

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

Minutes of Meeting, September 3, 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/94816686579>

MEMBERS

A M J J A S O N D J F M

Fadi Bahri	- - P	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Lucy Reinhardt	- - A	Commissioner Patricia Keon
Diane Perez	- - P	Commissioner Fors, Jr.
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	- - A	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Elizabeth Parnes	- - P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Susan Rodriguez	- - P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Bonita Norman	- - P	Board as a Whole

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Landscape Architect and Board Secretary

Ayliin Hernandez, Landscape Services Recording Secretary

A = Absent

E = Excused

P = Present

GUESTS:

OPEN MEETING: The Chair, Elizabeth Parnes, opened the virtual meeting at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of March 5, 2020.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

ELECT A CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND BOARD AT LARGE: Discussion developed on re-electing existing Chair, Vice Chair and Board At Large. **A motion was made to “Re-Elect Elizabeth Parnes as the Chair.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously. A motion was made to “Re-Elect Lucy Reinhardt as the Vice Chair.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously. A motion was made to “Re-Elect Bonita Norman as the Board At Large.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT: The Annual Report was read. **A motion was made to “Approve the Fy2019-20 Annual Report, as corrected.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

ROYAL POINCIANA FIESTA: Ms. Parnes provided an update on the organization. The objective is to promote the Royal Poinciana Trees. The Garden Club supports the Fiesta. The committee would like to centralize the fiesta within the City of Coral Gables. **A motion was made, “To request a presentation by the Royal Poinciana Fiesta Committee at the October meeting.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

ARBOR DAY EVENT: Discussion developed on a virtual Arbor Day event. **A motion was made to “To prepare a virtual Arbor Day Celebration for Fy2020-21.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.** As a voluntarily gesture the board will prepare a virtual event with the help of the Coral Gables Public Relations department. Ms. Parnes will prepare the text and it will be forwarded to the board and the Garden Club President, Judy Mangasarian. Discussion developed on the tree planting at Sunset Elementary School. Ms. Bell-Llewelyn advised it could be arranged. Mr. Bahri will ask the Principal if the tree planting would be acceptable.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: The Landscape Beautification plaques will be ordered. Ms. Bell-Llewelyn will confirm a virtual Commission Meeting date for the presentation of the awards. Subsequently, invitation letters can be sent to the award recipients.

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:

FIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROJECT: The Five Neighborhood Parks that were completed in March 2020 have been closed, due to the pandemic. The ribbon cutting ceremonies will take place when Miami-Dade County advises they can be reopened. The Parks and Recreation Director will advise us.

LAMAR CURRY PARK – City staff and the Garden Club members have been working together on the design. A virtual meeting was held to present Conceptual Design. The construction will begin at the beginning of 2021. A virtual presentation of the Conceptual Design will be arranged for the board. The board would also like a presentation on the Parks Master Plan.

PONCE CIRCLE PARK – The Conceptual Design was recently completed. A presentation can be provided in the future. Virtual community meetings will also be held. The schedule of presentation is still pending from C.I.P office

SALVADOR PARK: Is undergoing restoration renovations to include an ADA accessible playground. The plans are in the permitting stage.

MAGGIORIE PARK: Is in the final design stage.

DOG PARK: The underline Dog Park is in the final design stage. We are waiting to begin construction, after construction completes at the Gables Station Development adjacent.

SEVEN HISTORIC ENTRANCES: The Pure Beauty Farm donations have been used to beautify the entrances. Landscape staff provides the maintenance.

NORTH PONCE NEIGHBORHOOD: Landscape Services is planting 300 shade trees in the swales. The project is near completion. The funding is provided by the City Tree Trust Fund.

FIRE STATION #2: Landscape Services is providing the landscape improvements. This project is near completion.

DISCUSSION: An inquiry was made on the plans for Toledo Avenue and Bird Rd. This will be a new park. The new budget will determine when this project will begin. A presentation for is each project will be included in the meetings. Ms. Parnes requested an update on the quote for the Farmer’s Market Banner. Ms. Bell-Llewelyn will follow up on this request.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020, 8:30 A.M.
CORAL GABLES VIRTUAL MEETING, CORAL GABLES, FL
<https://zoom.us/j/94816686579>

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