

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Virtual Meeting, April 1, 2021

MEMBERS

	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	
Fadi Bahri	E	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P			Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Lucy Reinhardt	E	-	-	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	-			Commissioner Patricia Keon
Diane Perez	E	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E			Commissioner Fors, Jr.
Carolina Estefan-Chahine	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P			Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Elizabeth Parnes	E	-	-	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P			Commissioner Michael Mena
Susan Rodriguez	E	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P			City Manager Peter Iglesias
Bonita Norman	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E			Board as a Whole

STAFF:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Landscape Architect and Board Secretary
 Naomi Levi, Coral Gables Assistant City Attorney

A = Absent
 E = Excused
 P = Present

GUESTS:

Joanne Matthews, Coral Gables Garden Club
 Katy Sobrado, Coral Gables Garden Club

OPEN MEETING: The Chair, Elizabeth Parnes, opened a discussion at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was not present. The March minutes were tabled.

FARMER’S MARKET WORKSHOP: The board enjoyed volunteering with Fairchild Tropical in their Million Orchid Project. This project distributed free native orchids to City residents at the Farmer’s Market during the Winter season. Over 300 orchids were distributed at each Farmer’s Market event. The board would like to continue to their partnership with Fairchild Tropical during the Winter 2022.

ARBOR DAY 2021 EVENT: A virtual meeting was held. The Sunset Elementary School Principal was in attendance. Discussion developed on the planning of the event which will take place on Monday, May 3rd. 2021 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at Sunset Elementary School. Due to COVID, a simplified program will be presented. Ms. Sobrado (Garden Club) will be on site to give a presentation that will be videotaped by the school. The City’s staff will provide a Lignum-vitae tree that will be planted near the front entrance of the school. The Landscape Beautification Advisory Board and the Garden Club members are looking forward to this event.

ARBOR DAY 2022 EVENT: Assistant City Attorney, Naomi Levi, attended the meeting. She explained the procedure for selecting a school outside of the boundaries of the City of Coral Gables. David Fairchild Elementary School was selected for the 2022 Arbor Day event. This school is west of Red Road and outside of the Coral Gables boundary, even though the school is in the feeder pattern for City schools. The Assistant City Manager will need to approve the school selected before the board moves forward with the planning process of this event. During the Garden Club’s March meeting, they also approved of David Fairchild Elementary School. They are also in support of funding the event.

LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: The 2020 Landscape Beautification Awards were presented at the last commission meeting by Ms. Parnes and Ms. Bell-Llewellyn. The plaques prepared by the City for the award recipients, and they will be delivered by the board members. The same process will be used for next year's landscape awards.

ROYAL POINCIANA FIESTA: The board will follow up with Mr. Pearson for an update on the City Manager's review of the Royal Poinciana Fiesta event.

UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS CITY PROJECTS:

PONCE CIRCLE PARK: The landscape architectural consultants, Urban Robot, presented the conceptual design at a dual board meeting last month with the Parks Advisory Board and LBAB in attendance. The plan was well received. The LBAB is in favor of the design concepts presented. Two comments were discussed by the board: 1. Royal Poinciana trees should be incorporated as key flowering trees at each end of the space, perhaps in the triangular islands, as key trees in the design. 2. A fencing and/or stone wall component should be added to the landscape borders for child safety. The board looks forward to seeing the final plans developed and looks forward to knowing the completion schedule for the construction.

LAMAR LOUISE CURRY PARK: The final construction documents are currently in the last stages of permitting. The procurement process of selecting contractors will occur next. The Garden Club and the LBAB would like a virtual presentation of the final plans arranged with the City's CIP project manager. Landscape Services will coordinate with the CIP office for a meeting date and time. The Garden Club would like to plan the ribbon cutting ceremony and formal dedication of the park space in partnership with the City at the end of construction.

CATALONIA PARK: The grassy area is being re-sodded due to damage caused by users. The LBAB inquired if artificial turf should be considered for installation to avoid the on-going maintenance. The suggestion will be discussed with the Parks & Recreation Department.

NORTH PONCE NEIGHBORHOOD: The Landscape Services Division of Public Works is completing the planting of approximately 300 shade trees in the neighborhood this Spring-Summer during the rainy season. This is one of the projects highlighted in the 'State of the Canopy' presentation presented by landscape services at the commission meeting in March.

LIBERTY CAFÉ: The City Historic Preservation and Public Works Department collaborated to complete the installation of 2 white-way lights and re-landscaped the south front entrance of the café. A Royal Poinciana tree, four Lignum-vitae trees, a Florida thatch palm, and new groundcovers were installed to beautify the space, making it more functional for users.

DISCUSSION: Lucy Reinhardt resigned her service with this board in March of 2021. Board members were encouraged to notice colleagues of the board's open positions. Resumes of interested individuals should be sent to the City Manager's office.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

Elizabeth Parnes, Chair

ATTEST:

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021, 8:30 A.M.
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER, CORAL GABLES, FL