



**OPEN MEETING**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNITED LAGUNA WOODS MUTUAL  
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, June 13, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.  
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room  
24351 El Toro Road**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Media
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Report for April 11, 2019
5. Chair's Remarks
6. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)
7. Response to Member Comments
8. Department Head Update

**Consent:**

None

**Reports:**

9. Project Log

**Items for Discussion and Consideration:**

**Tree Removal Requests**

10. Request for Tree Removals: Building 48 Calle Cadiz – Three Canary Island Pine trees
11. Request for Tree Removal: 916-D Avenida Majorca – Aleppo Pine

**Items for Future Agendas:**

12. Herbicide Usage Update (in 4 months)

**Concluding Business:**

13. Committee Member Comments
14. Date of Next Meeting – August 8, 2019
15. Adjournment

Maggie Blackwell, Chair  
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer  
Eve Morton, Landscape Operations Coordinator 268-2565



**OPEN MEETING**

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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, April 11, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.  
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room  
24351 El Toro Road**

**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair - Maggie Blackwell, Manuel Armendariz, Anthony Liberatore

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Juanita Skillman, Andre Torng

**ADVISORS PRESENT:** Catherine Brians

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Blackwell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Acknowledgement of Media**

A representative from the Globe was present.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Director Armendariz made a motion to accept the agenda. There was no opposition.

**4. Approval of February 14, 2019 Report**

Director Armendariz moved to approve the Report. There was no opposition.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Blackwell asked residents to be clear with their comments and welcomed them to the committee.

**6. Member Comments - (Items Not on the Agenda)**

Cass Poole (97-G) She stated the mowing in her area is very bad. An area was recently reseeded but then was mowed over yesterday. A sprinkler leak went

unattended for some time. She feels Landscape Staff doesn't care and don't show up when they say they will.

Edward Foster (2140-D) There are weeds around his home which are 10 feet tall. He called Angel and he arrived the next day but he always has to call because nothing is done. This is a universal problem. Also, the shrubs have been taken out over the last few years but nothing is ever replaced so now there are large areas of just dirt and weeds. The flower beds from 2137 to 2143 haven't been mulched in five years. He just hears excuses. He wants to hear solutions.

Sandra Gabriel (2270-A) She agreed with everything Mr. Foster said. All the trees by her carport walkway were removed to work on a bridge and they have never been replaced. It is now just dirt with pipes sticking up. The landscaping has really gone downhill since they moved in four years ago.

Andre Torng (389-Q) He stated that the grass is very high in his neighborhood and there is a tree stump which needs to be removed.

Hal Rosenberg (2103-S) A bush he requested be put in for privacy never bloomed. Angel said it would take a year for it to bloom. He asked that those bushes be removed and now he has no privacy in his patio area.

## **7. Response to Member Comments**

Chair Blackwell told Director Torng that a grinder will be needed to remove that stump.

Mr. Wiemann's responses:

- He reported that he is full time in this position as of April 1 and he is aware there are a lot of problems with the Landscape crews including lack of coordination within the department and a lack of communication with residents. Processes are being fixed. He has hired a coordinator to help with the communication and scheduling of work. He is changing the methodology and culture of the Landscaping Division. He has hired an expert in landscaping to help him with procedures and approaches to allow work to get done more quickly.
- He told Mr. Foster that a crew went out a few days ago to his area. Mr. Foster reported that mulching had not been done. Mr. Wiemann reported that now mulching will be part of the weeding and trimming process.
- He told Mr. Rosenberg that bushes can't be planted too closely together to grow properly and they do take time to grow in. They will go back and put the bushes back in that he had requested be taken out.
- He has created a ticket response crew who just respond to tickets. There were 22,000 landscaping tickets last year.

Chair Blackwell suggested reporting pooling water to Resident Services and a landscaper will adjust the sprinkler.

Director Armendariz said this is his second year on this committee and he has been critical of the landscaping but in the last six months there has been a dedicated effort to try to fix some of the issues. He believes Mr. Wiemann is being proactive and listening to what needs to be improved. He asked the residents to give Mr. Wiemann some time to make improvements.

Director Torng said perhaps outside help is needed to keep up with work. Mr. Wiemann reported that they are putting outside contractors into the 2020 budget but is not in this year's budget.

## **8. Department Head Update**

None.

### Consent:

None

### Reports:

## **9. Project Log**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the project log.

## **10. Herbicide Testing Final Report**

Mr. Wiemann conducted a presentation on the results of the herbicide testing.

Chair Blackwell moved to accept Staff's recommendation to discontinue the use of herbicides containing the chemical glyphosate and approve an unbudgeted expense of \$15,000 for alternative herbicide products. Director Armendariz seconded. The vote was unanimous.

