

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

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

STAFF:

Dan Keys, Public Service Director

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

GUESTS:

Kay Murff, Coral Gables Garden Club

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Maricris Longo opened the meeting at 9:22 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the November 5, 2009 meeting as written." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously. Members introduced themselves to each other.

OLD BUSINESS:

TRAFFIC CIRCLES: Dan Keys informed the board that there is no City of Coral Gables funding for the circles being done this year. County impact fees are being used for the traffic circles that will be completed this year. He gave the board a brief history of some of the traffic circle projects that the board had already submitted an opinion on and are currently in progress including Segovia Street and Biltmore Way. Carlos Perea asked if this type of traffic calming project will continue throughout the city. Dan explained that when requests are made, they go through a process of a thorough study of the area, planning, and approval before installation can begin.

Dan Keys showed the landscape plans for two traffic circles on Blue Road to the board. The circle at Alhambra Circle and Blue Road is roughly 22' round. Paul Zamek stated that Alhambra Circle and Blue Road is a landmark intersection and should be treated as a gateway. He also stated that it could be repeated in the circle at San Amaro Drive. Robert Parsley suggested that this circle's landscape should be flowering trees. Maricris Longo would like something interesting planted.

Robert Parsley was asked by other board members to send an email recommending a tree identification book so they can see what trees are being discussed.

Dan Keys informed the board that the neighbors got together and chose a Cabada palm for the traffic circle at Brighton Place and Ridgewood Road.

GIRALDA & RESTAURANT ROW/MIRACLE MILE UPDATE: Dan Keys reported that the first Friday of each month, Giralda is closed to accommodate outdoor dining. Maricris Longo asked what is happening with the plan for Miracle Mile; is the City working on anything? Dan Keys explained that the BID is gathering support for the project. More than one option is being considered on sidewalk changes varying from increasing them by 3' or by 10'. In the case of 10' width increase, it would require parking to be changed to parallel. Trees would be removed in either case, but they would be replaced. Funding is needed before anything can be done.

Maricris Longo asked that the board's two new members be updated on the City's Streetscape plans. Dan Keys stated that he would send them the appropriate information.

OLD SPANISH VILLAGE: No new developments for the past two months. A good example of the streetscape plan could be seen there along Galiano.

Dan Keys noted that at 396 Alhambra Circle an installation of bump outs with structural soil and trees is going in. The structural soil is designed to allow room for the tree roots to grow properly in an urban environment.

PONCE CIRCLE PARK: Dan Keys reported that curbing, pavers and sod have been installed at the three corners bordering the park as a temporary measure to clean up the areas.

NEW BUSINESS:

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Dan Keys explained the award process and discussion was held as to criteria for nominations. Board members submitted their nominations to Janet Carrasquillo who will begin the process. Maricris Longo requested an extension to next week to submit her nominations. Dan asked that if any board member has additional nominations, that they submit them to Janet by the end of next week. Voting is scheduled for the February 4, 2010 meeting.

Barbara Katzen asked how other board members felt about inviting the City Manager to a Landscape Beautification Advisory Board meeting, as he may be interested in what the board is doing. Barbara Katzen made a motion to "Invite Pat Salerno, City Manager, to attend a future Landscape Beautification Advisory Board meeting." The motion was seconded by Paul Zamek, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote.

Barbara Katzen reported that Mayor Slesnick is asking board members if they would be interested in joining in a 'Super Cleaning Day' on January 23rd. She was unsure of specifics, but said the request for the clean-up day efforts came through County Commissioner, Dennis Moss.

She is going to see what additional information she can find and forward it to Dan Keys' office for distribution to the board. Board members were unsure what could be done in this short period of time and could not think of any locations within Coral Gables that were in need of clean-up. When information is distributed, members will evaluate their personal opportunities to participate in this event.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

APPROVED:

Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

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