

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2022

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:01 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, Dona Lasseter, and Angela Potter. Also, in attendance were Rizzetta Field Services Manager, John Toborg; ArtisTree Account Executive, Tim Drumgool; CDD Liaison, Tom Tosi; General Manager, Steve Dietz; and Executive Assistant, Mary Paige Huisman.

IV. The members reviewed the draft of the minutes from the 10/7/2022 meeting. Mike moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dona, and unanimously approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A committee member shared a complaint she received about the "Bird Island" project, which has been moved to January 2023 because Ameri-Tree has had to prioritize storm damage from Hurricane Ian. We must be patient.

VI. STORM UPDATE

- A. ArtisTree has completed the work on the Ligustrum trees requested in October. The stumps have not been ground, and Tim has been unable to get a firm date from the subcontractor. Given the work stipulated in VII.B., this could be postponed and done all at once.
- B. The Ribbon Palm in the roundabout has been righted but still leans significantly. Per Tim, this was intentional because he felt to make it straighter would crowd the canopy. He was instructed to straighten the tree to approximately the original position and trim all three Ribbon Palms. He was also asked to check on the irrigation in this area as it was very dry when John Toborg checked it yesterday.
- C. The Bougainvillea in the roundabout have been righted, staked, and trimmed. Some appear to be at risk and will be monitored. If any fail, our plan would be to replace them because they are such a focal point in that landscape. Two Duckbill anchoring systems have been received and will be installed. If these provide the desired results, we will order more.
- D. Mary Paige reported that Ameri-Tree can begin removal of dead wood from the Hong Kong Orchid Trees on December 5 at a cost of \$2500, which has been approved by the board. The committee agreed Ameri-Tree is our best option and that this should move forward as soon as possible.
- E. Tom recommended debris be blown from the boardwalks to prevent further damage.
- F. Per Mike, there is still debris on golf cart paths.
- G. Steve is still awaiting a response from FEMA regarding a grant for storm damage.
- H. County storm debris collection is in progress, but there is no way to know when Waterlefe will be done. Steve will communicate this to our residents, including the option of bundling debris for regular Wednesday yard waste removal.

VII. JOHN TOBORG REPORT: For complete details, please see the Waterlefe Landscape Inspection Report dated November 3, 2022. Specifically discussed at this meeting were:

- A. It is essential that ArtisTree notify John a week prior to all fertilization events, the specs on fertilizer bags be emailed to John beforehand, and the quantity of bags be verified by someone appointed by Steve on the day of application.

- B. Several of the fallen Ligustrums that ArtisTree attempted to right have exposed roots and/or extensive damage and should be removed. The trees in question will be flagged with a pink ribbon. ArtisTree has been asked for a proposal to remove and grind stumps of those where stumps will be visible from the road.
- C. The soil buildup in the annual beds is insufficient. Please see VIII.B. We discussed the yearly soil excavation and replacement stipulated in the contract and asked that this be done prior to the spring installation.
- D. Several areas of failing turf were discussed. That on Conch Shell west has been repeatedly mentioned in the monthly inspection reports, and at this point, John feels it should be replaced at ArtisTree's expense.
- E. Sweet Viburnum hedge along the south wall has been allowed to grow taller than the wall in some areas and some of the hedge seems to be failing. This area also did not receive mulch. ArtisTree was asked to provide the wet check report for this area with their response to this inspection report. Steve will have the area mulched.
- F. The dead shrubs on the outbound side of the Mossy Branch gates have either not been replaced or have died again. Said beds in general, need to be cleaned up.
- G. The Discovery north eyebrow cul-de-sac is still not being maintained, and the palm in this area has been missed on the past two pruning passes.
- H. There are several areas of dead and broken material throughout the community that still need to be removed.

VIII. ARTISTREE REPORT

- A. Palm trimming was stalled by Hurricane Ian. Tim thinks it will be finished in the next two weeks.
- B. Annuals delayed until November 9. Two cubic yards of Command soil have been added to the beds, and additional topsoil will be added at the time of planting. Dona will have outlined all beds by the date of installation. We also reminded Tim that annuals should be drenched while still in the pots and then watered again after placement.
- C. Tim's discussion with Bloom-Masters revealed Bloom Masters will charge \$2.74 per plant if they install. If ArtisTree sources the material from Bloom Masters and does the installation, the price will remain \$2.20. Tim suggested that Steve might be able to contract directly with Bloom-Masters through the golf course, at a lower cost than through ArtisTree.
- D. Tim was shown a picture of a "spring mix" and was asked if ArtisTree could do such an installation. It was explained to us that "mixes" come that way from the supplier so the crew just install the plants as they are arranged in the flat, so yes, ArtisTree can do that kind of installation.
- E. Tim was asked to definitively clarify with American Farms whether they will or will not grow specifically requested annuals for Waterlefe.
- F. Dona noted that the crews sometimes leave behind debris and asked that Tim remind them to leave the areas clean.
- G. Dona also noted the large volume of epiphytes throughout the landscape that should be removed.

IX. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

- A. Mulch was applied October 24 and, other than the overlooked areas mentioned in John Toborg's report, looks great. Steve will see that the overlooked areas are remedied.

- B. The results of the soil analysis from the Rainbow Court median show the soil to be alkaline. This would help explain why plants are not thriving and will need to be addressed before we move forward with this project. John will evaluate the data and present his recommendations.
- C. The CDD Board of Directors approved an ArtisTree crew appreciation event. Steve will orchestrate the details.

X. PRIORITY LIST

- A. It was noted that some of the first phase projects have been included in the Hurricane Ian storm damage recovery plan.
- B. Because of budget cuts and the cost of repairing recent storm damage, we need to cut approximately \$31,000 from the first phase of our proposed two-year projects. Proposed reductions include deleting the irrigation study (\$15,000) and up lighting median caps at the roundabout (\$13,360) and cutting by half the oak tree trimming (\$10,000) for a total of \$38,360. Mike will present this at the November CDD Board meeting.
- C. The need to consider DOT activities adjacent to Waterlefe and the possible impact on some of our projects was discussed. For example, early reports are that the drainage along UMRR will be modified from a ditch to underground piping and soil to create a level surface. This could solve a couple of problems, but it is also possible that adjacent landscaping could be damaged. Therefore, it might be wise to postpone some projects until plans for road and bridge construction are finalized. A Waterlefe representative will continue contact with Manatee County and keep us apprised.

XI. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

Steve's comments are noted throughout these minutes.

XII. LIASON COMMENTS

In addition to his participation throughout the meeting, Tom suggested rethinking our approach to Waterlefe landscaping to gain better control and improved results. He illustrated with one idea and challenged us to think outside the current box. Discussion will continue with no defined timeline.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

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

XV. The Sunshine Law was reiterated to committee members.

XVI. The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 2, 2022.

XVII. Angela moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike, and unanimously approved at 4:48 p.m.