



PARKS &
PARKWAY
ADVISORY BOARD

Dan Keys
Chairman

Barbara Kuhl
Robert Moreno
Robert Silverman
Randy Wagoner

Alternate
Lynn Fischer

MINUTES
PARKS & PARKWAY ADVISORY BOARD
Ed Burke Recreation Center 11400 NE 9th Court
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – Barbara Kuhl, Robert Silverman, , Dan Keys and Lynn Fischer were present; Robert Moreno and Randy Wagoner were absent. Krishan Manners represented Staff.
2. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS – Mahogany tree planting recommendation – Lynn Fischer
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (PERMITTED FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM) -
None
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Board unanimously approved the minutes of 10.29.2014 with the correction that by Barbara Kuhl stating that here comments regarding the Million Orchid project were not that the project was not correct for the Village, but that the benefits of the project might not be available for 2 years.
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. VILLAGE STAFF REPORT
 1. **General median maintenance** – Krishan Manners advised that the Village had received a new “Scag” mower for the and I t was now being used to mow the medians.

The Board advised that it would like to see better maintenance on the NE 6th Avenue corridor. The green island ficus hedge needs to be trained to encourage tighter growth and to differentiate it from the other plant material in the planting. It should be trimmed down so that there is a clear difference in the height compared to the other plant material and so that there is a delineation between the plants. Missing plants should be replaced as they are damaged or die out.

2. **Tree removal and tree trimming issues** – Mr. Keys advised that he had met with the Village staff and the tree trimming contractor and that a path forward was unclear. The services of a Certified Arborist might be needed. It was also suggested that Mr. Manners contact Mark Torok, the state forester in charge of our grant to see if he could assist in working up a trimming plan for this project.



The Board asked Mr. Manners what the status of the tree removal permits previously obtained by the Village was, stating that they might be expired. He advised that he would check. A suggestion was made that Mr. Sosa Cruz might be contacted for information regarding the pending grants and projects that were in the works prior to his leaving the employ of the Village.

3. **Athletic field turf maintenance** – No news.

4. **Athletic field irrigation system maintenance** – The irrigation pump motor had been rewound and is now back in operation. Some new heads have been installed as replacements, but it is unknown if these were replacing damaged heads or heads that had already been slated for replacement because they were not correctly specified. Krishan advised that he would check and advise.

5. **Highway Beautification Grant Proposal made for median of NE 6th Ave** – work is in the planning stages.

6. **Sixth Ave. Bridge Grant** – Dan Keys reported that he had worked with staff to mark out the plants on the East side of the bridge and that the plan was to install them in the very near future. One of the Sabal palms on the East side is dead.

7. **Continued discussion of landscape planning for 121 Street @ NE 10 Ave, 10th Ave. median and all entrances along 121 Street and at NE 107 Street at the railroad tracks** – Related to entrance signage recommendation made by the Board – see below.

8. **Discussion of path forward for design and construction of secondary entrance signage related to grant funding** – The sign grant had been approved by the Commission, but there was no knowledge of what it said regarding how the money could be used, specifically related to whether some of the funds could be used to produce in part a design concept as previously proposed by the Board. Barbara Kuhl mentioned that Village funds should be considered for the augmentation of the median design process if the grant did not in the end permit such expenditure. The Board agreed.

Staff had assumed that the sketch of a sign design presented by Mr. Keys at the last meeting was the Boards recommendation for actually moving forward. The fact that this was only to be considered as one thought for the development of a sign, was reiterated.

The Board reiterated its recommendation made at two previous meetings, that a Landscape Architect be hired to work with the Village to



design a signage system and to produce a flexible framework for landscaping all of the medians in the Village.

B. Million Orchid Project of Fairchild Garden – Barbara Kuhl advised that she had looked into the project further and that she had learned that plants might not be available for dissemination for another 2 – 3 years. She further suggested that the Village try and start this project on its own. Discussion took place and a motion was made and passed to authorize a sub committee of Barbara Kuhl, Robert Silverman and Lynn Fischer to gather further information on the technical aspects of installing and growing the orchids in the trees of the Village and to generally move the project forward. Bob Silverman advised that he had a friend that might be able to assist with information.

C. New proposed swale ordinance – The Board discussed the Village commission's decision to move forward with the first reading of this Ordinance in spite of this Boards request that it have further review. In the absence of that opportunity the Board moved and approved a motion to forward the following issues for consideration:

- The Ordinance needs definitions of off street and on street parking.
- Define "Swale".
- There is no Variance process and one should be considered.
- Several sections as indicated below have approval requirements with no proposed processes. Processes should be defined.
- The impact on future FEMA funding related to how we deal with trees on the right of way of the Village should be investigated.
- Who will decides if proposals subject to Section 5.3.2 are adherent to the Miami-Dade County Public Works Manual? Is a Village permit required? Can the Village deny on other grounds? Is the (d) section here intended to require the installation of sidewalks? Under what circumstances can the Village require sidewalk installation?
- Related to Section 5.3.4 - Second sentence of (a) should be worded to better to indicate "where" the objects belonging to the Village are located; If all non-conforming constructions and landscaping in the Right of Way are Village property, does the Village accept liability for these as of the date of enactment? If so, why would it?; "Grass" needs to be defined – bamboo is a grass as is sugar cane; The section on dome makers needs to be compared with the requirements of the Miami-Dade County code, which supersedes our code; Re mailboxes – this section will cause a situation to exist such that the mail carriers will drive onto the swale to deliver mail. This will cause ruts adjacent to mail boxes. Consider not permitting on the right of way; 5.3.4 (e) should be worded not as ""restrictions ..." but shall indicate that the things to follow are the exception to the rule that nothing be planted or constructed unless specifically permitted; the



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language regarding intrusions of plant material into other zones should ensure that the intruding plant not intrude into the ground space or into the airspace above the adjacent zone; What is the criteria for what is an approved tree, or is one to assume that any proposed tree is OK? Who is authorized to issue the permit for tree planting? Will a restrictive covenant and insurance be required? The wording of the mulch section is confusing. What is really meant by “red” mulch?: Consider a shorter space for the visitor parking on the right of way – a Ford explorer is only 15” long. This section also is inadequate to describe the situations where this space is required and where not – what is the impact of existing driveways on this element? Is a permit required to establish this area such that it does not violate the triangle of visibility required later? Shouldn’t this section be a separate ON STREET PARKING SECTION?; Section (f) – again, how do driveways impact this determination? Can the Village require removal of existing no conforming situations? Can Village require certain maintenance, i.e. repaving, sealing, leveling. What are the residents responsibilities regarding maintenance of the right of way for hazards? How about restrictive covenants regarding driveway or other parking surfaces on the Swale? Section (g) – how about removal of improved elements on the swale (decorative driveways or parking areas made necessary for utility construction)?; (h) – Who decides what trees will get Village permits for removal? Process, appeal?; (i) what happens is non conforming plants in the Low Zone intrude above 3 feet in a triangle of visibility? Shouldn’t removal be required? What process will be undertaken to identify and document existing conditions to be removed or to remain grandfathered in?; (j) weak section – no reference to hazards or maintenance of paved surfaces or keeping gravel areas weed free, etc.; Statements such as “qualified tree trimming company and or arborist are meaningless as to ensuring that the person is qualified. Using “Certified Arborist” is meaningful as there is a nationally recognized training and certification program for this designation. Also, any trimming should require a permit from the Village and the Village should have authority over the specification (extent) of the trimming that is done. The Miami Dade County Code should be consulted as to the requirements for tree trimming – at a minimum the related ANSI Standards should be referenced specifically.

- 5.3.5 – Attorney should review to ensure that the Pubic Right of Way is difficult to get through a vacation process.
- An alternate triangle of visibility of 15’ should be considered for situations where a sidewalk exists in order to mitigate unnecessarily impact to resident properties. See Coral Gables City Code Section 16 -2.



- The terms Cross Visibility and Clear Visibility are both used. Are they the same thing?
- In stating that parking is not permitted in the triangle of visibility, the Village takes on the responsibility to enforce this requirement. Is the will present to indeed enforce the code? Again as stated earlier, is a permit for visitor parking required to ensure compliance with this visibility issue?;
- 5.5 – When are sidewalks required or permitted? Who is required to maintain?
- 5.6 – Needs to be evaluated as to current Florida Statutes. There are grandfather provisions in this section which conflicts with 5.9, which gives one year for compliance.
- Soil should also be included under the statement of what is never considered an approved surface.
- Item (a) - many driveways of mixed materials which have been recently installed and which seem to be nice, would be disallowed. Why? Also, some people may not want to improve the right of way with an expensive driveway surface that might be subject to removal for installation of utilities. Asphalt or other approved surface should be allowed.
- Item (c) – Driveways and “parking” areas
- Item (d) – What is intended by this requirement? Consolidation of the material. An aesthetic consideration of some sort? Gravel driveways should not be required to have permanent borders, as this is likely to not be any more effective at retaining the gravel than is the simple weight and depth of the material. A border adds considerable cost for little benefit. A statement of maintenance (keeping weed free, replenishing the gravel, keeping the gravel within intended bounds, periodically leveling the gravel surface) would be more effective at giving the Village a tool to manage aesthetics.
- Item (e) – Road Rock is not defined (neither is gravel for that matter). Gravel should be defined, as a loose material not intended for compaction (like road rock). Consideration of gravel as being a material not to exceed ½ inch in diameter is advised. Consider permitting the village to have a list of approved gravels for driveways.
- Item (f) related to the swale, which is not related to Off-Street parking.
- 5.9 – does the Village have the will to implement a program of compliance? Should there be any statements of the process to do this so as to compel the administration to act?

The Parks and Parkways Board remains available for any further discussions of this Ordinance, the basic tenants of which were developed in tandem with the Code Review Board with the hope that it would have been brought back to us in draft form prior to submission to the Commission.



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6. NEW BUSINESS

A. MAHOGANY TREES FOR THE SOUTH SIDE OF NE 107 STREET – Lynn Fischer asked if the Village could be asked about the possibility of planting Mahogany trees on the South side of 107 street as had been discussed previously. This would balance the planting on the North side that the Village had installed.

NEXT MEETING DATE – TBD

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at approximately 8 PM.

Minutes of November 19, 2014 were approved on _____

By: _____
Dan Keys, Chair