This recommendation will go to the Finance Committee first and then on to the Board.

### Items for Discussion and Consideration:

#### Tree Removal Requests

### **11. (85-B) Request for the Removal of a Carrotwood Tree**

Director Armendariz moved to approve Staff's recommendation and remove the tree and plant a replacement tree at a suitable location. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

### **12. (539-A) Request for the Removal of a Canary Island Pine Tree**

Director Armendariz moved to approve Staff's recommendation and remove the tree. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Ms. Redner was present and showed photos of the tree and large pine cones that fall onto her yard. She said the tree wasn't trimmed last year as was stated in the

Staff Report. The green yellow pollen is all over. She doesn't know why so many of these huge trees were planted.

**13. Discuss and Review the Tree Schedule**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the tree schedule with the committee and stated that trimming trees by species is more efficient and healthier for the trees. He will be implementing this schedule soon and it should cut down on the unscheduled tree trimming requests.

Items for Future Agendas:

**14. Herbicide Usage Update (in six months)**

Concluding Business:


**15. Committee Member Comments**

Director Armendariz stated he is feeling optimistic about our future landscape quality of services.

Director Liberatore asked Mr. Wiemann if all of the Village landscaping is supported by the Village nursery. Mr. Wiemann said yes.

**16. Date of Next Meeting – June 13, 2019**

**17. Adjournment at 10:15 a.m.**



Maggie Blackwell, Chair  
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer  
Eve Morton, Landscape Operations Coordinator – 268-2565

## United Mutual Landscape Project Log

**June 2019**

Project	Description	Status	Estimated Completion/ On-going Date	Completion	Budget vs Actual
<b>2019 Projected Projects</b>					
<b>Landscape Revitalization Project</b>	Elimination of highest water-using turf areas; replacing with water efficient landscapes. Continue separating mixed stations.	Scheduled to complete CDS 14/15 Irrigation Retro-Fit Project and continue with the serpentine walk to CDS 37 and/or 39 with remaining funds. Anticipated resuming project October 2019.	2019	3%	Budget: \$350,000 Year-to-date (February): \$25,287 Balance: \$324,713
<b>Tree Maintenance</b>	This annual program includes the scheduled trimming of all Mutual trees; unscheduled pruning and service requests; dead tree removal and replacement.	As of May 31, 2019, <u>2,071</u> scheduled trees were trimmed, <u>219</u> trees removed, and <u>3</u> new trees planted.	December 2019 Annual	40%	Budget: \$1,232,529 Year-to-date Estimated (May): \$587,364 Balance: \$645,165



## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** June 13, 2019  
**FOR:** Landscape Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Tree Removals: Building 48 Calle Cadiz – Three Canary Island Pine trees

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the request for the removal of three Canary Island Pine trees that are causing structural damage to the sidewalks around the building.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Maintenance and Construction Department (M&C) is requesting the removal of three Canary Island Pine trees, *Pinus canariensis*, located at the front of the subject unit in the planter area (Attachment 1). The M&C has scheduled sections of the existing concrete walkways for replacement due to damage caused by the three subject pine trees. Staff was able to contact three out of the four affected residents: Units A, D, Q have agreed to the removal; N is currently in escrow. The trees are approximately 66 feet in height with a trunk diameter of approximately 22 inches. They are situated approximately six feet from the units and three feet from the walkways.

### **DISCUSSION**

At the time of inspection, the trees were found to be in fair condition with no visible signs of decay or disease. Surface roots are visible and damage to the walkways and the short seat wall are obvious. The M&C has estimated the replacement cost for the walkways to be \$6,000. If the trees remain, there is potential for future damage to the new walkways due to proximity of the trees and their subsequent root growth. Staff has previously used root trenching as an alternative resolution to root damage. Root trenching involves running a parallel trench to the walkway in an effort to sever roots at the point of contact; in this instance that methodology would damage the stability of the tree, increasing the potential for the tree to fall during high winds.

### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

Based on tree inventory data, the estimated average value per tree is \$3,800. The cost to trim all three trees is estimated at \$1,100. The cost to remove the three trees is estimated at \$4,000. There are sufficient funds available in the FY 2019 budget to accomplish this work.

**Prepared By:** Bob Merget, Tree Supervisor

**Reviewed By:** Kurt Wiemann, Senior Field Services Manager

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment 1: Photographs

ATTACHMENT 1









## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** June 13, 2019  
**FOR:** Landscape Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Tree Removal: 916-D Avenida Majorca (Florio) – Aleppo Pine

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Deny the request for the removal of an Aleppo Pine tree located at 916-D.

