



PARKS &
PARKWAY
ADVISORY BOARD

Dan Keys
Chairman

Barbara Kuhl
Kimberlee Misek
Randy Wagoner

MINUTES
PARKS & PARKWAY ADVISORY BOARD
NEW VILLAGE HALL
640 NE 114 Street
Wednesday, JANUARY 20, 2016 at 7:00PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – Barbara Kuhl, Randy Wagoner and Dan Keys were present. Kimberlee Misek was absent. Village Clerk, Maria Camara and Commissioner Roxanna Ross were present. A motion was made to not excuse Kimberlee Misek's absence. The motion passed unanimously.
2. AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS - None
3. PUBLIC COMMENT - As indicated below.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None approved.
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. General median maintenance .– No discussion this meeting
 - B. Tree removal and tree trimming issues – No discussion this meeting.
 - C. Athletic field turf maintenance – No discussion this meeting.
 - D. Highway Beautification Grant Proposal made for median of NE 6th Ave – No discussion this meeting.
 - E. Sixth th Ave. Bridge Grant - No discussion this meeting.
 - F. Discussion of progress on design/installation of secondary entrance signage related to Miami-Dade County grant funding. Barry Miller from Sovino and Miller Design Studio, the consultant for the secondary entrance signs addressed the Board. He was asked what the intent of the taller plants behind the signs was. He advised that they were to screen the rear of the sign – primarily the silver, boxy attachment made to them. The Board indicated that it had previously discussed that they thought that these plants might block sight lines and that there seemed to be too many of them. Dan Keys advised Mr. Miller that it did not seem necessary to screen the back of the signs any longer due to the Village having recently painted over the silver portion of them. The Board had also had some concerns that low plants installed in front of them might block the signs. The planting of Saw Palmetto on the sides of the signs was of concern due to perceived sight line obstructions. Dan Keys made the suggestion that gray pea-gravel might be used in



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front of the signs as it was easy to maintain and it would present a low, clear sight line approach to the signs. Mr. Miller advised that possibly the signs could be raised or at least that the four future signs might be raised at least as far as to insure that their bases were level with the top of the curbing. Mr. Miller concurred that gray granite pea-gravel (not larger stones) would be the size of stone to use and that this material would be complementary in color to the Corten steel of the signs. After further discussion of plant material options, it was agreed to plant one Saw palmetto palm behind the sign sufficiently far away that it would not grow close enough to touch the sign to a great extent. Further, it was agreed to seek out samples of the gray stone to test on site, as there was general agreement that a pea-gravel of some color should be placed in front of and around the rear of the signs. It was agreed that various low and medium height plants would be planted on either side of the signs with the specific plants not yet being determined. Barbara Kuhl expressed a dislike of an asymmetric planting of tall plants behind the sign. The Board did not preclude the planting of taller plants behind the sign but agreed to proceed in a stepwise manner in recommending specific plants for the sides of the sign and then reevaluate the aesthetics at that point. The possibility of buying a small assortment of different appropriately sized plants for testing onsite was agreed upon as one course of action, subject to discussion with staff.

- G. Tree fertilization update - No discussion this meeting.
- H. "Million Orchid" project - No discussion this meeting.
- I. Resolution of "Conflicting Tree Location" issues - No discussion this meeting.
- J. Restoration of 6th Ave irrigation – No discussion this meeting.
- K. Discussion of changes made to landscape in front of 113 St. entrance sign – In the course of the discussion with Mr. Miller outlined in item F above, Mr. Miller asked how the multi tiered planting in front of the main Village sign at 113 Street had come about, as it was not what was intended by his earlier design of that planting. It was explained that the previous administration had undertaken the planting, possibly to minimize the expense of changing out seasonal flowers for that location. Mr. Miller advised that the intent for the front of the sign was to insure that the sign itself, including the metal and stonework, would be the design focal point and that these elements would be fully visible. He advised that at this point in time, the lower part of the stonework and metalwork was obscured. He further advised that the very formal clipped hedge was not complementary to the more informal planting



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behind and on each side of the sign. Originally, the area in front of the sign was simply planted with lawn-grass. Mr. Miller left open the possibility of one level of low hedge, but that this was not necessarily advisable. Mr. Keys questioned the need for any hedge as this required unnecessarily costly maintenance, as did the current planting. No specific recommendation was made as the Village Manager had not yet had the benefit of hearing the discussion mentioned above. The item would be brought forward at the next meeting for further discussion.

- L. Discussion regarding proposal to repurpose athletic field and proposed Vita Course – No discussion this meeting.

- M. Discussion of landscaping around the log cabin and screening of the electric panel – The Board again discussed this issue, noting that the electrical boxes had been painted and that this had improved their appearance. Two general thought processes were put forward to screen the electric boxes. The first being, as described by Barbara Kuhl; loosely screening the boxes with small trees under-planted with low shrubs, with the foliage of the small trees meeting the shrubs so that there was no open visibility under the tree foliage. Barbara Kuhl suggested Bahama Strongbark, Jamaica Caper, Texas sage and ligustrum as possible plants for this purpose. Mr. Keys advised that he didn't quite understand how obscure the planting would be, but that if a solid screening was intended, that would be too imposing. He advised that he was not against a similar planting where there was a separation between upper tree planting and the lower shrub material, which was not intended to totally obscure the electric boxes and which was not too dense. At this point he proposed the possibility of a decorative screening material to be tightly adhered to the electrical boxes on the back side (east) and made such that there were two closely installed decorative screen access doors on the front side (west) that could be opened for access to each electric panel. This would seem to provide the necessary access and safety clearances while consolidating (smoothing out) the appearance of the electric panels. In lieu of the screening, he would also be ok with just allowing the as is electric panel installation to be visible through open canopy screening plants, such that a dense mass of foliage was not obstructive of the building. The idea of having building signage affixed to this same type of enclosure, thus giving a secondary purpose for a structure in that location, was also forwarded by Mr. Keys. Some members thought that this was not the best location for a sign given the vehicular circulation to the site. It was suggested by Mr. Keys that although this was true as to vehicles, it was not true as to visibility from the administration building and in any event we were trying, with this suggestion, to solve the issue of an unattractive electric panel. No



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recommendation was forthcoming as further investigation of specific plant material and decorative screening was necessary and would be carried out by members before the next meeting. Screening of the air-conditioning units and the various water control apparatuses again focused on the possibility of a hard decorative screen in conjunction with a plant material, with Mr. Keys suggesting that this could be less intrusive than just having a dense hedge as the screening material. Again, additional investigation needed to be made before a recommendation could be made. Members did indicate that a solid hedge would sufficiently obscure the mechanical equipment at least from views from the road face of the units.

- N. Discussion of landscaping and fencing at the Recreation Center basketball court. The opinion was expressed that the newly installed bike racks and benches seemed to be placed too close to the courts such that players might unintentionally encounter them during active play. The merits of fence removal as a tool for calming down the activity on the courts was debated against the issue of errant balls and players encountering other park users. Apparently the results have been positive if at least not negative. Mr. Keys suggested that if landscaping was desired, that the Park Master Plan proposal for a palm and hedge planting along 9th avenue would be his suggestion. Generally, though, it was the consensus that other landscape projects such as for the Village signage be completed before moving forward with this proposal.

6. NEW BUSINESS - None
7. NEXT MEETING DATE – Tentatively, February 17th at 7 PM at the new Village Hall.
8. ADJOURNMENT at 9:28 P.M.

Minutes of January 20, 2016 were approved on _____

By: _____
Dan Keys, Chair