

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2023

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

II. It was confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed. Attendees were asked to silence their phones.

III. A quorum was established with the attendance of committee members Mike Jacobs, Becky Kutska, and Angela Potter. Also, in attendance were CDD Liaison, Tom Tosi; Rizzetta Field Services Manager, John Toborg; ArtisTree Account Executive, Tim Drumgool; General Manager, Steve Dietz; and Executive Assistant, Mary Paige Huisman. Following Mike Jacob's motion and unanimous approval, Dona Lasseter and Nancy Rechcigl were allowed to attend by phone.

IV. The members reviewed the draft of the minutes from the December 2, 2022, meeting. Mike Jacobs moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Becky Kutska and unanimously approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Waterlefe resident Sig Feile, a plant nursery owner from New York, commented to Mike Jacobs that the flowers and leaves of our current annuals (petunias) do not appear as vivid as they should, indicating an iron deficiency. Per Tim, the annuals are scheduled for an application of 20-20-20.

VI. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

- A. The community consensus is that Waterlefe is looking good.
- B. The recent cold snap caused minor damage to the petunias, which already seem to be recovering. Please see Section V.
- C. The CDD Board approved ArtisTree's \$3,439 sod proposal. This has been installed and looks good, per Mike Jacobs. Nancy reminded us that sod does best with full sun and should be installed no closer to any tree trunk than just inside the tree's dripline.
- D. Separate walkthroughs by Tim, John, Mike, and Dona in December revealed six more Tree Ligustrums that need to be removed. These were tagged with a yellow ribbon. Per Mike Jacobs' count, remaining work on Tree Ligustrums necessitated by storm damage include four trees that need to be removed with stumps ground and sod installation; two trees that need to be removed and stumps ground (no need for sod); two stumps that still need to be ground followed by sod installation; and four stumps that need to be ground with no need for sod. ArtisTree's proposal for this work is \$3,193.70, which reflects an increase in the price of stump grinding by ArtisTree's subcontractor. Mike moved that this proposal be sent to the CDD Board for approval, seconded by Becky with unanimous approval. Tim will use his new chain saw to flush cut those stumps in the Waterlefe Boulevard (WLB) median that will not require sod, at no extra charge.
- E. As reflected in the December 2, 2022, minutes (Section VIII.D.), the recent walkthrough revealed the common area adjacent to the first house on the left side of Sand Crane south is overcrowded and severely encroaches the residential property. By John Toborg's count, ten Tree Ligustrum should be removed before we make any further decisions. ArtisTree's proposal for this work is \$2,925. Becky moved that we forward this proposal to the CDD Board, seconded by Angela, with unanimous agreement.
- F. Cul-de-Sac Renovation: Of our 21 cul-de-sacs, seven still contain Philodendrons, which are becoming unsightly.
 1. The CDD Board approved ArtisTree's proposals of \$4,725 and \$5,541 for renovation of Big Bass and Rainbow Court cul-de-sacs, respectively. This total of \$10,266 is \$1,024 under our previously approved budget of \$11,290.

2. The remaining cul-de-sacs will be addressed as this fiscal year's budget allows or will be included in future project proposals.
- G. Ameri-Tree's proposal of \$22,000 for the second phase of oak tree trimming is more than we can afford because of the unexpected expense of storm damage repairs. After much discussion, we identified several areas that should be prioritized, including Fish Hook in front of and past the golf club (not those that create buffer between driving range and Fish Hook residents) and a couple of areas on or just off Winding Stream. Steve and Mary Paige will refine the list and ask Ameri-Tree to submit a proposal with these modifications. Once received, the proposal will be sent to the board.
- H. CDD President, Ken Bumgarner, asked us to revisit doing something reasonable with SE corner balustrade. Our most recent plans will be resubmitted to the board.
- I. The CDD Board agrees with our thoughts on including the Winding Stream and Mossy Branch gates in our future holiday decorating schemes. Power is available at both locations. Quotes will be obtained, one with and one without lights. We will revisit this later in the year.
- J. The Rainbow Court median remains an eyesore. We agreed the design needs to be improved. Nancy volunteered to submit a design at February's meeting. We would prefer to keep this project under \$500, which falls in line with the cost of simply replacing the underperforming shrubs.
- K. Mike has volunteered to participate in a walkthrough to determine the number and types of shrubs that need to be replaced. This project will be scheduled for the spring.
- L. In spite of being incorrectly and unattractively pruned early in 2022, the Crape Myrtles in the median between Field Brook and the roundabout are felt to be performing well enough that we have rescinded our request that ArtisTree replace them at their expense. Instead, ArtisTree has agreed to replace an underperforming Crape Myrtle outbound near the guardhouse to closely approximate the one on the inbound side. Tim was reminded that, henceforth, nothing larger than the size of a thumb should be removed from Crape Myrtles.

VII. JOHN TOBORG REPORT: For complete details, please see the Waterlefe Landscape Inspection report dated December 20, 2022. Items specifically discussed at this meeting included:

- A. Fertilizer
 1. The next application is scheduled for February. Nancy suggested the end of February to minimize the possibility of frost damage to new growth stimulated by the fertilizer.
 2. John asked that a single category of vegetation be fertilized at a time to help the crews focus their attention and make sure everything gets covered and with the correct amounts. He feels trying to do everything in a single pass may be the cause of suboptimal results.
 3. The newer Foxtail Palm nearest WLB at the inbound monument is yellowing. This could be due to pH, but John asked Tim to make sure this tree gets ample fertilizer.
 4. John reiterated the requirement that ArtisTree notify him with details a week prior to each application. He will be on site during application, if possible.
- B. Mossy Branch Gate:
 1. The unmanicured areas adjacent to the beds at the subject gate need to be cut back and maintained in a manner that will not detract from our more formal plantings. This untended area belongs to Medallion, but until they develop their property, we have no expectation that they will take care of this area.
 2. The Copperleaf in said area should be maintained shorter than the height of the adjacent fence.

3. The Sweet Viburnum behind the black metal fence should be maintained at the same height or just slightly above the black metal fence.

C. Turf:

1. Spurge, and possibly insects, in Sand Crane north cul-de-sac should be inspected and treated.
2. Identify and treat problems in the turf in Sand Crane south cul-de-sac.
3. Invasive grasses and weeds in Discovery north cul-de-sac continue.
4. Ruts in turf in median adjacent to Field Brook caused by mowing in wet conditions should be corrected, either by rolling or replacing turf.

D. Shrubs:

1. Bougainvillea in roundabout have been righted but some roots remain exposed. Per Tim, to have buried them would have meant entirely digging up the trees and disrupting the surrounding plants, which could have caused more harm than good. These roots are probably too dry to salvage, and if so, we would like them removed ASAP and mulch smoothed for aesthetic purposes.
2. There are damaged Gold Mound and Ixora in the roundabout. Tim was asked to submit a proposal for their replacement.
3. Petite Salmon Oleander in the golf club parking lot may have Oleander caterpillar. Tim was asked to inspect and treat accordingly.
4. Scale on Sago Palms should be diagnosed and treated. Per Tim, ArtisTree does not have the chemical used by Dona's gardener with excellent results. We will try to purchase it.
5. Gold Dust Croton in many areas are underperforming. Diagnose and treat accordingly. Tim will use hygrometer to check soil moisture content.
6. Arbutus are covering King Sago in sideyard buffer at Misty Pond. Please terrace.

E. Trees:

1. The palms at Rainbow Court and Winding Stream that were overlooked with last pruning are, indeed, on common property and should be pruned ASAP.
2. The oak on Big Bass needs to be lifted at least 14.5' above the road.
3. The oaks in the golf club parking lot are just covered with Spanish Moss well below the 15' threshold. Per Tim, ArtisTree already began removing this during their last pass.

F. Remaining storm damage, etc.

1. Dead material in WLB median.
2. Dead material from King Sago Palm in outbound side buffer of Misty Pond.
3. Storm-damaged Tree Ligustrum removal caused damage to hedge in buffer between guardhouse and Conch Shell east. Please prune these back in the spring to try to stimulate new growth. In the meantime, dead material should be removed.

G. Irrigation.

1. Several areas have questionable irrigation. Please make sure the irrigation inspection evaluates for proper coverage and not just making sure the devices are working. Since this is such an ongoing problem, we would appreciate someone not employed by ArtisTree be present during the inspection. If John is not available, someone from the committee would be happy to attend.
2. WLB between Discovery and Portside is always wet. Is there a crack or is the system running too often here?
3. The homeowner on Field Brook east also reported the area is constantly wet due to runoff.

VIII. ARTISTTREE REPORT

- A. Tim reported good feedback in response to the luncheon we hosted.
- B. Renovation of the Big Bass and Rainbow Court cul-de-sacs was originally scheduled for February 8 and 9. We asked that be moved to March to minimize the possibility of frost damage to new plants. When this work is done, John reminded Tim that the palm pups should also be removed from the Paurotis Palms to create a more manicured appearance. This is to be an ongoing part of trimming these palms.
- C. The spring mix of annuals will not be available from Bloom Masters until early March. The Petunias are doing very well and will probably last another month.

IX. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

Steve's participation is reflected in comments throughout.

X. LIASON COMMENTS

In addition to Tom's participation throughout the meeting, he took this opportunity to thank Tim Drumgool for his attention to our community.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- A. Ameri-Tree is unable to fulfill any part of their proposal for work on Bird Island due to access, labor, and equipment limitations. Terry's Tree Service proposed \$7,225 for this project. This project is tabled for the time being.
- B. The storm damage to the Hong Kong Orchid Trees along UMRR has been removed. One was severely affected, and there is a question of its survival. We will take a wait-and-watch approach for the time being.
- C. There is orange slime mold on the pine tree at River Basin and 9607 Discovery. Per John, this is quite common, staff was directed to get quotes and to remove the pine tree.

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

XIII. Sunshine Law was reiterated to committee members.

XIV. The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 3, 2023.

XV. Becky moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike and unanimously approved at 4:32 p.m.