

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2022

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. It was confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.

III. A quorum was established with the attendance of committee members Becky Kutska, Dona Lasseter, and Angela Potter. Also, in attendance were Rizzetta Field Services Manager, John Toborg; ArtisTree Account Executive, Tim Drumgool; General Manager, Steve Dietz; and Executive Assistant, Mary Paige Huisman. Mike Jacobs joined by telephone.

IV. The draft of the minutes from the 5/6/2022 meeting was reviewed. Following discussion, Dona moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Angela, and unanimously approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Although no members of the public were present, committee members noted receiving several complaints since the May meeting.

- A. Residents adjacent to Upper Manatee River Road (UMRR) continue to complain about traffic noise and visibility attributed to the thinning vegetation. As we await replacement of the dead Simpson's Stopper that resulted from broken irrigation, we noted the thin growth habit elsewhere in the hedge and questioned if this is even the correct plant for this area. Adding a row of something thicker (like Cocoplum and/or Arbutus) behind the Simpson's Stopper was offered for future consideration. Addressing the span north of the entrance is proving to be complicated if we want to achieve an appearance congruent with that to the south without interrupting any of the visual barrier that currently exists. Understandably, property owners adjacent to UMRR are very sensitive to changes, and it will be important to communicate with them as we move to improve these areas.
- B. A tree in the nature preserve adjacent to the walkway between Conch Shell and Waterlefe Boulevard (WLB) appears to be dying with large chunks of bark dropping on the path. Steve will investigate regulations regarding having the tree removed before it can damage the walkway.
- C. The Hong Kong Orchid Trees along UMRR are becoming unsightly. Because of their excellent outcomes and fair prices elsewhere within Waterlefe, AmeriTree would be our vendor of choice for this project, and John Toborg will request a proposal from Blake.

VI. CDD BOARD REPORT (Steve)

- A. The CDD Board approved moving forward with the Bird Island project of removing the dead tree, removing most of the Spanish moss from the live tree, and removing the undergrowth.
- B. Replacing the underperforming Asiatic Jasmine along UMRR with Allamanda and Plumbago was approved at a cost NTE \$2500. The Allamanda and Plumbago will be planted 2-feet on center, and crotons will be moved to SE corner. ArtisTree was reminded to add soil so the plants can be placed in a "stadium pattern."
- C. Tom Tosi will work with the CDD Board on how to fund a SE corner monument. He also emphasized that it is essential not to be skimpy if we want to achieve optimal and long-lasting results.

VII. JOHN TOBORG REPORT: Please see John Toborg's Field Inspection Report dated May 26, 2022. Specifically discussed at this meeting include:

- A. Fertilization has been a challenge this year, and John asked for improved communication with ArtisTree. Ixora is especially suffering and needs prompt attention.
- B. Irrigation heads on west side of UMRR seem to be leaking. ArtisTree was asked to followup.

- C. Bed edges along UMRR are irregular and need to be better defined.
- D. Large mowers operating too close to mulch areas are blowing away the mulch.
- E. Many turf areas are suffering, and some areas adjacent to turf are filled with weeds. Irrigation and crew inattention are the likely culprits.
- F. Annual beds are performing inconsistently – probably another irrigation issue.
- G. Sago is still at risk in several areas. Dona related having the same problem at her home and that her neighbor's vendor applied a product that solved the problem. She will contact the vendor and forward that information to John.
- H. The entrance to Discovery Terrace east contains dead material. Also, the Confederate Jasmine appears to be failing and some is missing. (Tim will followup on whether it was ever even installed.)
- I. Additional items are referenced in Section IX.

IX. ARTISTREE REPORT

- A. The Turning Leaf and Sand Crane cul-de-sac projects have been completed as requested. By replacing just the sod that was damaged during plant removal and installation, we realized a savings of approximately \$2000 over the original proposal. However, John pointed out the appearance is less than optimal. Committee members agreed to wait a few months to see if the turf fills in satisfactorily before we consider intervention.
- B. Allamanda and Plumbago have been ordered to replace the Asiatic Jasmine along UMRR.
- C. The next detail pass is scheduled for 6/15.
- D. Irrigation continues to be a topic of concern. Tim reiterated that the current set up is not optimal for both turf and annuals, which have different watering needs. Separating the system to serve each individually would be preferable, but until that can happen, Dona recommended the system be tested to ensure the current configuration is working properly. She volunteered her assistance when ArtisTree next performs this assessment.
- E. Steve noted that The Villas receive a notice of service and asked if we can get one for our area. Tim will ask if this can be done.
- F. Other areas of concern brought to Tim's attention were debris left in the streets, areas missed when the bushes were trimmed (e.g., Restoration Terrace), grass adjacent to the retention ponds being allowed to grow too high, and continued problems with the Bougainvillea in the roundabout. He will instruct his crew to be more mindful of their work and followup on the areas that did not receive attention. He did not have any information regarding the Duck Bill Anchoring System for the Bougainvillea.
- G. Additional ArtisTree items are discussed in Section VII.

X. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

- A. Bird Island Update: A NTE amount of \$3000 has been approved by the CDD Board to remove the "stick tree," remove most of the Spanish moss from the live tree and remove the undergrowth. AmeriTree will be the vendor, but a schedule has not been provided.
- B. Two Year Plan Ideas: Ideas shared by committee members included (in no particular order): Cul-de-sac refurbishment, visual abatement in areas adjacent to UMRR, welcome sign at the Waterlefe end of the footbridge connecting to Heritage Harbor, adding a fountain to pond #2, separating irrigation into annual and non-annual systems, improvements to the SE corner, adding benches to public areas, adding edging to vulnerable mulch areas, adding a tree to Bird Island, having a company (Ballenger) map the entire irrigation system, landscaping the golf course parking lot, coordinating annual rotations with The Watch for continuity, renovating the "eyebrows" at Discovery Terrace inbound, continuing with Live Oak trimming, filling in beds

along WLB that have lost plants, and staking the Bougainvillea in the roundabout. Additional amenities, such as a dog park and sports courts, were also discussed, but there is no property available for their placement. Mary Paige will compile a list which committee members will use to prioritize the items for discussion at the July meeting.

- C. SE Corner: Steve was asked if he could remove the current sign from this location so we can visualize the area and entertain ideas for the SE corner remodel. He said he would see to it.
- D. Winding Stream berm update: Nancy recommended the Dazzle variety of arbutus for this area. ArtisTree's proposal stipulates 3-gallon size. We have asked that the proposal be resubmitted stipulating 7-gallon plants. The committee members agreed that once Steve receives this adjusted proposal, he should present it to the CDD Board without revisiting the issue at next month's meeting.

XI. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE: Steve's comments are included elsewhere.

XII. LIASON COMMENTS: Tom Tosi was unable to attend today's meeting.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- A. The new spray pattern in pond #1 has been well received. This proved to be an inexpensive project, and Angela asked if other fountains (aka geysers) in Waterlefe could receive the same treatment.
- B. The lighting at pond #1 is now barely visible since being moved beneath the bridge, and we would like to see moved back to its original position. The question remains as to why it was moved in the first place. Steve will investigate. If the lights were considered too bright, he will research dimming options. If dimming the current lighting is not an option, is a lower-lumen option available?
- C. Giella Designs' three-year proposal for holiday decorations was reviewed. Steve will followup with the vendor for clarity regarding the \$1500 discount and whether it is \$1500 per year or \$500 per year for a total of \$1500 over the course of three years. Irrespective of that, Angela moved to forward the proposal to the CDD for approval, seconded by Dona, and unanimously approved.
- D. The proposed landscape manual to document standards and communicate with vendors and other interested parties was again discussed. Because the Sunshine Law prevents any direct communication between committee members regarding how to best to approach this project, we may want to hold separate meetings outside the Landscape Committee meetings. Until this decision has been made and appropriate notice has been given, we are encouraged to send our ideas to Mary Paige, who will organize the information for discussion in our meetings.
- E. Manatee County will be moving ahead with widening UMRR and altering traffic patterns at the Fort Hamer bridge intersection in 2023. The specifics are still in development, but Steve will keep us updated as information becomes available.
- F. Because individual schedules may interfere with our assembling a quorum over the next couple of months, Mary Paige will email us alternative dates for consideration and will then post public notice of any agreed upon change.

XIV. Committee members were reminded to check CDD e-mail on a regular basis.

XV. The Sunshine Law was reiterated to committee members.

XIV. The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 15, 2022.

XVI. Angela moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky, and unanimously approved at 4:50 p.m.