

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 4, 2022 – Lefe Room

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm.
- II. It was confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.
- III. A quorum was established with the attendance of committee members Mike Jacobs, Becky Kutska, Dona Lasseter and Nancy Rechcigl (via Zoom.) Also in attendance were CDD Liaison Dick Carroll; Artistree Branch Manager, Scott Acton; Newly appointed Artistree Account Executive, Tim Drumgool; General Manager, Steve Dietz; Executive Assistant, Mary Paige Huisman and Rizzetta Field Services Manager, John Toborg.
- IV. Mike moved to approve the January 7, 2022 Minutes with no changes. Motion was seconded by Becky Kutska, with no dissent.
- V. There were no public comments for discussion.
- VI. **CHAIRMAN UPDATE:**
 - A. SE CORNER
 1. Ground level plant installation was completed. Many thanks to Nancy for assisting with the planting.
 - B. SE CORNER MONUMENT – refer to GM Updates
 - C. OAK TREE TRIMMING – refer to GM Updates
 - D. ANNUALS – The Spring Planting Scheme will be a spectacular 2,700 Electric Orange and Purple SunPatens! Mike requested that the installation dates be communicated to and coordinated with the Community Association Manager, Jackie Hannan. (River Club and Watch I & II landscape beds.) Steve will follow-up.
 - E. FOUNTAIN UPDATE in Pond # 1 -- work should be completed before our next meeting.
 - F. DEAD CANARY PALMS in cul-de-sacs at Sand Crane North and Turning Leaf have been removed.
 - G. MOSSY BRANCH GATE MONUMENT --
 1. The CDD Board has requested larger/higher lettering for “Resident Only Access.” Steve followed-up with the vendor. The cost to reposition the lettering would be \$3,500 and the fastener openings would be difficult to conceal. The committee recommended that particular care and attention be given in the selection of future plant material that will not obscure the Resident’s Only lettering. The same action is to be taken at the Winding Stream Gate.
 2. There is a safety issue for vehicles that attempt to enter but cannot access because they are not residents. The CDD board engineer stated that they are looking into seeing if the inbound gate can be moved farther back toward the roundabout so they can more easily reverse and exit when they realize they cannot enter Waterlefe here.
- VII. **SAND CRANE NORTH AND TURNING LEAF CUL DE SAC DISCUSSION**
 1. Diseased palms have been removed.
 2. Replacement options and pros/cons of various palms were discussed at length.
 3. Unfortunately, the back-flow preventers, are center installed in all cul-de-sacs, thus presenting challenges in centering a single palm or tree.
 4. The unanimous opinion was to install three (3) single base Foxtail Palms for both Sand Crane North and Turning Leaf. Foxtails are less susceptible to disease, do not need quarterly injections and are self-shedding, requiring less maintenance.

5. Discussion ensued regarding the existing cul-de-sac landscape design layouts. Unpreventable damage to some of the existing landscape occurred during the diseased tree removal process. The following options were analyzed:
 - a. Remove all existing turf and incorporate new plants and ground cover. This option would eliminate the need for mowing and edging. The downside is that it would take well over a year to establish a lush and healthy groundcover. Detailed attention to the beds would be required in terms of weeding, etc. The potential for unsightly beds would be likely during this transition period. The appearance would not be in keeping with the landscape standards throughout our community.
 - b. Complete removal of existing Philodendrons and replaced with the same variety.
 - c. Prune existing beds and fill-in with like sized specimens.
 - d. Complete removal of existing landscape bed plant material. Incorporate a new plant scheme (within the existing bed.)
 - e. A decision will be made at the March meeting to accept a proposal.
 - f. **Action Item: Steve will solicit bids for the purchase and installation of six 10' clear trunk - single Foxtail Palms.** Scope of work to include area preparation, bracing kits and flood bubblers around the root ball. Projected timeline for installation by March 31.

VIII. JOHN TOBORG REPORT

1. John has compiled an excellent reference guide for committee members. This guide provides examples of plant options should we desire to update the existing plant material lists. This is not an all-inclusive list, just different options that would thrive in our climate zone (9B.) Let John know if any committee member would like additional copies or an electronic copy.
2. Refer to John Toborg's Field Inspection report dated January 28, 2022. Observations of particular concern or importance were discussed as follows:

FIELD INSPECTION REPORT ACTION ITEMS (in 1/28/22 field inspection report:

- #5 Determine the cause of the Copperleaf Plants (Waterlefe Blvd) that are defoliating. **Inspect the irrigation zone.** (The degradation occurred prior to the frost.)
- #6 Dead India Hawthorn remains in the buffer zone between the homes on Conch Shell east and the guardhouse.
- #7 Continue to monitor the Medjool Palm indicated in photo #??.
- #10 Several dead dwarf Indian Hawthorn on the sideyard buffer, outbound side of Sand Crane south.
- #19 The Discovery North Reclinata has not been trimmed by the palm crews.
- #22 Artistry has removed a few cul-de-sac lower growth of the Split-Leaf Philodendrons. This has exposed the understory dead leaves, these need to be removed.
- #23 Area of responsibility needs to be clarified on the west side of River Basin Ct. The Oak Trees contain significant Spanish Moss. **Is this a Watch I or golf course responsibility?**
- #27 There are many dead plants in the inbound side sideyard buffer of Discovery East and West. There are also Oak suckers 6' tall. Discovery West sideyard buffer. Plants are dying. This needs to be cleaned up. Consider installing Wild Coffee shrubs.
- #28 Artistry needs to investigate the areas on Waterlefe Blvd where plants are failing vs those that are thriving. Determine irrigation coverage, frequency and duration.
- #41 Tree lifting and Spanish Moss removal still needs to occur in the golf club parking lot.

IX. ARTISTREE'S REPORT

1. Scott announced that Dem will no longer be managing the Waterlefe contract. Tim Drumgool, Artistree was introduced as our new account executive.

2. Tim will meet with Steve the week of February 7 to identify plant material that will need to be replaced due to frost damage.
3. Given the large scale frost damage, the coleus will be removed from all beds. This will provide the opportunity to properly clean up and till the beds and to fertilize/amend soil in accordance with the maintenance contract specifications and prior to the installation of the spring annuals. (Note: The contract specifies that “*Annuals shall be thoroughly drenched with a fungicide at the time of installation.*”)
4. Scott will place the order for the SunPatens.
5. Tim recommended that the annuals be installed after March 12-15 (the typical last frost date for Zone 9B.)
6. Tim was asked to ensure that the hedge height along Upper Manatee Rd **not be thinned at sides, nor trimmed on top.** We want this hedge to be as dense and high as possible to prevent viewing of traffic on UMRR by Waterlefe residents near the Road.
7. John inquired about the spring fertilization schedule. Tim will follow-up with John.
8. Tim will work with Steve to coordinate the parking lot oak trimming.
9. **Irrigation Issues** - John requested that the Sand Crane South – Outbound endcap and the Waterlefe Blvd/Fieldbrook Zones be inspected. The areas are continually saturated with water overflowing onto curb and street.

X. CDD REPORT (DONA)

1. Ken Bumgarner asked if we can improve visibility and/or safety at cart crossing between #3 & #4 golf holes. Committee will make a recommendation next meeting.

XI. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

1. Steve will meet with Tim the week of February 7 to assess needed plant fill-ins and a plant replacement inventory necessitated by the hard frost damage.
2. **South Side Entrance** replacement plantings have not been completed.
3. **SE Corner Monument** – Project cost analysis has determined that replacement or expansion of the existing would be cost prohibitive. Steve had been directed to seek a quote for the installation of a new Waterlefe sign at this corner. Following discussion, the consensus was that a subdivision sign at this location is perhaps not the direction that should be taken. The golf sign at SE corner will be relocated to another area or removed entirely. Steve will research an alternate location that would provide the desired visibility. Relocating the sign will require a Manatee County permit.
4. **Winding Stream Berm** – Carry-over from November 5, 2021 meeting.
 - a. A quote needs to be procured to repair/amend the irrigation for the full stretch.
 - b. Clean up the dead Flax Lily and other dead growth
 - c. Clean up beds and amend soil prior to the replacement plant material installation
 - d. Angela and Nancy have designed a repair and replace planting scheme.
5. **Phase I Oak Tree Trimming.** Steve reported that Phase I has been completed on time and within budget. Extremely pleased with the performance of Ameri-Tree, Inc. Phase II scope to be determined. Arterial roads and the River Club/Golf Course parking lot will be completed in future phases.
6. Steve to solicit bids for the replacement of the Sand Crane and Turning Leaf cul-de-sac palms. **See item #7 5e for details.**
7. Steve to solicit quotes for a treatment plan for identified at-risk palms.

XII. LIAISON COMMENTS

1. Dick suggested that we explore the costs/feasibility of installing “*Residents Only*” reflective lettering on the inbound gate arms at Mossy Branch and Winding Stream. This would provide clear

communication for non-residents attempting to enter at these gates. **Action Item:** Steve will research and report at our next meeting.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Bird Island – discussion ensued as to the appropriate course of action to ensure the health and maintenance of the island and bird sanctuary. Steve will investigate and present costs and options at the March 11 meeting.

XIV. Members were reminded to check CDD Email on a regular basis.

XV. Members were reminded to comply with the requirements of the Sunshine Law.

XVI. The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2022

XVII. Mike moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Dona and unanimously approved at 4:11p.m.

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