

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

Draft Minutes of Meeting, October 7, 2010
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	APPOINTED BY
Barbara Katzen	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	E	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Jack Elmore	P	-	E	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Maricris Longo	P	-	P	P	E	P	E	P	-	-	P	E	Comm. Maria Anderson
Carlos Perea		-	P	P	P	P	P	A	-	-	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Linda Lawrence	P	-	E	P	E	P	P	P	-	-	E	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Paul Zamek		-	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole
Robert Parsley	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	-	-	P	E	City Manager

STAFF:

Dan Keys, Public Service Director
Ayliin Hernandez, Public Service Department

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

GUESTS:

Paul Zamek acted as Chairman opening the meeting at 9:17 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the September 2, 2010, meeting as written." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

TRAFFIC CIRCLE UPDATE: Dan Keys presented a Traffic Circle Map to provide the board an overview of the traffic circle locations. He also distributed pictures of the circles to discuss the landscape materials used. The map used color coordination to delineate the existing circles in yellow, the proposed circles in red and the medians in green. The elements of discussion were landscape materials, the visibility and height, the color and contrast opportunities and no irrigation. Dan mentioned the use of Crotons, Crepe Myrtles, Scheffleras, and Bougainvilleas as some of the understory plantings. Depending on the size of the circle, various palms may be used. For the smaller circles, he expressed his preference for palms that had a multi-stem nature based on their genetics as opposed to palms that were grown to look like multiples through the use of multiple seedlings. In some cases small trees have been used and these will continue to be an option keeping in mind the Boards desire to have a fuller look than the palms can provide. Dan advised that the Public Service Department would be reviewing the photo survey of the traffic circles with goal being to replace plantings that due to their present condition no longer served their original purpose. Recommendations from the Board were welcomed.

SEGOVIA STREET UPDATE: Dan informed the Board that the Segovia Street project became an agenda item for the City Commission. During the presentation by staff on the subject, the

Commission was advised that in order to plant large shade trees in this median, a curb would be necessary. The Commission concurred that the project should move forward with a curbed median and irrigation. Linda Lawrence shared her perspective by saying that part of the beauty of Coral Gables is the natural appearance and that curbs were not her preference. Paul Zamek questioned how this would affect the residential parking areas in the swale and Dan responded by pointing out that the curb installation only pertained to the median. Paul Zamek agreed that no curbing in the swales is a signature element of Coral Gables and added that from a functional standpoint it is not necessary. A motion was made, "The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board recommends that no curbing be installed in the swales as part of the existing Segovia median plan or any future plan" The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

Paul Zamek inquired on the status of the Segovia Street project and Dan responded that the project was out to bid and offered to look into the construction commencement date. Dan also mentioned the landscape materials would include sod and oak trees. Mr. Zamek requested renderings that would provide a visual perspective and Dan advised that he would bring any available drawings to the next meeting.

Dan mentioned the landscape in the right-of-way of the Valencia and Indian Mound Trail circle has been completed with Crepe Myrtles. The landscape inside the circle at this location is still under consideration.

Dan handed out a Public Works update on the Alhambra Water Tower and the Ponce Median Projects as had been previously requested.

NEW BUSINESS:

CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: Dan Keys confirmed there is a new budget and mentioned that privatization of some additional areas of landscape maintenance was included this year.

Paul Zamek commented that a telephone pole had been installed in the sidewalk on the NE corner of Venetia Ave. and Country Club Prado. Dan replied he would have Public Works look into it. Mr. Zamek also inquired about the trash holes in the swale and Dan informed that they can be reported to Public Service so they can be filled.

The Board was provided with a copy of the ordinance setting up the Green Task Force as had been previously requested. Paul Zamek inquired on the Green Task Force member appointments and Dan agreed to provide the information.

Dan informed the Board that the old Ficus Whitefly is again affecting hedges and trees in Miami-Dade County and that there is a new Whitefly that is affecting a broader host range of plants. As both of these insects would be very difficult to eradicate completely with pesticides, it is generally accepted that the best approach to eventual suppression of the insect populations is to allow the natural predators present and active in the environment to reduce the infestations that will occur.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

APPROVED:

Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010, 9:15 a.m.**
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida