

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

Minutes of Meeting, February 5, 2009  
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY</b>
Barbara Katzen	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Jack Elmore	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Maricris Longo	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	E	Comm. Maria Anderson
George Blet	P	P	-	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Linda Lawrence	P	P	-	E	A	-	-	P	A	P	E	P	P	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Robert Parsley	E	P	-	E	P	-	-	P	A	P	P	E	P	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole David Brown

**STAFF:**

Daniel Keys, Public Service Director

**A = Absent**

**P = Present**

**E = Excused**

**GUEST:**

Donna Box, Coral Gables Garden Club President

Eleanor Zahner, Coral Gables Garden Club Arbor Day Chairman

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Janet Carrasquillo, Public Service

Chairman, Maricris Longo opened the meeting at 9:23 a.m. and the roll was taken and a quorum was present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS:** Members began process of reviewing all nominations.

**BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE APPOINTMENT:** Dan Keys reported that the boards' recommendation for the Board-As-A-Whole appointment went before the City Commission and was not approved as the individual did not live or have their business in Coral Gables. Discussion was held as to the next step to take. Dan Keys will check to see what the City Commission advises the board to do.

**WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS:** No new business.

**GREENING OF THE GABLES:** No new business.

SPANISH VILLAGE: No new business.

FRED B. HARTNETT/PONCE CIRCLE PARK: No new business.

MIRACLE MILE/GIRALDA STREETSCAPE: Dan Keys reported that the Commission moved forward with funding the architectural firm for the Miracle Mile/Giralda streetscape. The issue of parallel parking versus angle parking is going to be discussed at the City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 2 p.m. He noted that the board had recommended the parallel parking previously and advised members to attend. Maricris Longo suggested that if members cannot attend that they email their City Commissioners and let them know how they feel.

TRAFFIC CIRCLE LANDSCAPE PLAN REVIEW: No decision has been made on the Segovia Street circle. Dan Keys stated he would keep the board informed on the situation.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Ballots were received from members and 5 locations were chosen; 4400 Palmarito Street, 2720 Cardena Avenue, 8901 Arvida Lane, 5295 Hammock Drive, and 5500 Banyan Trail. Awards will be presented during the Arbor Day celebration. Maricris Longo noted that her intent when nominating 2720 Cardena Avenue was to view the entire development as one, not just this one address.

Dan Keys advised that the City was investigating the purchase of the building at 2901 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Several boards were meeting in order to formulate a recommendation to the City Commission.

A motion was made to "Approve the minutes from the January 8, 2009 and January 12, 2009 meetings as written." The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dan Keys reported that the City of Coral Gables is in the process of removing some Ficus benjamina trees. An evaluation of the entire Ficus benjamina collection was made by certified Arborists, each tree was individually evaluated and rated. Questions were asked as to whether anything can be done to prevent additional Ficus trees from being removed. Dan Keys noted that the City already is doing everything they can to provide preventative maintenance to the entire collection of trees within Coral Gables. Donna Box asked about the possibility of the Coral Gables Garden Club donating trees as replacements. Dan Keys noted that if the Coral Gables Garden Club wants to go ahead with a program for tree donations, that there be a certificate of donation rather than a plaque placed on the location as the plaques could create maintenance problems and possibly be stolen.

ARBOR DAY: Eleanor Zahner addressed the board requesting that a date be set and a location for the 2009 Arbor Day celebration. She suggested Riviera Park at Monza Avenue and Yumuri Street. Dan Keys advised that Riviera Park is slated to be renovated and he will check to see if the Arbor Day tree can be incorporated into the landscape plan. A tentative date of May 7, 2009, was set for

the Arbor Day celebration. Barbara Katzen volunteered to be the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board's Arbor Day Chairperson, co-chairing with Eleanor Zahner, representing the Coral Gables Garden Club. Discussion was held regarding possible speakers for the event. George Blet noted that he will see about inviting the group of children from Sunset Elementary.

Linda Lawrence announced that there would be a presentation at Old Spanish Village on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. by Arva Moore Parks about the original greening of the Gables.

BOARD ITEM/CITY COMMISSION UPDATE: No new items.

CITY PROJECTS UPDATE: No new items.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Maricris Longo, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Keys, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009, 9:15 a.m.**

Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida