

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	M 23	J 23	S 23	O 23	N 23	D 23	J 24	F 24	M 24	A 24	M 24	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Sara Lane Conde	-	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	P	A	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	P	P	A	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	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-Quian, Landscape Designer, Greenspace
Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

GUEST:

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed the April 11th, 2024, minutes. A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of April 11th, 2024” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **EVENT PLANNING 2024:**

Arbor Day 2024 – Board members commented on the successful event for this year's Arbor Day. They complemented the exceptional baobab tree specially planted for the occasion, how well-attended the event was with city officials, Coral Gables Garden Club members, and board members. They thanked Nikki Bartholomew who sang the national anthem, Carolina Estephan-Chahine for a great speech, the librarian who read excerpts of the baobab book, and the honor guard. Special thanks to the Greenspace team that helped with the set up and cleaning after the event.

Beautification Awards 2024 – All board members submitted their beautification award nominations. Each board member provided addresses and photographs of their 5 nominations. Properties will be screened by Code Enforcement for violations. Zones were assigned as follows: Liz Parnes (Zone 1). Nancy Leslie (Zone 2). Sara Lane Conde (Zone 3 & 4). Carolina Estefan-Chahine (Zone 5). Amy Dash (Zone 6a-north), and Anne Boynton-Trigg and Kirk Schubert (Zone 6b-south). Beautification awards presentation will be scheduled for a City Commission in October 2024.

- **TREE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2025:** Ms. Bell brought the idea at last board meeting for creating a Tree of the Year competition like The Village of Palmetto Bay, an annual event to involve residents to send nominations of their favorite tree and a board to choose the winner. Discussion took place on how board members will present the idea to the city commission. They agreed to have an extra meeting to talk about just this item. An agenda and location will be secured for Tree of the Year workshop on May 16th for the project to commence in June 2024. This will be a trial run to know how to best strategize for future years to come. Basically, residents will nominate the trees through the website, and the board will choose three out of all nominations. To launch the project, gain publicity for this event and spread the word, the board will appeal to different community groups like the Coral Gables Garden Club, CG Rotary Club, etc.

- **UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS:**

Tree Succession 2023: Ms. Bell mentioned that the 2023 Tree Succession Project had a variety of different species within more than hundred trees that were planted.

They also tried to experiment this past year with new species in Coral Gables. Ms. Bell confirmed she will bring a list to the Landscape Beautification advisory board at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024, 10:30 AM