

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

Minutes of Meeting, September 4, 2008

War Memorial Youth Center, Theatre

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

**A = Absent**  
**P = Present**  
**E = Excused**

**STAFF:**

Daniel Keys, Public Service Director

**GUESTS:**

Donna Box, Coral Gables Garden Club President

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

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Chairman, Joanna Lombard opened the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and the roll was taken.

Joanna Lombard explained to board members that she will no longer be able to serve on the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board due to her work schedule changes. Discussion was held regarding three individuals the board may want to consider to replace her in the position of 'board-as-a-whole' appointment. A sub-committee, George Blet and Robert Parsley, will contact these individuals and report to the board at the October 2, 2008 meeting. Vice-Chairman, George Blet will chair the October meeting.

A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the June 5, 2008 meeting." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS:** Dan Keys reported that the City IT department corrected the items that were requested by the board at the June 2008 meeting.

**GREENING OF THE GABLES:** An oversized check representing Greening of the Gables funding previously made for public planting projects was presented to the City of Coral Gables by the Coral

Gables Community Foundation. The oaks for Alhambra Circle are being purchased and are expected to be planted within the next 2-3 weeks.

**DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN:** Dan Keys reported on the current status of the projects in the area. Discussion was held regarding the progress of the Spanish Village. Dan Keys noted that there would be a BID presentation on Monday, September 8, 2008 at the Colonnade, presented by a team of business people. They will be discussing Miracle Mile parking and restaurant row – 100 block of Giralda Avenue. They are also looking for a financial dream team to work out the funding for the projects. Board members were encouraged to attend and report back to the board at the October meeting.

**SPANISH VILLAGE/PONCE CIRCLE PARK:** Dan Keys reported that George Hernandez had been brought in to design the Ponce Circle Park project. He noted that there will be an opportunity for the neighbors to see the proposed ideas and share their thoughts on the project. Dan said that assistance of the Coral Gables Community Foundation is being sought in an effort to economically utilize the funding available for this project.

Dan reviewed the projects that are currently in progress throughout the City of Coral Gables as indicated on the map he created for the board.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE:** No new items.

**CITY PROJECTS UPDATE:** No new items.

George Blet asked what has happened with the idea of landscaping around the statue of George Merrick. Dan suggested that more thought is needed before a recommendation could be made as there are several different considerations that need to be taken into account. He welcomes ideas and advice.

Maricris Longo brought before the board photos of small flowering trees that she had seen during a recent trip to Italy. The trees had been planted in urban centers within planting circles in the sidewalks. She thought it would be nice to see this type of planting in the City of Coral Gables traffic circles rather than just palms. Discussion was held regarding the plant materials used in the various traffic circles throughout Coral Gables and members were encouraged to take photos of circles that need attention. Members would like to know if there are any new circles being planned and if so, they would like some input on the landscape for said circles.

Regarding the City website page with the Landscape Beautification Awards, Maricris Longo stated that the webpage should be made with photos of the properties with no description.

Joanna Lombard officially resigned from the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board and stated she would send Dan Keys an email making it official.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

APPROVED:

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George Blet, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

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Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008, 9:15 a.m.**  
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida