

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, December 11, 2025 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

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

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

STAFF:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. The roll was taken, and a quorum was present.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed November 13th, 2025, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of November 13th, 2025”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

Micro Forest Project:

Funding efforts have begun for the Micro forest Project, with the Garden Club raising \$25,000 and additional contributions from the Vice Mayor and other donors. Vice Mayor will also be applying for a grant to help with funding. A detailed presentation of the plan will be given to the Garden Club at the January 2026 meeting.

Biltmore Way Streetscape: The CIP project for planting street trees along Biltmore Way between Segovia and Anderson is approximately 80% complete. Plans will be finished mid-January and going to bid. Budget \$200,000 so far funded, project will be completed in phases as per funding reasons.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Submissions are still pending and will be reviewed January 2026.

FARMER'S MARKET PRESENTATION: The Board discussed the topic "***Understanding Street Tree and Sidewalk Maintenance Responsibilities***"; it will cover sidewalk repair responsibilities (city vs. property owner), proper pruning practices and maintenance expectations, ADA compliance and trip hazard repairs. Deena will follow up with Susan Lienfiesta, in charge of Special Events, to see if everything is moving forward.

EVENT PLANNING 2026:

Arbor Day Celebration: The annual Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled for April 24, 2026. The Coral Gables Garden Club agreed to collaborate on the event and to contribute funding for the purchase of the commemorative tree. Board members conducted a site visit to Enis Park, located at 7700 Old Cutler Road, a recently dedicated park for Veterans Day, to assess its suitability as the Tree-of-the-Year planting location. Following the site visit, the Board determined that Enis Park was not suitable for the proposed planting.

The Board then discussed an alternative location: the open green space in front of the Biltmore Hotel, across from the Garden Club Cottage. It was noted that although the area is City-owned, coordination would be required with the Biltmore Manager, Mr. Prescott, to obtain approval. An email will be sent outlining the proposed planting location to allow for a review of underground utilities. A list of proposed tree species will also be provided for review. Suggested species included Lignum vitae, to complement the micro-forest design concept, as well as queen's crepe myrtle, rainbow cassia, and powderpuff.

Program elements were also discussed. Bonnie was identified as a potential speaker representing the Garden Club. Jeff may provide information on the selected tree species,

and an additional speaker may address the historical significance of the Garden Club Cottage.

LBAB OBJECTIVES – PLANNING 2026

The Board raised concerns regarding damage to swales resulting from residential construction activity. Deena met with Jennifer Garcia, Planning and Zoning Director, on the day of the previous meeting to discuss this issue. Ms. Garcia indicated that she would prepare a proposed amendment to the City Code to include language requiring a construction parking plan as part of residential permitting. Once the draft amendment is completed, Ms. Garcia will be invited to present an update to the Landscape Advisory Board.

UPDATE CITY PROJECTS:

Historic Entrances: The historic entrance located at Country Club Prado and 8th Street is currently undergoing a redesign. The project includes new irrigation infrastructure, updated landscaping, and crushed stone walkways. Design plans are approximately 50 percent complete, with bidding anticipated to begin in the upcoming year.

Ponce Circle Park: Ms. Bell advised that the park design plans will be presented to the Board once they have been formally submitted by the developer. The project is expected to proceed through the Commission review process and remains pending completion of the final design, which is being coordinated with the associated building design.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 at 10:30 AM