the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board." The motion was seconded by Linda Lawrence, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote.

Discussion was held regarding the date of the January meeting. Members agreed to meet on January 8, 2009.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Board members were reminded that nominations for Beautification Awards are due on or before December 31, 2008. Please email or fax them to the Public Service Department at 305-460-5133.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: No new items.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: No new items.

Guest, Gilda Moreno introduced herself to the board advising that she had recently moved into Coral Gables and is very interested in becoming involved. She was welcomed by the board who inquired as to her credentials and whether she could be considered for the Board-as-a-Whole appointment. Gilda Moreno stated that she would be happy to provide her resume for the board to consider.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

APPROVED:


Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:


Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009, 9:15 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida