

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 1, 2022

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.

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 Angela Potter. In attendance were also ArtisTree (hereinafter AT) Branch Manager, Scott Acton; General Manager, Steve Dietz; and Executive Assistant, Mary Paige Huisman. Rizzetta Field Services Manager, John Toborg, joined by telephone.

IV. A draft of the minutes was reviewed. Following discussion, Mike moved to remove the third sentence from XI.A, since that subject matter was not discussed at the 3/11/22 meeting. This was seconded by Angela. With this modification the Minutes we're unanimously approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS: No members of the public were present at the meeting. However, several members received resident complaints worth noting:

- A. Steve Slocum complained about the constantly wet condition of the median at the Waterlefe Boulevard/Discovery intersection on the outbound side. This is included in John Toborg's Field Inspection Report and is discussed in VII.A below.
- B. The annuals on WLB just before the roundabout are not doing as well. This is included in John Toborg's Field Inspection Report and is discussed in VII.I below. Our committee asked (2nd request) AT to check the irrigation in said location, then replace dead plants.
- C. The brown/dead appearance of some of the Simpson Stopper hedge along Upper Manatee River Road south (near main Waterlefe entrance), continues to receive complaints. Said areas need new, mature plantings to prevent visibility of traffic on UMRR. This is included in John Toborg's Field Inspection Report and is discussed in VII.C.below.

VI. CDD BOARD REPORT (Dona)

- A. A not to exceed amount of \$18,000 was approved for repair of the cul-de-sacs at Sand Crane and Turning Leaf made necessary by the diseased, removed Canary Palms.
- B. The cost of VI.A will be categorized as a Landscape Committee expense which puts us over-budget for the balance of this fiscal year. Per Steve, this amount could be re-allocated later.
- C. The Bougainvillea trees in the roundabout continue to be unstable. AT was asked to determine the cost of using Duckbill Anchoring Systems to stabilize these trees.
- D. The Board asked that the two Crepe Myrtles between Field Brook and the roundabout that were incorrectly pruned be replaced by AT at AT's expense.
- E. A mirror has been ordered for the golf cart path on WLB between holes 3 and 4.

VII. JOHN TOBORG REPORT

See John Toborg's Field Inspection Report from March 31, 2022. Items from that report that were specifically discussed at this meeting were:

- A. #8, # 46, and #47 – Muddy areas at main entrance and Discovery. The most likely culprits include leaks and excessive watering cycles. AT was asked to thoroughly investigate.
- B. #9 – The beds along UMMR are full of weeds. AT was also asked to correct areas in which the Asiatic Jasmine is growing into the turf and create a negative space between the beds and adjacent turf.

- C. #11 – Thinning and browning of the Simpson's Stopper in the UMMR berm continues and seems to be worsening. Were these inspected by AT last month? Also, why is the drip line pulled up above the mulch? Adjacent residents have agreed to have AT prune the TOP ONLY (no more than 6 inches) to encourage lateral growth and a more dense appearance so that traffic on UMMR is not visible to homeowners.
- D. #13 – The Medjool Palm behind the inbound monument may be leaning slightly. This might be normal phototropism; John will continue to monitor. AT was asked to remove the Confederate Jasmine that is climbing the trunk.
- E. #23 – Turf at Sand Crane north and Conch Shell west cul-de-sacs is thinning. AT still needs to diagnose and treat.
- F. #24 – Newly installed turf on the outbound side of Sand Crane south is dying and will need to be reinstalled. Was the irrigation in this area adjusted with the recent installation?
- G. #29 – Beds of Blue My Mind are thinning in some areas and need to be trimmed and weeded. Areas of failing plants may be due to the weather, but Scott will have the irrigation checked. The committee does want to fill in the balding areas but questioned changing to Blue Daze as some have found this to be a heartier specimen for our area.
- H. #34 – The dead/dying Gold Dust Crotons outside the Mossy Branch gates need to be replaced, and the committee asked AT to install and invoice. AT had been asked for their assessment but they have yet to report their findings. (Crosspoint did the original installation, but their warranty period has expired.) John also asked that the irrigation in these areas be checked.
- I. #53 – Most annuals are doing beautifully, except for the bed at the Waterlefe Boulevard golf cart crossing to the 10th tee boxes. AT was asked to evaluate the irrigation and make sure it is receiving as much water as the other beds.
- J. #55 – As discussed in VI.C the Bougainvillea trees in the roundabout need a better anchoring system. The roots in the wide angle of the one nearest Winding Stream need some pruning. John has recommended the Duckbill Anchoring System. Scott was asked if AT can acquire and install and, if so, submit a proposal.
- K. #67 – Though the new plants have been installed at the Rainbow Court median, John feels it still looks bare. This is a large area with full sun. Should more of the same plants be added? Adding a Bird of Paradise was also mentioned as an option because of its fullness, beautiful flowers and/or proven track record plants in our community.

Additional discussion included: The access corridor to meter etc. in some cul-de-sac islands are wider than necessary. AT was asked to let the hedge in these areas grow together as much as possible while still allowing access for meter readers. Creating an angled entry was suggested by John Toborg and would certainly provide a more attractive appearance.

VIII. ARTISTREE REPORT

- A. Per Scott Acton, Tim is working on our requested proposals.
- B. The detail crew will be on-site next week. The detail schedule has been 4 consecutive days each month, which has proven to be insufficient during the active growing season. The contract does stipulate this will be done **as needed**. Scott will talk to Tim about supplemental detailing and will have Tim contact Steve with a plan.
- C. A single crew will be serving the Villas as well as common areas of Waterlefe to avoid confusion as to what crew is supposed to handle what area. The total time the crew spends within Waterlefe will increase.
- D. Scott Acton agrees with the opinions of the CDD Board and John Toborg that two incorrectly pruned Crepe Myrtle trees on Waterlefe Boulevard just off the roundabout should be replaced as soon as possible at AT's cost. AT is currently looking for acceptable replacements.

- E. Dona noted observing AT string trimming around pond #2 with significant detritus entering the water, which can have significant adverse side effects. Steve described how the areas around the golf course retention ponds are maintained and asked that AT employ the same practices in ponds areas that are not maintained by the golf club grounds keepers. Scott acknowledged his understanding of this information and will see that it is implemented.

IX. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

A. CUL-DE-SACS, Sand Crane North and Turning Leaf

1. The cul-de-sac quotes that were previously difficult to compare are now deemed to be apples-to-apples. We discussed with Scott Acton our concerns of selecting AT as the vendor for this project. We were assured that:
 - a. AT will have a supervisor on site (probably Tim or Rex) during both installations.
 - b. AT will forward for our (Nancy's) approval, photographs of the actual Foxtail Palms they are proposing to install.
 - c. A representative of the Landscape Committee is allowed on-site to approve plant spacing and positioning.
 - d. Though the proposals include replacement of all the sod, care will be taken during the project to minimize damage to the existing sod. If it is determined the desired appearance can be attained with replacement of only part of the sod, the final invoice will reflect the actual amount replaced.
 - e. Following written approval, AT should be able to commence work in about two weeks.
2. Following discussion of the above assurances and with a budget NTE \$18,000, Mike moved to select AT as the vendor for the renovation of the cul-de-sac at Sand Crane and the one at Turning Leaf. Angela seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

B. BIRD ISLAND

1. The "stick tree" is dead and should simply be removed.
2. The larger tree covered in Spanish moss is viable but unattractive due to the extensive moss and the unsightly undergrowth. The only quote to date is from Terry's Tree Service, and they propose a total of \$4,500 to prune the Live Oak, remove 75% of the Spanish moss, prune the palms growing beneath the Live Oak, and remove the rest of the undergrowth. Per John Toborg, unlike mistletoe, Spanish moss does not actually kill a tree, and removing all of it from this tree may make parts of the tree that have been shaded for so long vulnerable to the harsh effects of direct sunlight (which may explain why Terry's quote specifies 75%). Per the recommendation of the CDD liaison (sent in absentia), Dona requested that Steve obtain another quote from AmeriTree (vendor that pruned the oak trees).

C. WINDING STREAM BERM

1. The irrigation has been inspected and appears to be functioning properly. The heads can be adjusted further if deemed necessary.
2. AT's proposal for removing the undesirable vegetation and installing 64 (two rows of 7-gallon size) Schefflera 'Trinette' totals \$6,044.96. Steve will confirm the area to be covered and will confirm with Nancy that this is the best plant for this application. We will revisit this on May 6, 2022.

X. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE: Steve participated throughout the meeting; his comments are noted in each section.

XI. LIASON COMMENTS: Dick Carroll was unable to attend this month's meeting due to a previous commitment. It was noted that Dick is now liaison to two committees. Per Steve, there are enough

CDD Board members so that each only works with one committee, but for the time being, Dick will continue to work with the Landscape Committee. Although absent, Dick sent his request that Steve obtain an additional quote for trimming etc. the living oak tree on Bird Island.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- A. Dona, the Committee's representative at the CDD Board meeting, expressed concern that The Board discussed approval of the ArtisTree proposal for the Sand Crane North and Turning Leaf cul de sac renovations, even though The Landscape Committee had not had a chance to review or recommend approval of the final version of the proposal. All Committee members present share her concerns. We understand that the Committee serves in an advisory capacity, and the Board is fully within its rights to make decisions without our input, or even contrary to our advice. But we believe it is prudent to have the Committee fully vet major proposals and make recommendations for The Board to review before it takes action. This approach gives the Committee an opportunity to discuss options the Board might not be aware of. In this particular case the Committee was able to negotiate a change in the cul de sac proposal that may result in significant savings. Specifically, ArtisTree planned to charge \$4,600 to replace all the sod in both cul de sacs. We convinced them to agree to reduce that cost if they are able to get by with only a partial sod replacement. We won't know if we will realize that savings until the project is completed, but we believe there would have been no chance for savings if the Board had moved forward without us. We take our responsibility to the Waterlefe community seriously and appreciate being given an opportunity to weigh in on major contracts before the Board makes final decisions on landscaping issues."
- B. Landscape manual: Angela proposed creating a landscape manual that would serve as a consistent reference for our vendors and for those who may come "late to the party." The idea is that such a device would save time by helping our vendors communicate with their employees in terms of how we want things (e.g., the desired height of each type of plant, how to terrace plantings in specific areas, how to maintain bed margins, **not** pruning the **sides** of the Ixoras at guard house so they become a single hedge, etc.), and it would also help future committee members, liaisons, etc., to more efficiently get up to speed. Becky volunteered to head up this endeavor.
- C. The result of the Upper Manatee River Road renovation is less than we had desired.
 - 1. The irregular and, in places, indistinguishable border creates a messy appearance. Scott Acton was shown a photograph of this and stated that he agrees with us and will address this with his employees.
 - 2. Mary Paige related Tim's thought that we might want to consider adding more Asiatic Jasmine to fill in areas more quickly.
 - 3. Mike reminded us that the missing "wow" factor of annuals in this area is also a factor. Though eliminating the annuals along UMRR south saves us about \$1100 per rotation, the Mammy Crotons simply do not have enough color to make a difference. We will revisit this.

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

XIV. The Sunshine Law was reiterated to committee members.

XV. The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 6, 2022

XVI. Angela moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Becky, and unanimously approved at 4:51 pm.