

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2023

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Lefe Room.
- II. It was confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.
- III. A quorum was established with the attendance of committee members Mike Jacobs (Chairman), Becky Kutska, Dona Lasseter, and Angela Potter. Also, in attendance were CDD Liaison, Tom Tosi; 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 unanimous approval of one suggested correction, the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - A. Because of roadwork and increasing traffic on Upper Manatee River Road (UMRR) and Fort Hamer, a resident near the 16th hole tee box requested placement of a fountain in the adjacent retention pond for the purpose of noise abatement. It is uncertain how effective fountains will be at covering road noise, but requests are being taken under advisement. In the meantime, Steve will continue efforts to convince Manatee County take responsibility for, or at least participate in, noise reducing measures for Waterlefe made necessary by the expansion of the adjacent roadways.
 - B. Two residents adjacent to the Day Lily Court cul-de-sac requested the firebush in the cul-de-sac be maintained at a height of approximately three feet, citing safety concerns. Mike contacted all residents in this area, and the feeling was unanimous. Tim was instructed to institute this change.
 - C. Residents in the cul-de-sacs on Big Bass and Rainbow Court appreciate the renovations but reported the areas lack sufficient mulch. This was also noted in John Toborg's report. Tim reported that they installed the amount on the proposal, and as a matter of interest, we questioned why the amount proposed was so short. Per Tim, the program ArtisTree uses to generate the proposals calculates the amount of mulch based on the measurements he enters. ArtisTree will install and bill additional mulch.
 - D. The residents adjacent to the Sand Crane south (outbound side) cul-de-sac appreciate the cleanup that has taken place in the last month but still have concerns about the brown petticoat that remains on the palm and the condition of the turf. We reviewed the pictures provided by Mary Paige. There is also a concern with the water shut-off device in this area. Per Steve, this device did fail inspection a year or so ago, but he believes it was repaired and has since passed inspection. This will be researched. In the short term, we asked Tim to have the brown petticoat removed from the palm; however, total renovation will likely have to wait until the next fiscal year that begins October 1.
 - E. Mary Paige reported a complaint from a seasonal resident on Whooping Crane about the look of the Waterlefe median endcap parallel to ladies' tee box on hole #6, the "sparse look" on Waterlefe Boulevard (WLB) since her last visit, and the dead material in the roundabout. The dead material in the roundabout is currently being addressed, as noted in Section VI.B. The resident will be informed that sod was recently placed in said endcap and should look better shortly. It will also be explained that damage from Hurricane Ian necessitated removal of some trees from WLB, and the improved view of the palms and vistas provided by removal of the damaged Ligustrum has been well received by others in the community. However, repair is still an ongoing project, and we appreciate her input.

VI. CHAIRMAN REPORT

- A. This is Mike Jacob's last meeting as member and chairman of the Landscape Committee. All in attendance today thanked Mike for his years of service and encouraged him to remain involved when he returns from his travels. Bon voyage, Mike! We will miss you!
- B. Roundabout and Front Entrance update:
 - 1. The liriopae at the entrance has been replaced. The liriopae in the roundabout is being replaced this afternoon.
 - 2. Two Bougainvillea shrubs in the roundabout continue to be a problem. One was determined to be dead and has already been replaced with a 25-gallon size bush Bougainvillea. Another will also be replaced. Following discussion citing the windy conditions at this higher point, the problems we have had with the instability of the top-heavy standards, which were recommended by ArtisTree's designer, and the failure of the Duck Bill staking system, Mike moved to replace any future bougainvillea with bush varieties and that the existing standards be allowed to convert to their natural bushy state. This fast-growing plant will ultimately be of uniform appearance and kept at a size and shape that will enhance the roundabout without intruding into adjacent vegetation. Angela seconded the motion, which was then unanimously approved.
 - 3. Dona asked why there is still dead material on some of the palms, and Tim reminded us that some of it is more than 15 feet high and, therefore, too tall for routine removal by his regular crew.
- C. Bird Island Update: White Diamond has completed removal of the "stick tree" and removal of most of the Spanish Moss from the live tree, as proposed. The photograph Mary Paige provided shows the area looks as we intended at this time. We may consider adding another tree in the future.
- D. The CDD Board supported our plan to renovate all sections of Winding Stream Boulevard berm. Tim reports this project is scheduled for May 17-19. Nancy is planning to be present, providing it does not conflict with her work schedule.
- E. The Rainbow Court endcap at Winding Stream will be designed and completed at a future date, probably in the 2024 fiscal year.
- F. The Sago Palms at WLB and Discovery on outbound side are being installed today.

