

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

Minutes of Meeting, January 7, 2016
War Memorial Youth Center, Conference Room

MEMBERS	F M A M J J A S O N D J	
Ana Martin-Lavielle	- - P A P E P	Mayor Jim Cason
Kay Murff	- - P P P P P	Vice Mayor Frank C. Quesada
Anna Louise Fulks	- - P P P P P	Comm. Pat Keon
Barbara Perez	- - P P P P P	Comm. Vince Lago
Vacant	- - A A A - -	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Joyce Meyers	- - P P P P E	City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Robert Berman	- - - P 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:

Judy Mangasarian, Coral Gables Garden Club Member
Katy Sobrado, Coral Gables Garden Club Member

OPEN MEETING: The Chair, Anna Louise Fulks, opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m., the roll was taken and a quorum was present. Approval of the December 3, 2016 minutes deferred to the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

TRIBUTE TO FRANK BUTTON. Mr. Dannemiller confirmed that Robert Parsley will present the tribute to Frank Button.

ARBOR DAY PLANNING: Discussion developed. Brook confirmed the tent set-up will take place in the parking lot of the Coral Gables Country Club. He added the underground utilities are in the process of being located. A small flowering tree will be planted, possibly an orange Geiger tree. Prior to the event, the historic entrance at Granada Blvd. and Alhambra Circle will have been beautified by the planting of two Poinciana trees. Ms. Mangasarian introduced Katy Sobrado and recommended her for the speaker of the children's program. Ms. Sobrado shared her background with the board and added she is an intern with the University of Florida Extension Center. She also mentioned that she would like to use an inspirational quote by Michael Pollan to launch the children's program. She inquired on the tree species of the children's give-away seedlings. She recommended that fruit trees be considered and will look into other suggestions from the Extension Center. Discussion developed on the program schedule. The board recommended the children's program should begin at 10:00 a.m. and the adult program at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Dannemiller asked Ms. Sobrado if the Extension Center could provide a compost bin for demonstration purposes. Ms. Sobrado will look into it. The purpose of the compost bin is to have a sustainable Arbor Day event by promoting awareness of the environmental benefits of composting. With reference to the Color Guard presentation, Ms. Fulks did not receive any confirmations. She advised that our City Manager, Cathy Swanson-

Rivenbark, suggested reaching out to the Coral Gables Fire Department and/or the Police Department. Mr. Dannemiller offered to look into it. Discussion developed on the participating schools. The board advised Ms. Perez typically handles the school confirmations. Ms. Hernandez will contact Ms. Perez regarding the schools participating and the student singer for the National Anthem. Ms. Murff confirmed she submitted Ms. Cardentey's nomination for the Rachel Carson Award. Ms. Hernandez also confirmed that she submitted the City of Coral Gables' nomination for the Arbor Day Award. Mr. Dannemiller will look into the public safety aspect of the event.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Ms. Hernandez advised that Mr. Berman's nominations were reviewed by Code Enforcement. The rest of the nominations are under review. She will follow-up with Code Enforcement so that voting can take place at the February 2016 meeting. Ms. Murff inquired on plaque design. Ms. Hernandez advised the board requested at a prior meeting that clear acrylic design be used.

FARMER'S MARKET WORKSHOP: Ms. Hernandez advised that Public Affairs will post the event in the E-News. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The set-up process will begin at 8:30 a.m. Ms. Murff requested the display board of the Landscape Beautification Award recipients. Ms. Hernandez confirmed.

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:

CORAL WAY AND SEGOVIA STREET SCULPTURE: Mr. Dannemiller advised that the sculpture on Biltmore Way and Segovia Street will have protective bollards. The Royal Palms around the sculpture on Coral Way and Segovia Street will most likely be replaced by Satakentia Palms. Mr. Dannemiller advised the permit for the landscape is ready. He will check with Dona Spain for an update. This project will also likely include traffic calming devices such as special signage, lighting and new reflective street striping.

COUNTRY CLUB PRADO PROJECT: Ms. Martin-Lavielle mentioned that Country Club Prado looks very nice.

MIRACLE MILE PROJECT: Mr. Dannemiller advised the landscape proposal is in the process. He should be presented before the City Commission at the second meeting of January 2016.

PONCE PHASE II PROJECT: Mr. Dannemiller advised it is in the construction drawing stage.

VENETIAN POOL PROJECT: Mr. Dannemiller advised the pool renovations are underway. A project scope is in the works for the triangle park. Ms. Murff mentioned the wall used at Ingraham Park should be considered for the perimeter of the triangle park as well as other parks in the City.

MERRICK HOUSE RENOVATIONS: Ms. Fulks mentioned that the donated resources for the perimeter wall of the Merrick House were incorrectly used for the interior repairs. Mr. Dannemiller advised he will speak with the Assistant Director of Public Works, Mr. Pino. He advised the landscape will be improved when the building renovations have been completed.

TREE SUCCESSION PLAN: Mr. Dannemiller advised that Zone 2 and 3 have many structurally unsafe Ficus benjamina trees that are in the removal process.

DURANGO TRIANGLE PROJECT: Mr. Dannemiller advised that public meetings will be scheduled in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION: Ms. Martin-Lavielle mentioned that on Ponce de Leon, just south of Eighth Street, when the hedges are cut too low the glare from the ground lights are too strong. Mr. Dannemiller advised he will look into it. Ms. Mangasarian mentioned an article on light pollution and the historical street light restoration project. Mr. Dannemiller advised the City met with FPL and they are actively working on a program that includes both FPL lights and the City owned lights. He pointed out that the lights on Alhambra Circle, between Le Jeune Rd. and Ponce de Leon, do not have the strong glare because they have a shield and the light direction is facing the trees. He mentioned that he will recommend using different light fixtures in the Ponce Phase III Project. Further discussion developed on LED lighting. Mr. Dannemiller advised that the new LED lights typically have a color temperature of 4,000k (kelvin). In general, LED lights with a 5000k temperature are too blue in color, and LED lights with a 3000k temperature are too yellow in color for the street lights. The lights installed at Ingraham Park are 4000k and have been well received by the residents. Discussion developed on the effects of light pollution on the environment. Ms. Mangasarian inquired on a lighting ordinance. Mr. Dannemiller will look into it. Ms. Fulks complimented the growth of the red Poinciana tree planted in Kathy Gaubatz's memory at the intersection of Segovia St. and University Dr.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

APPROVED:


Anna Louise Fulks, Chair

ATTEST:



Brook Dannemiller, Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room-, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, Florida**

