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CITY MANAGER'S

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Manager
The City of Coral Gables
City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

January 8, 2018

Dear Cathy,

Included in this packet is the Coral Gables Garden Club's request for the naming of the Miss Lamar Louise Curry Park and four letters of endorsement.

We look forward to a positive City of Coral Gables Commission resolution!

Thanks so much for all of your assistance to me and to the club.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Betsy'.

Betsy Tilghman
Coral Gables Garden Club President



January 2, 2018

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Coral Gables City Manager
City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Cathy,

It is with great anticipation that the Coral Gables Garden Club requests the city to consider a park at the triangle of vacant land in front of Venetian Pool at the crossroads of De Soto Boulevard, Toledo Street and Almeria Avenue, to be funded by Miss Curry's bequeath and to be named the Miss Lamar Louise Curry Park.

Miss Lamar Louise Curry bequeathed \$200,000 to our club, the Coral Gables Garden Club, to be used for beautification projects in her beloved City of Coral Gables. As you are aware, Miss Curry was a philanthropist, astute investor and educator. Of these vocations and avocations she took greatest pride in her educational career which spanned nearly three decades at Miami Senior High. She was an iconic, dedicated teacher who taught and made a lasting impact on many of our city leaders, including past mayor, Don Slesnick. Miss Curry was a longtime member of the Coral Gables Garden Club and a longtime resident of our city, who appreciated the beauty and careful, thoughtful planning of that beauty.

The garden club identified the unimproved triangle of land across from the popular and historic Venetian Pool as a place which could benefit from a small, beautiful park made possible by Miss Curry. In the past few years there have been several positive meetings with the city's landscape services director, Brook Dannemiller, and the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board, including a conceptual master plan created by landscape architect Robert Parsley.

At this time the Coral Gables Garden Club would like to move ahead in partnership with the city to develop this site. In order to do so, we are requesting approval by the appropriate city boards and a resolution passed by the Commission naming the park the Miss Lamar Louise Curry Park.

Thank you very much. We look forward to creating more beauty in The City Beautiful!

Sincerely,

Betsy Tilghman, President Coral Gables Garden Club 2017-2019

January 3, 2018

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Coral Gables City Manager
City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

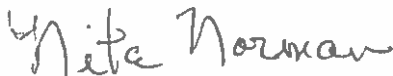
Miss Lamar Louise Curry (1906 – 2012)

Dear Cathy,

I am writing as a long time friend of Miss Curry and member of the Coral Gables Garden Club asking that the area in front of the Venetian Pool be named the *Lamar Louise Curry Park*. Miss Curry , a resident of Coral Gables and member of the Garden Club for many years, bequeathed to the club \$200,000 for beautification of our City. With this generous gift, we would like to share and partner with the City in providing a noticeable and popular area that would be enjoyed by many of our residents and visitors of every age.

Miss Curry, a lifelong educator in Miami for over 35 years, has a school named in her honor the Lamar Louise Curry Middle School and felt teaching was her greatest achievement. Miss Curry taught and influenced thousands of students including many of our outstanding public servants including former Governor and Senator Robert Graham and Mayor Donald Slesnick. She received many awards over the years for her service to others and in honor of her parents gave to the community the flower garden in the SW corner of Bayfront Park where the "Challenger Memorial" is located. As a longtime resident of Coral Gables, this park in Coral Gables would recognize her gifts to our own local community and to all who visit the historic Venetian Pool.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nita Norman".

Nita Norman

Audrey Hand Ross, Ph.D
120 Leucadendra Drive
Coral Gables, Florida 33156

Mrs. Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Coral Gables City Manager
City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mrs. Swanson-Rivenbark:

I am writing you today on behalf of an effort that is underway between The Coral Gables Garden Club and The City of Coral Gables, namely the construction and naming of a city park in memory of one of the club's most illustrious members who is now deceased, Miss Lamar Louise Curry. Upon Miss Curry's death in 2012, it was learned that she had left \$200,000.00 to The Coral Gables Garden Club with the directive that this money be used to beautify a part of Coral Gables that would be highly visible and thereby enrich the lives of the maximum number of our residents and visitors. Subsequently the leadership of our club and various committees have worked diligently with members of the Coral Gables Parks Department to identify the proper place and make the necessary preparations for Miss Curry's directive to be carried out.

We now find ourselves at a point when it would be most appropriate for the City Commission to recognize this significant donation to the residents of Coral Gables and name the piece of land where the park will be located The Miss Lamar Louise Curry Park in memory of this extraordinary and memorable woman. Certainly, Miss Curry's legacy of her personal educational efforts as an outstanding American History teacher lives on in the lives of her 5,000+ students, including Mayor Don Slesnick and Senator Robert Graham who are themselves now contributing not only to Coral Gables but to the entire country.

We ask your assistance in putting your stamp of approval on this effort by requesting the City of Coral Gables Commission to add an agenda item as soon as possible to properly name this park in honor of Miss Curry. We stand ready to assist in getting this done, and we look forward to hearing how we may support you in doing so.

Sincerely,

Audrey Ross
Trustee, The Lamar Louise Curry Estate

January 3, 2018

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Coral Gables City Manager
City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Cathy,

I want to heartily endorse Mrs. Betsy Tilghman's request to construct and name a new little park just North of Venetian Pool after Miss Lamar Louise Curry. Our Coral Gables Garden Club has received a bequest from Miss Curry's estate which she purposely earmarked for such a project within the City Beautiful. After careful consideration, this location was chosen as a lovely and appropriate place for a park, and the City's Landscape Services Director, Brook Dannemiller, and the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board have concurred. Landscape Architect, Robert Parsley, has created a beautiful design and we are hoping to move forward with his plans.

Miss Curry's life was dedicated to the education of young minds and to the beautification of her beloved city. Many remember her fondly from their high school days at Coral Gables High School, and we at the Garden Club remember her for her love of all things beautiful in nature. It is only fitting that her generous donation be spent on a pretty park next to the pool where so many children can come to play.

We respectfully request that this vacant lot be developed into a park using the monies bequeathed to the Garden Club by Miss Curry, and that it be named the Miss Lamar Louise Curry Park. We look forward to working in partnership with the City to realize her dream.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith W. Mangasarian". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Judith W. Mangasarian
First Vice President, Coral Gables Garden Club

Dear Cathy,

As a member of the Coral Gables Garden Club it is my great pleasure to write in support for the naming of a city park to honor Miss Lamar Louise Curry.

I first met Miss Curry at my very first garden club meeting when I was seated next to her. Discovering I was a new member she began to tell me how wonderful it was to be a member of such a grand group of ladies whose mission is to make our city beautiful! Finding that I was also new to the area she asked if I had something to write with. She then proceeded to give me the right plants that would flourish in my new climate and what would not survive!

She loved colorful plants and trees and wanted to see more of them in public spaces. She proudly shared her family history in the creation of Bayfront Park. In the early 90's she commissioned a beautiful flower garden to honor her parents.

A special part of our monthly meetings is nomenclature. The chair brings in a plant or shrub or branch of a tree and tells us all about that cultivar. One day the chair shared with us a 'resurrection fern'. After giving the characteristics she asked if anyone wanted to take some home. The first hand in the air was Miss Curry.....always eager even at 100.

During my term as President I was honored to present to Miss Curry the Pillar of Pride award from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs for her continued support in all aspects of gardening and beautification of our community. On this day, Miss Curry remembering our very first meeting, asked what, if anything, I had planted from her suggestions and how they were faring!

In closing, as you know, this project has been very close to my heart. I and the club feel that this spot near the Venetian Pool is well chosen to honor Miss Curry where residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy the beauty she so enjoyed and envisioned for our City Beautiful.

Thank you for your continued support for the Coral Gables Garden Club.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon V. Trbovich". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sharon V. Trbovich