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

- A. Fertilizer
 - 1. In May, 182 50-pound bags of 8-2-12 +4 fertilizer is to be applied to turf, ornamentals, and palms. ArtisTree was reminded of notification requirements.
- B. Irrigation
 - 1. Irrigation supplying the recently replaced turf on Conch Shell west is to be rechecked.
 - 2. The solar powered controller at Restoration still contains a 9V battery, not the recommended Ni-CD battery.
 - 3. Tim has added a drip tube to the irrigation system currently supplying the Viburnum hedge along the south wall of the Mossy Branch gates. ArtisTree's irrigation crew still says there is no adjacent water source. Tim will follow up with Dan, ArtisTree's head of irrigation.
 - 4. The controller adjacent to the northernmost home on the east side of Foggy Morn that was reported on previous reports has now been removed. When can we expect its replacement?

5. Part of the Viburnum hedge along River Basin is thinning. Tim will check the irrigation coverage in this area.
6. Irrigation heads in cart crossing leading to tee #10 are on two different zones and operate when turned on, but when zone 3 is running zone 4 gurgles, too. ArtisTree was asked to investigate.

C. Turf

1. Turf strips in median just outside the guardhouse on WLB are in serious decline. Removal of the remnants of grass and replacement with turf or groundcover is recommended to improve the appearance and to keep the mulch in this area from washing away. Options discussed without a decision.
2. ArtisTree has now reported that two irrigation valves have been replaced in the Sand Crane south (outbound side) cul-de-sac. John recommended the patch of dead turf in that area be cut out and replaced at ArtisTree's expense because ArtisTree's failure to respond in a timely fashion resulted in the dead turf.
3. Patch of dead turf in Discovery east (inbound) cul-de-sac reported months ago still shows no improvement. We now ask that the dead turf be cut out and replaced.
4. Patch of dead turf in WLB median between Field Brook and Discovery needs to be smoothed out and filled in with new St. Augustine.

D. Shrubs and Trees

1. The Hong Kong Orchid Trees adjacent to UMRR are misshapen secondary to damage by Hurricane Ian and subsequent removal of broken limbs. John will obtain a proposal from an arborist for the selective trimming of these trees for a more natural and attractive appearance.
2. There are two dead Ixoras on the tip of the middle WLB median on the outbound side between Sand Crane and Portside.
3. Two oaks outside the south wall east of the Mossy Branch gate are under stress while others in the vicinity are leafing out appropriately. These are not on Waterlefe property.
4. The Mammy Croton and Gold Dust Croton in the Mossy Branch median (outbound side) replaced by ArtisTree are now dead but should be still under warranty. There is also a new dead Ixora beyond these Crotons.
5. There are several missing plants on endcaps and WLB medians. Dead/missing shrubs are part of ongoing community maintenance and should be replaced. A survey of the common ground's shrubs will be done to record the plants that need to be replaced.

E. Cleanup

1. ArtisTree was reminded that the small area adjacent to the beds outside the Mossy Branch gate should be kept clear of overgrowth to maintain a neat appearance.
2. Misty Pond median is messy. Shrubs should be pruned, Areca Palms should be fertilized, and dead fronds and loose material should be removed.

F. Proposals

1. Failing turf in Discovery buffer on outbound side of Misty Pond treated with herbicide and fertilizer may recover into the rainy season, but John has requested a proposal from ArtisTree for eradication and removal of this turf and replacement of "Bitter Blue" St. Augustine.
2. ArtisTree to provide proposal for removal of any remaining Split-Leaf Philodendron at the Rainbow lift station and replacement with a cluster of three 5–7-gallon FULL *Clusia guttifera* (Pitch Apple). Specific directions were given on the placement of these plants.

