

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION APPROVING A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD THAT A BRONZE HISTORIC MARKER HONORING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FRANK BUTTON BE PLACED IN ALHAMBRA PLAZA AT THE INTERSECTION OF ALHAMBRA CIRCLE AND GRANADA BOULEVARD

WHEREAS, Frank M. Button was a landscape architect who was instrumental in the creation of Coral Gables; and

WHEREAS, City Founder George Merrick hired Frank Button as landscape architect for the City of Coral Gables in 1921; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Button played a key role in Merrick's initial design team by planning, designing, and coordinating the plans for the new city; and

WHEREAS, in 1926 Frank Button was named the Director of the newly formed Landscape Department; and

WHEREAS, the Landscape Advisory Board and the Historic Preservation Board recommends approval of a historic marker to honor Mr. Button to be placed in Alhambra Plaza at the intersection of Alhambra Circle and Granada Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, the Coral Gables City Commission desires to honor Frank Button with a historic marker to be placed in Alhambra Plaza at the intersection of Alhambra Circle and Granada Boulevard.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are hereby adopted by reference thereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth in this section.

SECTION 2. That the following wording is approved for the above referenced marker:

SIDE ONE:

FRANK MORSE BUTTON
(1866-1938)

Frank Button was the first registered landscape architect in Florida and a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The designer of Lincoln Park in Chicago, Mr. Button was hired by City Founder George Merrick as the master planner for Coral Gables at a fee of \$1 an acre. He completed the first comprehensive map of Coral Gables in July 1921.

His design for the City of Coral Gables included parkways, canals, gardens and recreational facilities. His planting plans incorporated native plants which he integrated with tropical and imported specimens, a design concept that he wrote about in his 1921 article “The Suburb Beautiful.”

He also directed the landscaping of all the streets, plazas, parkways and parks in Coral Gables. This close participation in field-work lead to his untimely death on August 4, 1938 when he fell into the path of a truck while supervising the planting of the now immense ficus benjamina trees in the median of Bird Road.

Coral Gables is evidence that the wisdom of Mr. Button’s planning and design has established a legacy for generations to come

SIDE TWO:

“Coral Gables with its immense acreage of gently rolling and undulating land, offers rare advantages for the best that the landscape architect can produce. Its broad vistas invite the greatest freedom in planning spacious boulevards, delightful parks, charming recreation centers and many other features which are possible under exceptional conditions.

“On all of the principal boulevards at Coral Gables have been laid out delightful parks, plazas and rest spots, one-half to five acres in area, that break the vista of the avenues and provide the most charming possibilities for landscape work of the most effective kind.”

Frank Button, “The Suburb Beautiful” Miami Herald Article, November 1921

“Perhaps the most important adjunct to the landscape artist is the wonderful blue sky with masses of snowy clouds lightly floating, interrupted on the horizon by the tall picturesque Caribbean Pine. At sunset the day passes, through all the liquid colors of the rainbow, into a brilliant starry night, and it is then that about once a month for a few nights the balmy air is filled with the heavy perfume of the night blooming jessamine.”

Frank Button, “Landscaping in Southern Florida: Southern Architect and Building News, February 1930

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D., 2016.

JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY