

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, October 9, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	J 24	S 24	O 24	N 24	D 24	J 25	F 25	M 25	A 25	M 25	J 25	O 25	APPOINTED BY:
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	E	*	*	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	Mayor Lago
Anne Boynton-Trigg	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Anderson
Elizabeth Parnes	E	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Fernandez
Preston Dickerson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	Commissioner Castro
Nancy Leslie	E	*	*	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	Commissioner Lara
Amy Dash	P	*	*	E	E	E	E	U	P	P	P	P	City Manager
Kurt Schubert	E	*	*	P	U	U	P	P	P	P	P	U	Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
U – Unexcused
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Sayleen Arocha-Quian, Landscape Designer, Greenspace
Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary, Greenspace

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 June 12th, 2025, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of June 12th, 2025”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

New board member Preston Dickerson was appointed by Commissioner Castro and introduced himself to the board.

The Vice Chair position needs to be filled. Some board members declined nominations due to scheduling conflicts. Board members considered Carolina Estefan-Chahine for the role, but she was unable to attend meeting. Board plans to finalize the appointment at the next meeting.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: The board discussed the upcoming Landscape Beautification Awards, which recognize outstanding efforts to enhance the landscaping of residential properties. Board members should submit a couple of photos per property. Prospect properties will be screened for code enforcement violations. Selected homeowners will be recognized with a plaque at a City Commission meeting. Submissions are due for the next board meeting in November.

- There is a total of seven zones, each assigned to a board member:
Zone 1: SW 8th St to Anastasia Ave, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Kurt Schubert
Zone 2: 8th St to Grand Ave, Douglas Rd to LeJeune Rd – Liz Parnes
Zone 3: Anastasia Ave to Blue Rd, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Nancy Leslie
Zone 4: Blue Rd to S Dixie Hwy, Red Rd to LeJeune Rd – Anne Boynton-Trigg
Zone 5: S Dixie Hwy to Sunset Rd, Red Rd to Grand Ave – Amy Dash
Zone 6: Davis Rd to Arvida Pkwy, Sunset Rd to the Bay – Carolina Estefan-Chahine
Zone 7: Arvida Pkwy to Dolphin Dr, Red Rd to the Bay – Preston Dickerson
- **EVENT PLANNING 2026:**

Arbor Day Celebration: The annual Arbor Day celebration is traditionally held on the last Friday in April. The Coral Gables Garden Club collaborates with the event and donates money toward the purchase of the tree. Usually, Arbor Day events are held in parks due to school security restrictions. Ms. Boynton-Trigg asked members to propose potential locations for next year. There was a discussion and board members discussed potential sites like Betsy Adams Park, McFarlane/Linear Park area near US1 and Douglas Road, Ponce Circle Park, Historic Entrances such as Granada, Coral Way, and Monserrate.

Tree of the Year: The Board reviewed the City's Tree of the Year contest, originally held during the City's Centennial Celebration. The event received 109 entries from residents nominating trees with personal stories. The winning tree was relocated and preserved near the Riviera area. The Board agreed that this initiative

was a one-time event, but they might be revisited in the future for special occasions.

Farmer's Market Presentation: The Board discussed the Coral Gables Farmer's Market presentation for next year. An ongoing concern is the low audience turnout at past sessions. Although previous topics -such as artificial turf and swale maintenance- were informative and relevant, attendance remained low. Board members emphasized the need for improved advertising and greater visibility for future speakers. The topic ***"Understanding Street Tree and Sidewalk Maintenance Responsibilities"*** was chosen for the presentation; it will cover sidewalk repair responsibilities (city vs. property owner), proper pruning practices and maintenance expectations, ADA compliance and trip hazard repairs. Board would like to have City's Superintendent Jorge Rivera to do the presentation.

There was a discussion on sidewalk damage and repair responsibilities within public right-of-way. Ms. Arocha told board members that Transportation division handles asphalt patching and sidewalk leveling. Sidewalk cleanliness is considered part of swale maintenance responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM