

# **LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

## **February 3, 2023**

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 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, Angela Potter, and Nancy Rechcigl. 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. Steve conducted the meeting in the absence of Mike Jacobs.

IV. The draft of the minutes from the January 6, 2023, meeting was reviewed. Following discussion, Dona moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Becky, and unanimously approved.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. Michael Taylor and Ron Castle attended to express two concerns:

1. The fire bushes on the cul-de-sac island at Restoration Terrace are always too tall and pose a safety concern by concealing traffic. This hedge is supposed to be maintained at a height of no more than three feet, but the crew does not seem to understand this. Tim was asked to devise a way to consistently communicate this to his crew.
2. The noise from the increased traffic on Upper Manatee River Road is already intrusive and will get worse when the road is expanded. These residents would appreciate a fountain in the adjacent pond to mask some of the traffic noise. The committee had previously discussed this from an esthetic perspective, to balance the fountain on the inbound side, but it was dismissed when Steve's early research showed additional electrical lines would have to be run under Waterlefe Boulevard (WLB) at a significant cost. Michael offered to pay for the power to run from his property. Ron and Michael pointed out there is electricity at the monument on the outbound side. Steve will contact our fountain and electrical vendors for more specific information. Tom will raise the issue at the next CDD Board meeting.

### **VI. CDD BOARD REPORT**

- A. The CDD Board approved ArtisTree's proposal to remove additional Ligustrums with stump grinding and placement of sod as needed. These trees have been removed, but we are awaiting stump grinding before the work can be finished.
- B. After approval by the CDD Board and consultation with the adjacent homeowner, five Ligustrum in the side yard buffer at WLB and Sand Crane South were removed. Pruning the oak crowding a Ligustrum in this area is part of Ameri-Tree's phase 2, described in Section VI.C.
- C. The CDD Board approved phase 2 oak trimming by Ameri-Tree at a cost of \$9,050. The work is scheduled for March and will include CDD-owned trees around Big Bass, "eyebrows" on Discovery, Field Brook, and Portside Terrace, Fish Hook cul-de-sac, some trees on Winding Stream berm from Rainbow Court to gate and golf club parking lot, and the oak at Sand Crane and WLB.

**VII. JOHN TOBORG REPORT:** For complete details, please see the Waterlefe Landscape Inspection report dated January 31, 2023. Items specifically discussed at this meeting include:

- A. ArtisTree must notify John Toborg and Waterlefe personnel at least five days prior to the application of fertilizer and check in with Waterlefe staff on the day of application to verify type and quantity of fertilizer and confirm the areas to be treated.
- B. Irrigation
  - 1. Turf discoloration on Sand Crane north -- Is irrigation functioning properly?
  - 2. Irrigation controller left open on Sand Crane south -- Please be careful.
  - 3. Please check for irrigation damage where there are tire tracks in the turf.
  - 4. Reattach rain shutoff device on Day Lily cul-de-sac.
  - 5. Large amount of runoff at north side of roundabout. Please evaluate for broken pipes (a simple process), stuck zones, and double programs.
  - 6. Given the significant number of problems with irrigation and members' inability to attend inspections due to the Sunshine Law, committee members requested a copy of the irrigation schedule, now and every time the schedule is altered. This information will help us identify and communicate problems ArtisTree may not be able to discern on their standard wet checks. Dona has offered multiple times to attend wet checks to assist in identifying issues and/or areas not being irrigated properly.
  - 7. Due to persistent issues, Tom also noted Daniel (ArtisTree's irrigation manager) may need to be onsite with Carlos (tech) during wet checks.
- C. Turf
  - 1. Tire tracks from unverified source(s) in several areas need to be leveled/repaired.
  - 2. Due to the increased number of tire tracks in turf of cul-de-sacs, John suggested that Steve send an email to residents reminding them there is no parking in cul-de-sacs and make their vendors aware of same. Also noted is that the language on the signs is not clear. Can this be corrected to something like NO PARKING IN CUL-DE-SAC?
  - 3. Alter mow patterns to avoid "hill-valley-hill" appearance.
  - 4. Ruts in turf on WLB near Field Brook are still untreated, and turf now appears to be dying. Has fungus developed due to the soggy condition? Please evaluate and treat.
  - 5. Turf in roundabout perimeter appears stressed. This was first reported on November 3, 2022. What is the plan for diagnosis and treatment?
- D. Shrubs/Trees
  - 1. Copperleaf plants in the WLB median that are defoliating need a rejuvenation cutback before spring growth begins.
  - 2. All frost damage needs to be removed.
  - 3. Some Ti Plants are becoming too tall and are leaning (e.g., inbound Misty Pond). As instructed previously, the canes are to be kept at alternating heights, cutting back the tallest, when necessary, to manage overall height.
  - 4. The Bougainvillea tree in roundabout island on the side facing Winding Stream is down again. Per Tim, this may require machinery to remove the tree entirely and reset/re-stake it. Notably, a Duckbill anchoring apparatus had been installed here but did not work as expected. Dona asked if it would be appropriate to give it a big "haircut" beforehand.
- E. Cleanup
  - 1. Discovery west, eastern end of inbound buffer, still needs to be cleared of weeds and overgrown and dead plants.