3. ArtisTree to provide proposal to eradicate existing failing turf in tract leading to Misty Pond trail and replacement with new Bahia turf. **Extreme caution advised not to allow herbicide to drift into the yard of the adjacent resident.**

VIII. ARTISTREE REPORT: In addition to Tim's participation noted elsewhere, we discussed that the spring mix annuals currently in place are thriving and have recently received an application of 20-20-20 fertilizer. Tim reported the next round of annuals is scheduled for installation on approximately June 6, but given how well the spring mix is performing, we asked if the summer rotation could be postponed. Tim said he had already contacted Bloom Masters and was told that postponing the summer mix a bit would not cause a problem. Tim will follow up with Mary Paige with a new date for installation.

IX. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE:

- A. Steve and Tom recently met with ArtisTree management to discuss contractual items and to learn how things work within ArtisTree. Both agreed they were encouraged by the encounter. Apparently, our problems are mainly the result of inadequate communication within ArtisTree and Tim's lack of authority over other departments. Bill Walters, ArtisTree's Vice-President of Operations, seemed unaware that we were so dissatisfied. He also emphasized that Waterlefe is exactly the size and type of community they want as a client and their desire to continue our relationship. Steve noted our current service contract will terminate on September 30, and we will likely see a price increase with the next contract. Should this increase be excessive (totaling more than ~\$195K) or the performance not improve significantly, we may have to consider putting the contract out for bid.
- B. Finances
 1. Review of finances showed we have approximately \$10,000 remaining in the budget approved for fiscal year ending September 30, 2023. This should cover incidentals that may occur in the next three months, but should something significant require attention before then, we could argue that much of our planned budget was spent on storm damage repair and ask the CDD Board for additional funding. Per Steve, FEMA has yet to respond to our claim for Hurricane Ian storm damage.
 2. Steve reminded us it is time to start planning for proposed FY 2024 projects as the budget meeting of the CDD Board is imminent. Tom said not to expect an increase and perhaps brace for a decrease due to the sizable expenditures the CDD Board has planned for the golf club. Because each of us feels a responsibility to the community, and each takes personally the criticism when things are not up to the community's standards, the committee encourages the CDD Board to continue to view the landscape of the community as just as important as its amenities. To paraphrase a comment: "What will be the real impression of our luxurious golf amenities if they are surrounded by a subpar community?"

X. LIASON COMMENTS. In addition to Tom's participation and comments noted elsewhere:

- A. The CDD Board of Supervisors has asked Steve and Mary Paige to lead the Landscape Committee meetings as they do for other committees. The need for a chairman may be reconsidered later.
- B. Tom continued the discussion of improving the efficiency of the Landscape Committee meetings. It was agreed that one contributing factor could be that too much time is spent discussing things that could be eliminated by ArtisTree's **meaningful** response to John's Landscape Inspection Report before the meeting. When Tim was asked his opinion on the time

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ArtisTree needs to prepare an adequate response, he said a week should suffice. Tom will email us with his thoughts on changing schedules so that we have the information we need for our meeting and to prepare for the CDD Board meeting on the third Monday of each month. Discussion will continue.

- C. Tom restated his opinion that ArtisTree values its partnership with Waterlefe and that the relationship is salvageable, though an optimal and consistent appearance of our community may require tweaking processes.
- D. Tom reiterated our need to take a fresh look at the budget. See Section IX.B.2.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- A. With Mike's resignation, the search will begin for another committee member.
- B. Dona will arrange to meet with Giella Designs to start planning this year's holiday decorations. Mary Paige will send Dona the vendor's contact information. Steve pointed out that the cost of decorating the secondary gates this year will be offset by not decorating the golf club during renovations.

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, June 2, 2023.

XV. On motion by Becky seconded by Dona and with unanimous approval, this meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

05/25/2023/ahp