

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2022

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 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. Also, in attendance were CDD Liaison, Tom Tosi; General Manager, Steve Dietz; and Executive Assistant, Mary Paige Huisman. Rizzetta Field Services Manager, John Toborg and ArtisTree Account Executive, Tim Drumgool were unable to attend.

IV. The draft of the minutes from the 8/12/2022 meeting was reviewed. Mike moved to approve the draft, seconded by Becky, and unanimously approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Two residents on Big Bass lodged complaints about the appearance of the cul-de-sac. This has been minimally improved by pruning the existing Paurotis Palms but will be addressed in toto as part of the 2-year plan.
- B. CDD Board member, Ruth Harenchar, voiced concerns about annuals not thriving in some areas and questioned the use of the same plants in all areas irrespective of lighting, etc. She was told that we have already started collecting information at these sites in terms of the amount of light, irrigation, drainage, and soil conditions. Ruth also expressed her appreciation of our efforts to transition to three annual rotations as a cost-saving measure, but she also noted that the beds are not staying attractive over the longer term, and it may be necessary to go back to four rotations per year. Tom Tosi suggested further research into how other communities and elite businesses in our area are maintaining their consistent appearances.
- C. At the last CDD Board meeting, Syd Xinos expressed disappointment with the latest rotation (coleus), an opinion shared by most of us. Based on the pictures from American Farms and their description that these are especially striking when planted en masse, it has been questioned if we received what we ordered. Steve and Angela each confirmed that the annual planted is what the committee approved. As Waterlefe residents and surrounding communities are also having issues with all varieties of annuals, the committee feels that the unusually hot and wet weather may be a significant, contributing factor. See Section IX.B. for further discussion of annuals.
- D. Mike shared a compliment he received from a visitor to Waterlefe re: the lovely appearance of our community.

VI. JOHN TOBORG REPORT: John performed his inspection yesterday but was unable to attend this meeting. We will receive his Landscape Inspection Report in the next few days.

VII. ARTISTREE REPORT: Tim was unable to attend this meeting, but the following items were discussed with Mike prior to the meeting:

- A. ArtisTree Blitz – Due to the unsightly overgrowth and weeds in many areas, we had requested an extra day of “detailing.” This was approved at no additional cost to Waterlefe and performed with good results.
- B. Annuals Replacement – Some of the dead coleus have already been replaced, and Tim is in receipt of others from American Farms which he will have installed, though he did not say when.
- C. Some areas of problematic turf have been replaced.

- D. Per Tim, the “Dazzle” Arbutus bushes have been installed in the Winding Stream berm and are beautiful.
- E. Tim has noticed that the front ditch is again overgrown. Though this area is wet due to the rainy season, he thinks the mow crew could do a better job and will address this with them.
- F. Tim confirmed that the chemical applied to the Sago palm at Dona’s residence with such impressive results has been applied to the Sagos in common areas displaying the same scale issue.
- G. The dead plants in the Rainbow Court entrance median have not been replaced. To expedite this matter, Angela moved and Becky seconded the motion for Steve to obtain quotes and submit same to the CDD Board without returning the issue to the Landscape Committee for approval.

VIII. CHAIRMAN UPDATE

- A. Bird Island. Board approved NTE of \$2,000. This has been scheduled for October,
- B. The CDD Board increased our budget to \$127,860, an increase of \$27,500. They did not approve our full request of \$162,860. They are letting us decide where to make cuts without requiring their approval. See Section XII.
- C. Mulch application is scheduled for the week of October 24.

IX. ANNUAL ROTATION (Dona):

- A. We had originally chosen red and white petunias for our next annual rotation. However, following discussion, we agreed that purple and red would be a more striking combination with the planned holiday decorations. If purple and red cannot be sourced, the red and white combination is our second choice. Mary Paige will follow up with Tim Drumgool on this matter.
- B. As they are such a focal point in the community, we continued the discussion of how to achieve better results in our annual beds. To wit:
 - 1. ArtisTree provides and installs annuals as an additional service at a fixed price with certain stipulations. However, results have been inconsistent, at best, and suboptimal, at worst, for several reasons.
 - a. The plants themselves are not consistently thriving. As stated in Section V.B. and Section IX.B.2., we are researching possible factors, including those outside the purview of ArtisTree. Included within ArtisTree’s bailiwick are the choice of vendor (currently American Farms) and method of installation. Steve will contact ArtisTree to underscore the contractual soil and fertilizer requirements and to reiterate our request of Bloom Masters as the source for material and installation at least on a trial basis. (Research to date shows that Bloom Masters works only with landscape services and will not contract directly with Waterlefe. As a CDD staff member, Steve will contact Bloom Masters for details and to see if accommodations can be made if ArtisTree cannot improve results. Alternatively, since annuals is an add-on service, we could choose to work with another vendor altogether or possibly work with Bloom Masters through another vendor.
 - b. The beds themselves are inconsistently shaped and spaced. Spacing is dictated by the type of plant and is indicated on the tag included with each plant. These directions should be followed unless otherwise indicated. As far as the shape of the beds and areas to be planted, a couple of options were discussed, including using stakes and twine and/or paint to define the areas. We would also expect this to reduce the number of plants we need, thereby saving us money.

X. GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

- A. Notice of meeting dates for FY 2022-2023 was reviewed. As Dona and Angela will be unable to attend the April 7, 2023, meeting, it was agreed to move that meeting to March 31, 2023, as it will have been four weeks since the meeting of March 3, 2023.

XI. LIASON COMMENTS: In addition to his participation throughout the meeting, Tom Tosi took this opportunity to express his and the Board's appreciation for our involvement within Waterlefe.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- A. In response to the to the 2022-2023 Landscape Committee Projects budget approved by the CDD Board (see Section VIII.B.), we revisited our list of proposed projects. We did not officially agree on the adjustments, but outsourcing an irrigation study, up lighting the endcaps immediately adjacent to the roundabout, and adding vegetation to hide the black fence at the SE corner from the road are highest possible deletions.
- B. Per Steve, lighting the Canary Palms just outside the guardhouse during the holidays will entail upgrading the power supply to these areas at a cost estimated to be \$6,000 each. The committee agreed this is currently not feasible.

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

XV. The Sunshine Law was reiterated to committee members.

XIV. The next Landscape Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2022.

XVI. Becky moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Angela, and unanimously approved at 4:27 p.m.