

Board Members

Dan Keys
Chair

Barbara Kohl
Randy Wagoner

John Propeller

~~Alternate~~

Lynn Fischer

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*approved
4/18/12
D/Key*

PARKS AND PARKWAYS ADVISORY BOARD DRAFT MINUTES

January 18, 2012 6 PM
Ed Burke Recreation Center
11400 NE 9th Court

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Dan Keys, Barbara Kuhl, Randy Wagoner, John Zoeller, Lynn Fischer, and Cesar Hernandez, Assistant Director of Public Works

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS – Additions are under New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT (PERMITTED FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 14, 2011 – approved with correction: Kimley-Horn (not Kimberly-Horn)

OLD BUSINESS

Village staff status report

General median maintenance – excessive weed eating around fixed objects. Sixth Ave.? Cesar Hernandez presented a memorandum detailing the progress of Public Works as well as commenting on ongoing projects. The memorandum stated that two days had been spent mowing, edging, and weeding 6th Ave. Lantana is being removed and green island ficus is being added. The median is also being

resodded. Bids are being sought for continual maintenance. 6th Ave planting on the large lot: There is a major problem with scale on the firebush. The sabal palms are not totally rooted. This area needs extra watering until the summer rains. It may be time to remove the straps from the pine trees. Remove the straps from one tree and see if it remains standing; it is alright if it leans a bit.

Tree removal and tree trimming issues – report on any progress The memorandum listed eleven trees that had been removed within the last six months. Public Works is continuing to remove designated trees. When stumps are left, the sites for future plantings are limited because of locations of stumps. Stump grinders can be used to remove stumps and roots; thus, preparing spots for future plantings. The Manager is working on a Forestry grant to outsource removal of trees that are too large for our men. A list of trees to replace the removed ones needs to be prepared. Public Works is beginning to trim trees within the height and size of their capabilities. Trimming will be done in stages, addressing areas.

Athletic field maintenance – exactly what is occurring and planned; is watering schedule for field maximized? Our Board would like to know what the plan is to restore the field – what the treatment will be and the schedule for application. Work needs to be done immediately to restore it; it is in horrendous condition. Placing holes in the field would allow for an absorption of water and oxygen that would aerate the grass and invigorate the field. The field MUST be irrigated daily! It is working grass – each zone needs 20 to 30 minutes of watering each day. When the water goes deeper the roots will become stronger.

Village sign – progress towards cutting down hedge below wall. Coconut palm disposition – any progress? The hedge behind the village entrance sign has been cut lower. The memorandum states that Public Works also recommends removal of the 3 coconut palms since they were not part of the original design and the yearly cost of removing coconuts is about \$2,000. The muhly grass needs to be cut back once a year to rejuvenate. Cut with scissors. Find out from the landscaper how far it should be cut back and when this should be done. The new sod in front of the sign needs to be hand watered.

Preventing cars from crossing medians – report on # of contacts with abusers The memorandum from Mr. Hernandez mentioned installing more stoppers (2x4s) where there is a problem with cars crossing the median. Our Board previously made a motion to remove these stoppers; the only solution is stopping the offenders. Public Works should notify the Police when they notice a problem area. Door hangers or flyers can be distributed to every house on the block where a problem is noticed. In order for compliance, our Police must be the one to notify the residents.

Tree City USA application for 2011 – completed and filed? Our Manager is completing.

Arbor Day 2012 – any planning yet? Tree to plant/location? Dan Keys has several young cannonball trees that he can donate.

Discussion – next steps in planning process for median landscaping

Moving trees in conflict with newly planted trees – The mahogany east

of the log cabin is going to be relocated. The probable location is by the field near where the Village's US mailbox once was. Coconut trees need to be removed on medians.

Entrance projects - Our manager contacted Kimley-Horn about welcome signs at our entrances on the medians. Kimley-Horn will include this in a traffic plan.

Mini Park Development – Towards the end Barbara Watts visited and suggested that Biscayne Park form a partnership with MOCA. With Bonnie Clearwater's assistance, perhaps we could be a part of Art in Public Places. Griffing Park could be a sculpture park with temporary, large pieces. Meandering paths and benches would invite people to enjoy the sculptures. Large pieces would provide a visual statement for people driving by.

NEW BUSINESS

Suggestion of possibly developing walking paths on 3 large medians

An idea to create destination sidewalks, not connecting walks, but just a pleasant place to walk is being considered. The walkway around our Recreation Center has been so popular. In each area of Biscayne Park a space could be created for children, adults, and possibly dogs with paths, benches, and water fountains. The Foundation could add a vita course, if desired. If 2 large medians are across the street from each other, paver could be placed in between for traffic calming. In the beginning mulch paths could be established since they're inexpensive. Then when money is available, they could be replaced with safe, handicap accessible permanent paths. To begin, one location could be selected and drawings with several schemes could be considered.

Butterfly Park – Mr. Hernandez stated that the chain was installed because parked cars were ruining the grass. However, the chain is negating the goal – inviting people to enjoy a quiet, special area. Perhaps an opening can be made for people to walk through and the chain can be replaced with an attractive, natural rope.

Path around Recreation Center – There is a spot where roots have lifted the walk up. This is dangerous, especially at night. This must be fixed – immediately!

Bike night – A bike night was suggested where designated streets are closed to encourage people to come out and ride together. This would indicate that we are a bike friendly community.

Street signs – Barbara Watts suggested that we restore the historic street names (she said our streets used to be named after trees). Or being a bird sanctuary, our streets could be given bird names. Ms. Watts suggested attractive street signs for our streets.

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tentatively – February 15, 2012

ADJOURNMENT – 8:00PM

TWO OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK
COMMISSION AND OTHER CITY BOARDS MAY BE IN ATTENDANCE AT
THIS MEETING