

# LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 31, 2023

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. in the Lefe Room.
- II. It was confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.
- III. A quorum was established with the attendance of committee members Mike Jacobs (Chairman), Becky Kutska, Dona Lasseter, Angela Potter, and Nancy Rechcigl. 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.
- IV. The draft of the minutes from the March 3, 2023, meeting was discussed. With suggestions for clarification unanimously approved, Mike moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Becky with no dissent.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. An email from Barbara and Francis Crepeau, forwarded by their neighbor Ellen Bolter, complains about the appearance of the Sand Crane east cul-de-sac (outbound side), specifically the overgrowth of philodendron and the yellowing palm fronds. Per Nancy and John, the palm tree is a beautiful specimen that appears to be in excellent health, and the yellowing fronds are just part of the normal cycle. The philodendrons, however, have reached the end of their attractive lifespan for use in this location. This area has been included in several monthly Landscape Inspection Reports as needing attention and is one of the handful of cul-de-sacs we have planned for renovation, a couple each year as funds allow. In the meantime, Tim was instructed to remove the philodendron fronds that extend into the palm canopy and to keep this area free of dead and dying debris.
- B. Rick Johnson (resident at the corner of Sand Crane and WLB) contacted Mike Jacobs and asked that the shrubs on the berm at the WLB side of his house be allowed to grow higher to increase privacy now that the trees in that area have been thinned.
- C. Per Mary Paige, Mr. Bishop, a resident adjacent to the "Mossy Branch wall" has requested something thicker than Viburnum (e.g., Areca palms) be planted to obscure the wall from his house. Viburnum is a unifying element along the length of the wall, and when it is properly maintained it fills in quite nicely; therefore, we are not going to accommodate Mr. Bishop's request. However, Mr. Bishop can use Areca palm on his property if he wishes.

## VI. CHAIRMAN REPORT

- A. The CDD Board approved \$4,500 for the roundabout renovation project. Following discussion, the committee chose Purple Crinum Lilies to replace the Nora Grant Ixora that have not performed very well in this location. ArtisTree's proposal #23318 in the amount of \$4,163.85 was approved by the committee with the clarification that the liriopis are to be of the Super Blue variety and not the Evergreen variety. This will be scheduled to begin as soon as possible.
- B. The CDD Board approved \$3,500 for the Bird Island project. White Diamond expects to begin this project next week.
- C. The CDD Board approved "deed restricted" signage and has directed the Landscape Committee to assist the MPOA with the location and design.
- D. Annuals
  - 1. The spring rotation has been installed. The spring mix from Bloom Masters has been quite well received, and most beds look very nice. However, some beds do appear sparse, and Mike will meet with Tim next week to evaluate these in terms of number of plants and

irrigation coverage. Should additional plants be required, there are four to six full trays at the golf maintenance buildings that have not been installed.

2. It was noted that the total number of plants will vary depending on the mix and variety of annuals chosen. (For example, per Dona, Bloom Masters recommended spacing of 10 inches on center for the spring mix.) Therefore, ordering plants based on the square footage would be more accurate than the current practice of always ordering the same number of plants. Dona reports having accurate measurements and will bring these to our next meeting.
3. We briefly discussed a summer mix for the next rotation.
- E. The renovation of the Rainbow Court and Big Bass cul-de-sacs has been completed with excellent and well-received results.
- F. Sod installation in areas from which Tree Ligustrum were removed, Conch Shell, and the intersection of Sand Crane south and WLB is scheduled for April 4, 2023. Per Tim, Floratam is the variety that will be installed, but both Nancy and John asked that future sod installations be of the Citra Blue variety due to its improved performance compared to Floratam.
- G. The committee unanimously approved ArtisTree's proposal #23436 in the amount of \$2080.66 for replacement of plants at the intersection of WLB and Discovery Boulevard west (inbound side).
- H. The renovation design of the Winding Stream berm was discussed. Following discussion of finances (see section IX.A.), Nancy moved that we move forward with renovation of all 11 sections. This was seconded by Mike and unanimously approved.

VII. JOHN TOBORG REPORT: For full details, please see the Waterlefe Landscape Inspection Report dated March 27, 2023. Issues specifically discussed at this meeting include:

A. Annuals

1. The newly planted annuals in some beds appear to be spaced too far apart, which decreases "wow" factor. See VI.D.1 and 2.
2. Bed in the WLB median at Discovery is not thriving. Please check irrigation pattern and frequency.

B. Irrigation

1. What is the cause of the persistently wet area on the UMRR sidewalk east of the outbound monument?
2. Restoration Terrace cul-de-sac controller is dead. Per Tim, this was repaired yesterday.
3. Sweet Viburnum hedge along south wall west of the Mossy Branch gate reported to have no irrigation conflicts with evidence (adjacent areas are being watered, and a sliced dripline was discovered).
4. Dry turf at Foggy Morn that ArtisTree previously attributed to drought conditions was found to have a broken irrigation controller. Inspection also revealed it to have a 9V battery installed rather than the NiMH it should have had. ArtisTree was reminded these batteries need to be replaced periodically.
5. Some heads on the west side of River Basin are malfunctioning.
6. Firebush in WLB median near maintenance buildings should be getting more water to encourage new growth following rejuvenation cut.
7. Irrigation in Field Brook cul-de-sac is damaged and malfunctioning. When was it last inspected?
8. Roundabout irrigation malfunctioning. Also, some heads are not suitable for this application.

9. Malfunctioning rotator heads on WLB between Field Brook and roundabout are causing decline of vegetation.
10. Irrigation pattern in two beds at golf cart crossing leading to hole #10 is insufficient.
11. Spray head behind the annuals at Rainbow Court is spraying over the bed instead of onto it and should be reconfigured.

C. Turf

1. Newer turf in Sand Crane north cul-de-sac was not mowed correctly and contains Nutsedge weeds.
2. Turf installation, more recently scheduled for March 13, for Conch Shell, median where Ligustrum removed, etc. is still not done. See Section IV.F.
3. Dead turf in Sand Crane south cul-de-sac (inbound side) is a longstanding issue that was not addressed and now should be removed and replaced at ArtisTree's expense.
4. Dead turf in right of way on WLB between Discovery and Portside also was not addressed when it could have made a difference and now should be cut out and replaced at ArtisTree's expense.
5. ArtisTree wants to provide a proposal for replacement of turf on Fish Hook side of roundabout that died because they did not respond to it as it was declining. This was brought to their attention several times before it died; therefore, they should incur the cost of replacement.

D. Shrubs and Trees

1. Bougainvillea in Discovery east cul-de-sac is way too tall. ArtisTree did not install the dwarf variety, as we had requested, but it still needs to be terraced with the Silver Buttonwood.
2. Diseased branches on Tree Ligustrums in WLB median between Field Brook and roundabout need to be trimmed back into healthy wood and treated with a preventative fungicide.
3. Several Crape Myrtles have again been pruned incorrectly (hat-racked), including two that were the topic of considerable discussion last year. Where is communication failing?

E. Cleanup

1. Sand Crane outbound buffer contains dead grassy weeds, and back of WLB buffer in same location is not being line trimmed.
2. Viburnum hedge along the south wall east of Mossy Branch gate still does not have a well-defined border. Last month's reply from ArtisTree was "ok."
3. If Ribbon Palms in roundabout were trimmed, why was so much debris left behind?
4. Overgrown shrubs and significant debris adjacent to the lift station near Rainbow Court need significant attention. The entire sidewalk in front of lift station must always be kept clear.
5. Dead Flax Lily and Spanish Moss in Winding Stream berm continue, though ArtisTree reports they are "working on this."

VIII. ARTISTREE REPORT: Tim's comments are included as his responses in other sections.

IX. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE:

A. Financials

1. The financial report was reviewed.
2. Tom Tosi's email concerning streamlining the approval procedure was discussed, but we agreed we need further clarification to feel comfortable making significant changes in the responsible party.

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- B. With the upcoming renovations of both the River Club and the Golf Club, dates, times, and locations of future Landscape Committee meetings may need to be adjusted. Mary Paige will keep us all informed.
- C. Steve Dietz and Tom Tosi have arranged to meet with Scott Acton and other principals regarding our concerns with ArtisTree's performance. Should this meeting not result in improved communication and performance, we may need to consider changing vendors or modifying processes.

X. LIASON COMMENTS: Tom Tosi was not present at today's meeting. The topics of his March 28 email are noted elsewhere.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- A. Nancy reported an oak branch overhanging Winding Stream just inside the gate that was so low it almost reached the roof of her SUV. ArtisTree will be informed.
- B. The most northern Foxtail palm at the main entrance is not bordered by Liriope, as are the others on both sides of the at the main entrance. Artistree will install liriope when replacing the elevated beds at the front entrance monument.

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

XIII. The Sunshine Law was reiterated to committee members.

XIV. The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 5, 2023, with the location verified nearer to the time of the meeting.

XV. On motion by Nancy, seconded by Angela and unanimously approved, this meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

05/01/2023:ahp