



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 29, 2009

ITEM TITLE:

Landscape Beautification Advisory Board meeting of July 9, 2009

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

TRAFFIC CIRCLE – PALERMO AVE. & CARDENA ST.: Dan Keys passed around photos of the subject traffic circle showing several views of the circle and the available area for landscaping. Discussion was held regarding trees including canopy sizes, single versus multi-trunk trees, and positioning within the circle due to the manhole. George Blet made a motion stating that “The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board recommends that a white Crepe Myrtle tree with a multi-trunk and Green Island Ficus shrubs be installed at the Palermo Avenue and Cardena Street traffic circle.” The motion was seconded by Linda Lawrence, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote. Following the vote, John Holian asked what would happen next with this project. Dan Keys explained that the landscaping would be performed by City crews. Vivian Williams asked about the possibility of lighting being installed since the area is dimly lit at this time. Dan Keys referred her to the Public Works Dept. as they deal with infrastructure. John Holian stated that he felt that the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board should always be involved in landscaping projects such as these traffic circles. Following discussion, the guests left the meeting.

SEGOVIA STREET MEDIAN: Discussion was held regarding the trees on the median and in the right-of-ways in the landscape plan presented. The landscape plan called for Short Leaf Fig trees in the center median and Mahogany trees on the right-of-ways. Robert Parsley noted that Mahogany was selected for the right-of-ways because they are large shade trees and the other appropriate shade tree would be Live Oak. Since there are many streets that are already lined with Live Oak, it was felt that a change was needed. Maricris Longo noted that the Short Leaf Fig trees selected for the center median are native trees and have been approved by Florida Power & Light as well as the Director of Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden. Robert Parsley made a motion stating that “The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board recommends that Mahogany trees be planted on the right-of-ways and Native Short Leaf Fig trees be planted in the center median of Segovia Street from Biltmore Way, south to Bird Road, subject to approval by the Public Service Department.” The motion was seconded by George Blet, voted upon and adopted with a vote of 4 yes and 1 no.

SEGOVIA STREET & BILTMORE WAY TRAFFIC CIRCLE: Dan Keys passed out copies of a proposed landscape plan for the subject traffic circle which included 1 large Kapok tree to be planted to one side of the oval planting space. The ground cover area would first be elevated slightly. Discussion was held regarding the plant materials and variations that could be made to the landscaping. Dan Keys noted that additional landscaping may be needed in the short term, but the Kapok tree will fit the large intersection very nicely in a number of years. George Blet made a motion stating that “The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board recommends that a large Kapok tree be planted off center in the traffic circle at Segovia Street and Biltmore Way, and that appropriate sod and shrubs be planted as necessary.” The motion was seconded by Jack Elmore, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote.

