

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

9:30 AM

Sister Cities Conference Room - Coral Gables Museum

Landmarks Advisory Board

Board Member Ajit Asrani
Board Member Richard Bennett
Board Member Evelyn Díaz
Board Member Alice Goldhagen
Board Member Donna Heisenbottle
Board Member Albert Menendez
Board Member Don Slesnick

The Landmark Advisory Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, commencing at 9:30 am EST.

Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81769745993>.

In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting.

Meeting ID: : 817 6974 5993

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/koHpBvqy7>

305-461-6769 (Coral Gables local number)

To speak to the Landmark Advisory Board on an Agenda Item, please “Raise your Hand” or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform.

If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can “Raise your hand” by pressing *9.

The public may also comment on an item on the agenda using the City’s already-established e-comment function which may be found on the City’s website at: (www.coralgables.com/commissionmeetings) once the meeting’s agenda is published or by sending an email to cityclerk@coralgables.com prior to the start of the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM.

II. ROLL CALL**Board Members In Attendance:**

Don Slesnick
Ajit Asrani
Alice Goldhagen
Donna Heisenbottle
Richard Bennett
Evelyn Diaz

Board Members Absent:

Albert Menendez

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. [25-9732](#) Landmark Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2025

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Day of Meeting** - Chairperson Slesnick discussed changing the day of the meetings to accommodate Board member Menendez's conflict on Tuesdays. Staff advised that his conflict ends in December 2025.
2. **Landmark Tour** - Board members expressed a desire to have an external gathering before January 2026 to assess the condition of street signs and landmarks.

Also requested, a presentation by Staff on what the Landmark Advisory Board should be about.

3. **Board Chairperson** has requested members submit their names to Staff if interested in the chairperson or vice chairperson position.
4. **Walking Tour** - Michael Maxwell, Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Board, has requested a walking tour with this board. Mr. Maxwell would like to lead the board on a tour to address landmarks that need attention and landmarks that are being disrespected. Areas of focus: Downtown area, Coral Way & Granada Boulevard, Douglas entrance. Tour to start and end at the Merrick House. Trolleys are too busy during the week to be taken off service.

5. **Water Tower** - The architect has been working with the engineering company to complete the construction plans. Assessments were completed in April to the stucco. This is in progress with Public Works as a capital improvement project.
6. **Streetlights** - Staff will get an update from the City Manager for this board.
7. **Pinewood Cemetery** - This board supports the Pinewood Cemetery Advisory board budget ask of \$240,000 to the City Commission.

A motion was made by Board Member Bennett, seconded by Board member Heisenbottle, to support the recommendation of the Pinewood Cemetery Advisory Board for the budgetary amount of \$240,000 for Public Works to begin the removal process of invasive trees at the Pinewood Cemetery. This motion passed unanimously.

8. **Ponce Circle Columns** - Board member Diaz mentions the lights are off on two monuments across from Ponce Circle Park. Staff said they would put in a request to have the lights lit. These columns are not historic.
9. **Douglas Entrance** - Board member Diaz shared pictures of water intrusion at one of the arches. Staff will forward the pictures to the property owner. She is also asking about white way lights that were present many years ago. Board member Diaz is requesting staff try to get those lights back at this locations.
10. **National Historic Designation** - Chairperson Sleznick is directing staff not to pursue at this time due to the window work at City Hall and restoration at the Venetian Pool.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Board member Asrani, seconded by Board member Diaz, to nominate Board member Heisenbottle to the Board-As-A-Whole position on the Landmark Advisory Board. This motion passed unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was Adjourned at 10:39 AM.

NOTE