

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

Minutes of Meeting, April 2, 2009
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

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

STAFF:

Dan Keys, Public Service Director

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

GUESTS:

Donna Box, Coral Gables Garden Club President

Eleanor Zahner, Coral Gables Garden Club Arbor Day Chairman

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Maricris Longo opened the meeting at 9:19 a.m. and the roll was taken and a quorum was present. A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the March 5, 2009, meeting as written." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE APPOINTMENT: Discussion among board members concluded that this issue would be considered again when an appropriate candidate for the Board-As-A-Whole position is found.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION: Eleanor Zahner reported that Carl E. Lewis, PhD, Director of Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, has agreed to be the speaker for the May 7, 2009 Arbor Day Celebration. She noted that the event will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Riviera Park. The Coral Gables Garden Club will be providing punch and cookies and the City of Coral Gables will be providing additional refreshments. Eleanor also reported that she has been in contact with Mr. Machado at Ponce de Leon Middle School and the Young Environmentalist's Service Club will be attending the event. Dan Keys reported that three Royal Poinciana trees have been ordered and will be placed in the park as per the landscape design.

NEW BUSINESS:

TRAFFIC CIRCLE – CARDENA & PALERMO: Discussion was held regarding landscaping plans for traffic circles in general. Dan Keys described the process followed for the creation of new

traffic circles to board members. Maricris Longo stated that she heard that the subject traffic circle planned for Cardena Street and Palermo Avenue had been approved and was interested in making sure that the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board would have the opportunity to provide input on the landscaping planned for the circle. Board members agreed that it is important to them that they are not left out of the approval process for traffic circles.

Dan Keys noted that the Historical Preservation Board had signed off on the traffic circle at Coral Way and Segovia Street as they do not believe the proposed Royal Palm landscaping would deter from the historical value of either roadway. Linda Lawrence noted that the side areas around the circle have been planted with Live Oak trees. Maricris Longo stated that she feels that the entire street needs to be considered when designing a traffic circle rather than just designing them one at a time. Discussion was held among board member regarding the suggestion made by Maricris Longo. A motion was made by Barbara Katzen stating "In order to integrate the designs, the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board would like to see a landscape design for both traffic circle intersections on Segovia Street (Biltmore Way and Coral Way), including the Hardscape and Landscape prior to planting the Segovia Street and Coral Way circle." The motion was seconded by Linda Lawrence, voted upon and adopted with a unanimous vote.

Linda Lawrence inquired about the addition of more flowering trees to the overall landscape of the City of Coral Gables. She would like to see more flowering trees considered for landscaping opportunities around the City. Dan Keys stated that the City makes choices to fit flowering trees in whenever possible. He noted that there are scarce opportunities to replant entire streets with flowering trees, but when areas are in need of landscaping, they are considered.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: No new items.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: No new items.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

APPROVED:

Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009, 9:15 a.m.**
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida