

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 9th, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	M	A	M	J	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY:
	2	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Mayor Lago
Elizabeth Parnes	P	E	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor Mena
Anne Boynton-Trigg	.	.	.	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Anderson
Carmen Lizama-Gaspa	P	P	P	P	P	E	A	P	P	P	**	Commissioner Fors, Jr
Nancy Leslie	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	City Manager
Maria Debye Saxinger	-	-	-	P	P	E	P	E	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, Landscape Designer, Greenspace
 Pilar Wiese, 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.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

The board reviewed the February 9th, 2023, minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of February 9th, 2023” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

Ms. Parnes informed board members that Carmen Lizama-Gaspa sent a letter resigning from the board and her position is now open. She also said that she will be reaching her time with the Landscape Advisory board on May 30th. Board members interested in continuing with the board should reply to email sent by the City Clerk office or reach out to the commissioner who appointed them to let them know of their interest if they want to continue with the board. Next Coral Gables election will be on April 11th.

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** Letters will be sent to landscape beautification award winners to invite them to attend City Commission meeting on May 9, 2023 to receive a plaque of recognition. Award recipients are 1229 Coral Way (Zone 1), 4614 University Dr. (Zone 2), 104 San Sebastian Ave (Zone 3&4), 5133 Castania Ave (Zone 5) and 5001 Hammock Lake Dr (Zone 6).
- **ARBOR DAY EVENT:** Board members went over the draft program for Arbor Day, scheduled for April 28th, 2023 at Merrick Park, in front of City Hall. Welcoming, introduction of elected officials, Arbor Day proclamation, joined honor guard, national anthem, pledge of allegiance, introductions, speaker, and singer for event were discussed. Each member will help with each task. Maria Debye Saxinger and Susan Rodriguez, Garden Club President will be the speakers. Paula Barrera Scheer will sing the national anthem and closing song. Ms. Bell said that yellow poinciana tree has been located but that real color of flower will not be shown until June when it blossoms. She has gotten approval from the City Manager for the Garden Club to donate a plaque to be placed at the side of the tree. Ms. Bell said that information of the event will be sent to the city's PR Marketing office to be advertised throughout all city social media, e-news, etc. She said that the Greenspace division has already made arrangements to provide tents, tables, chairs, podium, microphone, etc. Joanne Matthews said that Garden Club members are ready to bake cookies and provide water. Ms. Parnes said that the police will be in charge of closing the traffic while the event is running. She said that the idea is to set a precedent for future meetings, to have a standard format for special events. Greenspace will be in charge of cleaning up after the event.
- **FARMER'S MARKET PRESENTATION:** Ms. Bell said that City Arborist Jorge Rivera will make a presentation about "Flowering Trees for Coral Gables" on March 18th at 9:00AM at the Farmer's Market, Courtyard (Rose Garden).
- **DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT ON THE BOARD'S MISSION AND PURPOSE:** Mission statements that are posted on the website and on last year's Arbor Day program were distributed along with Ms. Boynton-Trigg's work and Ms. Estefan-Chahine's suggestions. Ms. Estefan-Chahine suggested more sustainable gardening with more native plants should be included in the board's mission statement. Ms. Debye

Saxinger intervened saying that having experience with mission statements in universities, sometimes the best way to go is to be simple and broad; it is not necessarily to encourage residents to do something in a specific way. A lengthy discussion took place. Chair Parnes asked Ms.Boyton-Trigg and Ms. Estefan-Chahine to work on rewriting the first paragraph and bring it to the next board meeting.

- UPDATE MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS: Ms. Bell said that Greenspace Management division focus right now is put Miracle Mile and downtown together after Carnival on the Mile festival. She said that Ponce de Leon relandscape median project from Miracle Mile north to Menores Ave. is completed; all new ground covers are in the right of way. Greenspace is also working on improving some historic entrances. She said that native plants and colorful flowers have been used at the entrance of Red Road and Coral Way. It is a great example of how to create a balance between native plants and flowers. It will be sort of a mold to follow for the other entrances. Alhambra & Douglas and Columbus & Coral Way entrances have also been worked on. She added that some of the entrances are being pressure washed. Ms. Bell said that the county is planning to install a roundabout at the entrance of Granada & Coral Way. Ponce Circle Park is still in the county for review.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, MAY 11th, 2023, 10:30 AM