2. There is a significant amount of Spanish moss and ball moss below the 15' threshold on ArtisTree-maintained trees that MUST be removed, as per our contract.
  3. Incidentally noted today and not in the report is a dead branch hanging just inside the Winding Stream gate that could pose a safety hazard.
- F. Proposals requested from ArtisTree:
1. Complete removal of failing Sweet Viburnum on west side of the Mossy Branch gates and installation of five 15-gallon Sweet Viburnum and mulch, including inspection of the irrigation system to make sure it is 100% operative in this location.
  2. Purchase and installation of Walking Iris beneath the triple Foxtail Palm nearest WLB in the roundabout in sufficient quantity to match the others.
  3. Purchase and installation of three-gallon FULL Mammy Croton in sufficient quantity to fill bare spots and create a full bed in the Winding Stream median adjacent to the roundabout.
  4. Purchase and installation of replacement Fire Bush shrubs for Sea Turtle. Fire Fly Compacta is the preferred variety.
  5. John is still awaiting the proposal for Gold Mound replacement in the roundabout.

#### VIII. ARTISTREE REPORT

- A. Turf is scheduled for fertilization with 8-10-12 + micronutrients and preemergent on or about February 15.
- B. Shrub cutbacks in median will begin next week.
- C. Turf (Bitter Blue) replacement at Conch Shell west will be done in conjunction with the turf replacement elsewhere necessitated by Ligustrum removal.
- D. The palms at Rainbow Court/Winding Stream and Maritime that were missed during the last pass will be pruned at the same time the pine tree is removed.
- E. Tim was asked to prioritize stabilization of the Bougainvillea in the roundabout (see VII D.4).

#### IX. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

- A. Bird Island issues: The quote from True Tree for the work on Bird Island is \$3800. Mary Paige reports White Diamond will also be submitting a proposal. This will be revisited at our March meeting.
- B. Winding Stream layout: Nancy will remeasure and present sketches at the March meeting. She will also mark the plants that need to be removed. Steve or Mary Paige will email residents adjacent to this area before plants are removed to minimize complaints.
- C. A design for the Rainbow Court median will be forthcoming.

#### X. LIASON COMMENTS: At this time, Tom expressed his frustration about the length of our meetings. Discussion of possible options for streamlining included:

- A. John Toborg answers to the CDD Board of Supervisors. Therefore, he performs his inspection and submits his Landscape Inspection Report in conjunction with the CDD Board meetings. This timing does not allow Tim and other departments at ArtisTree adequate time for a meaningful response at the Landscape Committee meetings, often resulting in lengthy discussion. If John would submit his Landscape Inspection Report at least two weeks prior to our meetings, Tim should be able to respond to most of the issues on the Landscape Inspection Report at our committee meetings, followed by John's expert direction. This timing could also solve the issue of "non-responses" from ArtisTree, such as "we're looking into it."

- B. As an advisory committee, Tom pointed out that we do not need to follow formal rules (e.g., Robert's Rules of Order). Some committee members opined that our structure ensures that everyone participates.

**XI.** COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/OTHER BUSINESS: None.

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

**XIII.** The Sunshine Law was reiterated to committee members.

**XV.** The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 3, 2023.

**XVI.** Angela moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dona, and unanimously approved at 4:22 p.m.