

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

Minutes of Meeting, January 8, 2015
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	
Ana Martin-Lavielle	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Anna Louise Fulks	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Alexander Adams	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	A	Comm. Pat Keon
Barbara Perez	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	E	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Kay Murff	P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Robert Berman	P	P	P	P	P			P	E	P	P	P	City Manager, Kathy Swanson- Rivenbark
Paul Zamek	P	P	P	A	P	-	-	P	P	E	P	P	P Board as a Whole

STAFF:

Brook Dannemiller, Public Service Director, Board Secretary
Ayliin Hernandez, Clerical Assistant, Recording Secretary

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

GUESTS:

Cindy Birdsill, Economic Sustainability Director
Judy Mangasarian, Coral Gables Garden Club Member

OPEN MEETING: The Vice Chair, Anna Louise Fulks, opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of December 4, 2014. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.”**

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPOSED DONATION OF A SCULPTURE BY LEONEL MATHEU: Ms. Birdsill described the sculpture donated by Leonel Matheu. It is a marble Vessel with a pedestal. The height is 6 feet and the width is 39 inches. It will weather well, and the maintenance will be minor. Ms. Birdsill proposed that the sculpture be displayed at Fewell Park. Mr. Dannemiller agreed that Fewell Park is a good location. It could be placed in the native planting area where there is no irrigation to avoid potential staining from irrigation water. Ms. Birdsill requested the Board’s comments. Discussion took place. **A motion was made to, “Recommend that the Vessel Sculpture donation by Leonel Matheu be accepted. The motion was seconded and voted upon. The Board replied with five Yeas and one Abstain.”** Ms. Birdsill added that a presentation will also be given to the Parks Advisory Board, the Art Advisory Panel, Cultural Development Board, and the Coral Gables Commission and that their input will also be required. **The Board requested that a thank you note be sent to the artist on their behalf.**

OLD BUSINESS:

ARBOR DAY PLANNING: The Board turned in the award nominations for Landscape Beautification. Discussion developed in regards to residential landscape improvements. The Board elaborated on potential ways to encourage residents to improve their landscapes. A suggestion was made that the Farmer's Market could be used to reach out as well as to educate residents on how to improve their landscapes. Further discussion took place on displaying photographs of award recipients of prior years. The Board requested copies of some of these photographs. Ms. Hernandez agreed to look into it.

A TRIBUTE TO KATHY GAUBATZ: Mr. Dannemiller advised that the donation of the City's remnant tree stock to the schools will not be a part of the Arbor Day event, but it will be done as a separated effort. He recommended the intersection of University Dr. and Segovia St as the site for the flowering tree location for the Tribute to Kathy Gaubatz. He added that as requested by the Board a red flowering Royal Poinciana tree can be planted in that location. In addition, an Oak tree can also be planted as part of the Arbor Day event in the adjacent swale area. He pointed out where the tent set up could be and added that it may be advisable to have a Police presence to help with blocking traffic to ensure public safety. The potential closure of one block of University Drive and a short portion of Escobar Avenue to increase safety for the event was also mentioned. **A motion was made to "Approve the 2015 Arbor Day Event with a Tribute to Kathy Gaubatz at the intersection of University Dr. and Segovia St. The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously."** Discussion developed on a speaker for the Children's Program. Ms. Mangasarian highly recommended Charlotte Smiley. Ms. Smiley was not able to attend the meeting. However, she is delighted to be the speaker for Children's Program. Ms. Mangasarian shared Mrs. Smiley's extensive experience and knowledge. The Board would like to greet Ms. Smiley by way of a phone call. The giveaway of pine seedlings at the event needs to be confirmed by Mr. Dannemiller. Mrs. Murff recommended recognizing Ms. Cardiente of the Growing Place for her active role in promoting ecological/environmental programs among the children. The Board concurred. Discussion developed on having student speakers for the main part of the program. Ms. Perez offered to reach out to Coral Gables Middle School and inquire on the possibility of student participation. The Children's program schedule was discussed. It should begin at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Dannemiller will look into the street closure between 9:30 a.m. and Noon. The City will provide refreshments and finger food. Ms. Mangasarian will look into the Garden Club cookies. She will also contact Stephen Pearson, Gifford Arboretum Director, and inquire if he can lead Kathy's tribute. A plaque was requested for the Royal Poinciana tree in Kathy's honor. Mr. Dannemiller will look into it. Ms. Fulks will look into the Color Guard. Ms. Martin-Lavielle will be the Master of Ceremony. The adult program will open with the National Anthem. A request was made to have classical background music by Bach; specifically, the pieces played during Kathy's Memorial Service.

COUNTRY CLUB PRADO: Mr. Dannemiller advised that a public meeting was held. The landscape improvements were supported by the residents. The residents opposed any future plans for a pedestrian path. The residents expressed mixed opinions about benches and pet waste stations.

GRANADA GOLF COURSE: Mr. Dannemiller advised that the construction drawings on the Golf Course renovations to the greens and tees are moving forward on schedule.

TREE SUCCESSION PLAN: Mr. Dannemiller advised that this project went out to bid in December 2014. It should go before the Commission in March 2015. The project should begin in April 2015, if the procurement process proceeds as scheduled.

REPAIRS AT DOUGLAS AND MIRACLE MILE: Mr. Dannemiller reported that the unhealthy palm and dessert cassia were replaced with flowering trees. The shrubs will be planted once the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has to complete their construction of traffic project.

DISCUSSION:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ana Martin-Lavielle, Chair

ATTEST:

Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015, 8:30 a.m.**
Youth Center Conference Room, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida