



The Village of Biscayne Park

640 NE 114th St., Biscayne Park, FL 33161
Telephone: 305-899-8000 Facsimile: 305 891 7241

**PARKS &
PARKWAY
ADVISORY
BOARD**

**Barbara Kuhl
Chairman**

**Mercedes Diaz
Vice-Chair /
Secretary
Lynn Fischer
Randal Wagoner
Audra McCollum**

**MINUTES
PARKS & PARKWAY ADVISORY BOARD
640 NE 114th Street, Biscayne Park, FL
Wednesday, March 21, 2019 at 7:00PM**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

In attendance - Barbara Kuhl, Mercedes Diaz, Lynn Fischer, Randy Wagoner and Audra McCollum
Village Staff - Krishan Manners
Commission Member - Dan Samaria
Public - Dan Keys

B. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Barbara Kuhl and Mercedes Diaz were respectively voted for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair/Secretary.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (PERMITTED FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM)

Specified below.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 21, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. General Median Maintenance

It was suggested by the Chair, Barbara Kuhl, that the topic scope of this agenda item should exclude Public Works regular maintenance activities, unless a change in process is required, and focus on the larger outstanding Public Works median projects.

Topics discussed:

- a. Mulching median trees was discussed as a beneficial and recommended practice. Public Works has commenced mulching the trees around the field and it was suggested to follow up with David on extending the mulching to other median trees.
- b. Consideration of well irrigation as opposed to municipal water, for 114th St. butterfly garden and log cabin native landscaping, was discussed. Barbara Kuhl mentioned that David Hernandez was looking into an irrigation solution for the 114th St. butterfly garden and possibly replacing the pump of the pre-existing well at the log cabin.



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2. **Village sign landscaping, new sign installation and lighting considerations.**
Not discussed.
3. **Tree removal and tree trimming issues**
Given that the fiscal year budget (\$30,000) is insufficient to cover the estimated cost of removing all Australian pines from the medians (\$94,000-\$107,000), a few alternative suggestions were proposed.
 - a. Dan Keys suggested looking into a demolition contractor.
 - b. Barbara Kuhl proposed applying for the Florida Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program, which awards 50-50 matching grants. It was recommended to wait until summer when the 2019-2020 grants' submission dates will be announced.
 - c. There was dialogue regarding North Miami potentially covering the cost of Australian pine removal on 121st St. medians. Krishan Manners mentioned a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between North Miami and BP regarding the allocation of median responsibility on 121st St. As per the MOU, North Miami is responsible for all tree related matters and BP is responsible for maintenance such as mowing.
4. **Policy Ordinance development**
A draft policy was discussed regarding the placement of hurricane debris on swale vs. median. There were concerns on damage to median landscaping but a potential compromise was reached. It was proposed that residents place hurricane debris on the swale as a first choice and the median as the second and last choice. Recommendations were also made that the policy be accessible to residents via the website (Barbara Kuhl) and be added to the Disaster Recovery plan (Mercedes Diaz).
5. **Athletic field turf maintenance and restoration**
A pesticide free, ecologically safe alternative to Ballpark Maintenance's conventional treatment of the athletic field was proposed. North Miami's and Miami Shores' similar initiatives to implement a pesticide free, integrated pest management approach to median and athletic field maintenance, were also taken into consideration. It was decided that the athletic field maintenance will be placed on hold pending further discussion and evaluation of the integrated pest management (also referred to as ecological land management) alternatives. As per Krishan Manners, David Hernandez (public works director) will follow up with the Miami Shores' and North Miami's public works directors regarding the details of their integrative pest management initiatives.
6. **Sixth Ave. bridge landscaping - maintenance and restoration.**
 - a. Golden creeper - Various options for dealing with the affected golden creeper were discussed, ranging from organic pest management (Dan Keys) to replacing it altogether with a hardier.



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species. Regarding the caterpillar infestation, it can be safely said that the plant's stress is not solely attributed to the insect, which in its natural habitat uses the golden creeper as a host plant. There are other factors, which need to be considered such as low water retention due to slope conditions, soil erosion from water runoff and poor soil conditions (lack of organic matter). For the immediately sloping area next to the sidewalk, Mercedes Diaz proposed replacing the dying golden creeper with staggered hedgerows of vetiver grass - a hardy, non-invasive, drought tolerant, grass with an extensive root system, ideal for preventing erosion, retaining water and holding soil together on slopes. Krishan Manners advised that he would review the proposed options with David Hernandez.

- b. Weeding - Deeper mulching was recommended
 - c. Trimming or not trimming native trees - Pros and cons were discussed. To be discussed further when David Hernandez is present.
7. **Resolution of "Conflicting Tree Location" issues**
In response to BP's permit application for removing unwanted trees, the county requires that 13 additional trees be planted before the permit is approved. Krishan Manners will require locations and tree recommendations before proceeding. Barbara Kuhl suggested that we let the county know of our intentions to plant more trees (exceeding the 13 requested) along the medians. The current budget for resolving this issue is \$5,000.
 8. **Restoration of 6th Ave. irrigation and landscaping.**
Planting of Pentas was acknowledged. Krishan Manners confirmed that the ficus for the green island was ordered and would be planted shortly.
 9. **Seating garden on East side of Village Hall**
It was expressed that the brick pavers do not fit the aesthetic of the log cabin and would instead be used for other walkway projects. There were concerns that the project required additional planning and outside expertise to address lighting, accessibility, etc. Based on the funds raised (\$1,700) by the Foundation, the scope of the project may need to be revised. To be discussed further.
 10. **Landscape development of Village Hall grounds**
The board is awaiting details from the commission before evaluating and addressing the issue.
 11. **Update regarding 114th St. median planting.**
The monthly board member weeding/mulching of the butterfly park was announced. It was scheduled for 8:00 am on the last Friday of the month.



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12. **Update on administration's preference, if any, regarding new landscape development projects.**
Irrigation feasibility study is being handled by David Hernandez.
13. **Discussion of possible lighting project for the following locations:**
 - a. **Sixth Ave. bridge landscaping**
 - b. **Behind main village entrance sign**It was recommended that we explore additional funding options.
14. **Discussion of tree planting proposal for 2018-2019**
A preliminary review of potential tree planting locations on medians was conducted by board members, (Barbara Kuhl, Lynn Fischer, Randy Wagoner and Mercedes Diaz). To be discussed further at next meeting with David Hernandez.
15. **Permaculture demonstration site discussion**
Potential community garden and food forest projects were discussed as well as potential locations. To be discussed further.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

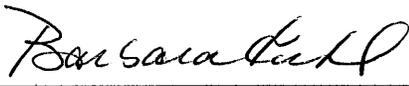
7. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday - April 18, 2019 at 7pm.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Minutes approved on 3/21/19

By: 
Barbara Kuhl, Chair