

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13th, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	*	P	*	P	P						Mayor Lago
Elizabeth Parnes	*	P	*	P	P						Vice Mayor Mena
Maria Counts	*	P	*	E	P						Commissioner Anderson
Carmen Lizama	*	P	*	P	P						Commissioner Fors, Jr
Nancy Leslie	*	E	*	P	P*						Commissioner Menendez
Amy Dash	*	P	*	P	P						City Manager
Vacant	-	-	-	-	-						Board-As-A-Whole

- P – Present**
- P*- Present (zoom)**
- E – Excused Absence**
- A – Absent**
- (-) – No Appointment**
- (*) – No Meeting**

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Asst PW Director-Greenspace/Board Liaison
Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Joanne Matthews, Coral Gables Garden Club (via zoom)

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 December 9th, 2021 minutes. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of December 9th, 2021” The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.**

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

- **ARBOR DAY EVENT:** Chairwoman Liz Parnes inquired board member Carmen Lizama for an update. Ms. Lizama has not contacted West Lab Principal yet, but she will have an update next meeting. Deena Bell-Llewellyn intervened saying that maybe first thing to ask Ms. Soto-Pujadas is that because of Covid and all the school regulations, they are going to let the event be held at school in April with the kids or not, should it even be considered, as it was the problem the board ran into with Sunset Elementary last time. Ms. Parnes also suggested to contact Mr. Restrepo to set up the meeting with the principal. Discussion took place to have a video with Katie to do a program and play with the kids through Zoom and have the planting of the trees outdoors. Ms. Parnes suggested to have a Covid plan and a non-Covid plan. Discussion took place about having a video recorded in a professional way by City's PR department for Arbor Day and to have it as a document for later or screenshots or social media so City can provide some help with a video, to be presented in any school and to reach more people. Ms. Counts suggested to include a small message in the video with information about Arbor Day as part of the Landscape Beautification Advisory board and information about the board. She will contact the City's marketing department.
- **LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** Board members should submit pictures with addresses of their nominations as selection of the Landscape Awards will take place at the February meeting. Code Enforcement will review for violations. Ms. Bell encourage whoever has the zones in the north area of the city, to not just look at residential properties but to include businesses as well. Discussion took place about having a listed criteria on how to rate the properties. Ms. Counts was volunteered by Ms. Bell to draft a landscape design criteria with some bullet points and ranking to evaluate the award selection. It was suggested to include a category for the sustainability part of the landscaping.

Discussion took place about the need to educate residents to choose more native plants when do landscaping, to consider the sustainability part, and to look at it as the new beauty in landscaping. Ms. Parnes suggested to have a topic of going more native at the Farmer's Market presentation.

- **UPDATE MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:**

PONCE CIRCLE PARK: Ms. Bell has contacted project manager, but they are not ready yet to do a presentation to the board. Drawings are in design review with county comments. Roadway is being totally redesigned around the park. City Project Manager will advise when he is ready to do a presentation to the board.

LAMAR CURRY PARK: Lamar Curry Park, a little triangle just north of Venetian Pool, is fully underway. Sidewalks and underground structures are being done. Ms. Bell mentioned that the Garden Club has donated another \$15,000 for the project to provide trees and plants.

Ms. Leslie congratulated Ms. Bell for being nominated as an honorary member to the Garden Club. Ms. Bell will go to the meetings and coordinate projects more closely with them.

CRAFT SECTION STREETScape: Large Agave project at the Ponce Circle Park, east of the building to Douglas for five or six city blocks; it is under construction. The whole neighborhood is being revitalized. All the streets are being rebuilt. The scope of work was removing a lot of asphalt in parallel parking down the side, created the grassy swales with big oak trees, to create large green boulevard.

MAGGIORE PARK: Triangle space in front of the Chinese Village is under construction.

- **FARMER'S MARKET:** Farmer's Market will start on January 15th. Ms. Parnes said that the board typically does an educational event at the Farmer's Market. Date and a topic need to be chosen. Ms. Bell suggested to reach out to Norma in Community Recreation department as she is the person in charge of scheduling for Farmer's Market.
Ms. Estefan-Chaine asked, if possible, to do a link for native species that grow in this area and recommended for propagation.
Ms. Bell will ask Jorge Rivera to come up with a topic and if he can do a presentation at the Farmer's Market.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 2022, 10:30 AM
2151 SALZEDO ST, CORAL GABLES, FL