

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

Minutes of Meeting, September 6, 2007
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

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

STAFF:

Daniel Keys, Public Service Director

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

GUESTS:

Donna Box, President, Coral Gables Garden Club

RECORDING SECRETARY: Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Joanna Lombard, opened the meeting at 9:17 a.m. and the roll was taken. Linda Lawrence's request for an excused absence due to a death in her family was approved by the board. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the June 7, 2007 meeting." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN: Dan Keys reported that the Ponce de Leon Blvd. project is completed and minor problems are being solved. The issue with improper mid-block pedestrian crossing was discussed. Various suggestions were made to eliminate or discourage the trampling of landscape plants. Dan is looking into placing temporary physical barriers in the medians until plants have fully grown together.

Joanna Lombard asked what is going on with the 200 block of Aragon Avenue project that was going to be a demonstration project. Dan stated that additional money is needed at this point. The City is doing all that it can to make sure all new buildings are following the Landscape Master Plan when building. During the discussion, it was suggested that an account be set up to receive funds earmarked for landscaping, from each renovation project that would accumulate until enough money

is received to complete the landscaping on that particular block. Discussion was held on how funds of this nature could be managed. Board members' overall concern is that the Landscape Master Plan be a priority when renovations are made and new building projects are being planned. Dan stated he will check out the possibility of a fund that is set aside for use in streetscape development. It was noted that a cost for the development of new landscaping on an average block would be needed along with a price per linear foot.

WEBSITE CONTENT: Dan Keys handed out copies of the Public Service Department website information showing that it features the recent Beautification Awards with photos and descriptions of the homes selected. He will be getting information from the Public Works department on the Ponce de Leon Blvd. project and is gathering information on the Library landscaping project as well as other small landscape projects that the Public Service Department crews have done. Joanna Lombard asked that these articles include plant lists.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD ELECTIONS: Nominations were opened for the position of Chairman. George Blet nominated Joanna Lombard to serve as Chairman. Barbara Katzen seconded the motion. No further nominations were made and a vote was taken. Joanna Lombard was elected Chairman with a unanimous vote. Nominations were opened for the position of Vice-Chairman. Maricris Longo nominated George Blet to serve as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Joanna Lombard. No further nominations were made and a vote was taken. George Blet was elected Vice-Chairman with a unanimous vote.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: Dan Keys reported that the budget to be presented to the Commission at the first budget public hearing on September 11th includes funds for Public Service Department landscape maintenance and recycling.


Discussion was held regarding funding of landscape projects, in particular the Coral Gables Community Foundation's Greening of the Gables project. The board would like to hear what the foundation is planning; what projects they are looking at, and are they seeking out projects at this time. Dan advised that he sits on the Greening of the Gables Advisory committee and that a proposal for installing native plants along Old Cutler Road is being formulated. Further approvals will be necessary for this to go forward. Other projects were discussed by the committee, but it was decided to go forward with the one on Old Cutler Road. Robert Parsley would like any landscape plans that the Coral Gables Community Foundation proposes to come before the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board for input. Joanna Lombard asked members to identify locations to suggest to the Coral Gables Community Foundation for their Greening of the Gables project and bring their list to the October 4th meeting. She would also like a map produced that can be used to pinpoint the building projects that are underway or planned which incorporate streetscape improvements, such that opportunities for infilling the spots in the streetscape left over with either Greening of the Gables funding or dollars from a landscape mitigation fund, can be identified. Dan advised he would get them together.

Maricris Longo expressed her concern with the proliferation of cement buttons being placed on the City right-of-way particularly on Granada Blvd. She was advised that the Building and Zoning Departments Code Enforcement Division is responsible for making sure the buttons are placed according to City Code.

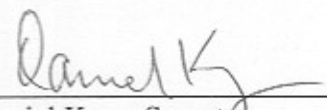
CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: Dan Keys brought in a landscape plan board for the Maynada bridge traffic circles. Discussion was held regarding the plant materials and various aspects of the project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

APPROVED:


Joanna Lombard, Chairman

ATTEST:


Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007, 9:15 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida