

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

Thursday, December 8, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Mayor Lago
Elizabeth Parnes	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	E	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Mena
Anne Boynton-Trigg	.	.	.	.	.	.	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Anderson
Carmen Lizama-Gaspa	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	A	P	Commissioner Fors, Jr
Nancy Leslie	P	P*	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	City Manager
Maria Counts	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	E	P	E	Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
A – Absent
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant PW Director, Greenspace
 Sayleen Arocha, Landscape Designer, Greenspace
 Pilar Wiesse, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

GUEST:

Joanne Matthews, CG Garden Club

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present. Carolina Estefan-Chahine attended by zoom; her attendance was excused as she was exposed to Covid. Maria Counts also attended by zoom and excused as she was attending a conference out of town.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed the November 10th, 2022, minutes. Minutes will be revised to show April 28, 2023 as a chosen date for Arbor Day. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of November 10th, 2022” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** List of previous years' nominations and City zone maps were provided at the meeting. City zones chosen by each board members at last board meeting were revised as some zones are very small or too big. Liz Parnes (Zone 1). Nancy Leslie (Zone 2). Ann Boynton-Trigg (Zone 3 & 4). Carolina Estefan-Chahine (Zone 5). Amy Dash, Carmen Lizama and Maria Counts (Zone 6). Each member will select five properties within the zone they selected and submit properties with addresses and photographs before the January 12th meeting.
- **ARBOR DAY EVENT:** The day for Arbor Day celebration has been set for April 28th, 2023 at Merrick Park, in front of City Hall. A yellow poinciana tree will be planted. Ms. Parnes informed the board that she has been compiling all requested information for the special events application. She said that there are a lot of steps to take as they will need chairs, microphone, parking, barricades, signage, police, etc. Ms. Parnes asked Maria Counts to do the presentation. Mayor and Commissioners will be invited.
- **FARMER'S MARKET:** Ms. Parnes informed the board that Farmer's Market organizers have given March 18th, 2023 to do the presentation. City Arborist Jorge Rivera will talk about "Flowering trees for Coral Gables". Deena Bell told board members that on March 4th, 2023 she will do a talk about pollinators, a Public Works initiative to bring pollinator and native plants into public right of ways.
- **UPDATE MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:**

City Hall and 427 Biltmore Way:

Ms. Bell informed the board members that a new garden has been created on the west side as part of the building project. Landscaping will be continued on the east side of the building into the parking lot of City Hall this year. The CIP office is creating a new renovation project for City Hall and she is including a new irrigation system and all new landscape around the building.

Ms. Boynton-Trigg has been given the task to research for the original landscape plan for Coral Gables City Hall. She informed the board members that she has not found any plan for landscape; old pictures show two palms on the surrounded section of the building. She said that archives did not reveal much, but she found an orange tree in some marketing book from the city and thought it will be a good idea to plant a citrus tree. Board will discuss project over next months.

Ponce North Section: Ms. Bell informed the board that Ponce North section relandscaping project is underway. Project should be completed by the end of the year. Standard, sturdy, medium planting that stays lower than 24 inches was chosen for vehicle visibility.

Ponce Circle Park: Ms. Bell informed the board that design is at the County now for preliminary approval.

Granada and 8th Street Entrance: Ms. Bell informed the board that entrance is underway. Greenspace division is currently designing it. She said that the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful program has found a doner to do the landscaping. SFM will donate plants and labor for this entrance.

- DISCUSSION ABOUT BEAUTIFICATION OF FIELD AT GRANADA BLVD AND PONCE DE LEON: Ms. Boynton-Trigg informed the board that she has reached University Architect Mike Sardiñas to inquire about that site. Mr. Sardiñas said that the university does not have any plans for now; the property has been used for hurricane debris in the past. Board discussed that the city should look in to partnering with the university to do something with it. A letter will be drafted by Anne for the board to consider sending it to city commission.

- DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT ON THE BOARD’S MISSION AND PURPOSE: Ms. Parnes said that the mission statement is to direct board to objectives and goals, to stay on path. Members read the mission statement from the copy from last year’s Arbor Day program which is different from the function that is on the city’s website. Discussion took place as the board would like to have a clear understanding of the functions of the board. The board will revisit this issue and work on the mission statement and functions of the board in future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12th, 2023, 10:30 AM