

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	F 25	M 25	A 25	M 25	J 25	O 25	N 25	D 25	J 26	F 26	M 26	A 26	M 26	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	U	P	E	*	E	Commissioner Fernandez
Preston Dickerson	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	E	P	P	E	*	E	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	*	P	Commissioner Lara
Amy Dash	E	U	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	E	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	P	P	P	P	P	U	P	P	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
 Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary, Greenspace
 Amanda Curras, Administrative Assistant, 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 12th, 2026, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of March 12th, 2026”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: The Board reviewed the Landscape Beautification Awards program and discussed the successful combination of the event with the Historic Preservation Awards. Members agreed the combined format aligned effectively with Earth Month and Landscape Architecture Month programming and expressed interest in continuing a similar approach for future events.

FARMER’S MARKET PRESENTATION: Discussion included the recent educational presentation held during the Farmers Market. Members noted that attendance was limited and consisted primarily of City staff, officials, and a small number of residents. The presentation focused on urban forestry topics including tree root systems, urban trees, and sidewalk interactions. Members discussed concerns regarding the effectiveness of hosting educational presentations within the Farmers Market environment, noting that visitors generally attend for shopping and social activities rather than remaining for extended presentations. Operational concerns were also raised regarding staffing needs, setup requirements, and overtime expenditures necessary to support the events.

Alternative outreach opportunities were discussed, including potential collaboration with the American House due to its active programming and strong attendance. Members discussed coordinating future presentations and outreach opportunities through those programs and developing supporting materials and informational flyers for future events.

EVENT PLANNING 2026 – Arbor Day Celebration: Board members reflected on Arbor Day activities and expressed positive feedback regarding the event. Members noted strong participation from City staff, elected officials, and Miami-Dade County representatives and acknowledged increased attendance and visibility compared to previous years. Discussion also included future scheduling considerations related to election cycle changes which may reduce conflicts between Arbor Day programming and Commission meetings moving forward.

LBAB OBJECTIVES – PLANNING 2026: The Board discussed ongoing concerns regarding swale damage resulting from construction activity. In response, Planning and Zoning prepared a proposed amendment to the construction zoning code requiring submission of a construction parking plan as part of the permitting process. The amendment applies to both residential and commercial projects and establishes requirements for designated parking areas, duration of use, post-construction restoration, and enforcement measures for non-compliance.

The draft ordinance was presented to the Board for input prior to ratification. The ordinance has passed First Reading and is pending Second Reading and public approval. Upon adoption, the amendment will be permanently incorporated into the City Code and enforced by Code Enforcement on active projects.

UPDATE CITY PROJECTS:

Fewell Park Restoration: Staff provided an update regarding the Fewell Park restoration initiative. It was explained that hosting Arbor Day at Fewell Park served as an opportunity to introduce the public to the long-term vision for the park while showcasing the project during its initial stages. Planned improvements include restoration efforts featuring native species, pine rockland vegetation, and additional landscape enhancements. Staff noted that Greenspace Management and the landscape design team are currently developing the master plan and that the completed plan will return to LBAB for review and feedback prior to the procurement and implementation phases.

McFarland Park Linear Park Project: Staff also introduced the upcoming McFarland Park Linear Park project located along US-1 near Grand Avenue. The project proposes transforming the existing grassy corridor into an enhanced public green space through installation of native plantings, flowering trees, shade canopy improvements, and groundcover enhancements. Funding for the project is being provided through development contributions associated with the adjacent Lifetime development. Board members discussed the importance of creating shade, improving pedestrian experiences, and providing buffering for adjacent residential areas. The possibility of utilizing the location for a future Arbor Day event was also discussed depending on project progress.

Historical Recognition: Discussion concluded with recognition of the historical significance of the Bahamian Grove community and opportunities to incorporate cultural interpretation into future landscape initiatives. Members discussed recognizing the contributions of Bahamian workers involved in the development of Coral Gables and incorporating related historical elements into future project designs. Staff additionally noted that the Commission approved a future public art installation near City Hall commemorating Bahamian workers and their role in the City's history.

ACTION ITEMS:

Board Member Appointments

Board members will coordinate with the Clerk's Office to verify appointment schedules, term dates, and reappointment timelines to ensure members remain informed regarding their service periods and board appointment status.

Outreach & Educational Programming Opportunities

Staff and Board members will further explore partnership opportunities with the American House for future outreach initiatives and educational programming opportunities, including potential presentations and community engagement activities.

Future Project & Agenda Updates

Future agenda items will include updates regarding the swale issue and Manatee Overlook project. Staff will also return to LBAB with conceptual plans and project updates related to Fewell Park and McFarland Park as project development progresses.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 at 10:30 AM