



# Village of Biscayne Park

640 NE 114<sup>th</sup> Street  
Biscayne Park, FL 33161

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## Board Members

Dan Keys  
Chair

Pamela Garman  
Kristen Montuori  
Randy Wagoner  
John Zoeller

## Alternates

Lynn Fischer  
Mary Ann Jones  
Barbara Kuhl

## PARKS AND PARKWAYS ADVISORY BOARD DRAFT MINUTES

March 21, 2012 6 PM  
Ed Burke Recreation Center  
11400 NE 9<sup>th</sup> Court

*approved  
H/15/12  
DK*

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Dan Keys, Lynn Fischer, Pamela Garman, Mary Ann Jones, Barbara Kuhl, and Kristen Montuori Absent: Randy Wagoner and John Zoeller

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS – Additions are under New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT (PERMITTED FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 18, 2012 – deferred  
February 15, 2012 - approved

OLD BUSINESS – Because of new members, the concerns and actions for each item were summarized. Since this information has appeared in previous minutes, it isn't stated in the current minutes. New information is stated.

### Village staff status report

General median maintenance – excessive weed eating around fixed objects. Sixth Ave.?

Tree removal and tree trimming issues – report on any progress.

Athletic field maintenance – progress? It is being watered more frequently. It was noticed that the sprinklers are going in front of Village Hall even when it is raining. There are rain sensors that shut down irrigation systems when the ground is adequately wet.

Village sign – progress towards cutting down hedge below wall. Coconut palm disposition – any progress? What is cost of removal for the budget process?

Preventing cars from crossing medians – contacts with abusers?

Arbor Day 2012 - The plans are not known; there has been mention of vendors and workshops. Karen Cohen from the Ecology Board verified that there will be a native plant sale on April 28<sup>th</sup>. It needs to be advertised.

**Discussion – next steps in planning process for median landscaping**

Moving trees in conflict with newly planted trees – specific suggestions for budget process

Entrance projects - Funding may be available

Mini Park Development – It was suggested that our Village Recreation Center be developed to more adequately address adults. More picnic tables and benches could be added. Is there room for exercise stations around the perimeter of the park?

Development of walking paths on 3 large medians - Funding may be available

NEW BUSINESS

**Ecology Board recommendation for native demonstration project in one of medians**

– Karen Cohen, chair of the Ecology Board, introduced the idea. Their Board would like to create a demonstration project on one of the large medians, possibly on 116<sup>th</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Students from FIU would be involved in this project. Native plants would be used and labeling would be added for identification and education. It is estimated that this project could be accomplished with \$200 to \$250. Public Works would need to water until planting is established. The Butterfly Park was suggested as a site that would be improved with interpretive signs and more planting could be added. It was stated that this site is too out of the way and most of the residents don't walk by it. The project's goal is to raise people's awareness of landscaping their yards. It was suggested that the park at the Recreation Center would be a good location for the native planting project. A site was suggested. It would be a manageable size and would be enjoyed by a lot of people. Irrigation would be available. The planting could be a teaching resource and a classroom would be available at this site.

**Australian Pines and the Village's tree policy** – The Village needs to maintain its urban forest, keeping it in healthy condition. Dead wood needs to be continually removed. Australian Pines are not an exception – all trees need to be properly maintained. When pine trees are old and dying, as well as all the Village trees, it is not fiscally wise to spend money on them. On all lists the Australian Pine is illegal to sell and grow. Throughout South Florida, they are being removed in order to restore the original native planting. The resolution before the Commission is too complicated, has too many steps, and would be too expensive. At present there is not enough money to properly maintain our trees, and this resolution would demand a much larger budget. ~~Tree removal is based on facts not residents' opinions. Asking each person who lives on a street his/her opinion about a tree to be removed and what its replacement should be would stop the city from functioning.~~ A motion was made by Barbara Kuhl and seconded by Kristen Montuori: **Our Board recommends that the resolution should not be passed as written. It unnecessarily elevates Australian Pines to a special status. Its process is burdensome and it is financially and administratively excessive.** The motion passed unanimously (Pamela Garman and Mary Ann Jones had left).

**Effectiveness of Board meetings** – Many of the minutes from our meetings are not posted on the website. They need to be available. The Commission needs to be aware of what we are discussing and recommendations that we are making.

Motions that we make should be given to the Commission for their consideration. Minutes from all the Boards should be placed on the consent agenda so the Commission is aware of the proceedings. No one, including the Commission, knows what our Board is doing or discussing. A motion was made by Kristen Montuori and seconded by Barbara Kuhl: **Our Board recommends that the Village places draft minutes of all the Boards on the earliest available consent agenda.** The motion passed unanimously (Pamela Garman and Mary Ann Jones had left). A motion was made by Kristen Montuori and seconded by Lynn Fischer: **Our Board recommends that all the minutes from all the Boards be placed on the Village website as soon as they are available.** The motion passed unanimously (Pamela Garman and Mary Ann Jones had left).

**Introductions** – Each member introduced himself/herself and expressed individual interests and concerns.

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tentatively – April 18, 2012

ADJOURNMENT – 8:05 PM

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

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