### **BACKGROUND**

Mr. Florio purchased the unit in October 2018, and is requesting the removal of an Aleppo Pine tree, *Pinus, halepensis*, located at the side of the unit in the turf area (Attachment 1). The reasons cited by him for the removal are; structural damage, sewer damage, ruining pipes and roof, and needles clogging the drains. No additional residents have signed the Landscape Request Form (Attachment 2).

The tree was last trimmed in January 2019, and is scheduled for trimming in 2024. The tree is approximately 70 feet in height with a trunk diameter of approximately 33 inches and is growing approximately 6-8 feet from the patio.

### **DISCUSSION**

At the time of inspection, the tree was found to be in good condition with no visible signs of decay or disease, has minimal surface roots, displays a well-balanced canopy and there is no visible damage to the patio wall or sidewalk. The mainline was cleared in December 2015, with no record of roots being present. There has been a new walkway installed with no record in Stellar regarding the costs involved. The United Mutual policy is to not remove trees due to litter or debris.

### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

Based on tree inventory data, the estimated value is \$10,521. The estimated cost to trim the tree is \$1,000. The cost to remove the tree is estimated at \$2,900.

**Prepared By:** Bob Merget, Tree Supervisor

**Reviewed By:** Kurt Wiemann, Senior Field Services Manager

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Attachment 1: Photographs

Attachment 2: Mutual Landscape Request Form, Letter

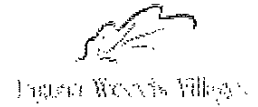
ATTACHMENT 1





RECEIVED  
APR 05 2019

ATTACHMENT 2



BY: ff

MUTUAL LANDSCAPE REQUEST FORM

PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM IS NOT INTENDED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

For all non-routine requests, please fill out this form. Per the policy of your Mutual, if your request falls outside the scope of the managing agent's authority, it will be forwarded to the Mutual's Landscape Committee for review. If you are unsure whether your request falls into this category, first contact Resident Services at 597-4600 in order to make that determination.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED REQUEST FORM TO RESIDENT SERVICES.

Resident/Owner Information

You must be an owner to request non-routine Landscape requests.

916 Avenida Marjorie Unit D  
Address

4-3-19  
Today's Date

Thomas Florio  
Resident's Name

949-388-0948  
Telephone Number

Non-Routine Request

Please checkmark the item that best describes your request. If none apply, please checkmark "Other" and explain.

- Tree Removal
- New Landscape
- Off-Schedule Trimming

Other (explain): Penitree closest to the house. Running pipes and roof needles clogging drains.

Reason for Request

Please checkmark the item(s) that best explain the reason for your request.

- Structural Damage
- Sewer Damage
- Overgrown
- Poor Condition

- Litter/Debris
- Personal Preference
- View Obstruction

Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

GUIDELINES:

- Structural/Sewer Damage: Damage to buildings, sidewalks, sewer pipes, or other facilities may justify removal if corrective measures are not practical.
- Overgrown/Crowded: Trees or plants that have outgrown the available space may justify removal.
- Damaged/Declining Health: Trees or plants that are declining in health will be evaluated for corrective action before removal/replacement is considered.
- View Blockage: By nature, view blockage must be reviewed case by case to determine the appropriate course of action.
- Litter and Debris: Because all trees shed litter seasonally, generally this is not an adequate reason to justify removal. However, if granted, removal/replacement may be at the resident's expense.
- Personal Preference: Because one does not like the appearance or other characteristics of the tree or plant generally does not justify its removal. However, if granted, removal/replacement is usually at the resident's expense.

**Description & Location of Request**

Please briefly describe the situation and the exact location of the subject of the request (e.g., "roots of pine tree in front of manor XYZ are lifting the sidewalk"). Attach pictures as necessary.

*roots on side of house. Lawn does not grow. Ruining roof & gutters.*

**Signatures of All Neighbors Affected By This Request**

Because your request may affect one or more of your neighbors, it is imperative that you obtain their signatures, manor numbers, and whether they are for, undecided, or against this request.

Signature	Manor #	For	Undecided	Against

(Please attach a separate sheet if more signatures are necessary.)

**Acknowledgement - Owner**

By signing, you are acknowledging this request.

*Thomas Florio*  
Owner's Signature

*THOMAS FLORIO*  
Owner's Name

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

MOVE-IN DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_

530 \_\_\_\_\_ 540 \_\_\_\_\_

570 \_\_\_\_\_ LAST PRUNED: \_\_\_\_\_

RELANDSCAPED: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TREE SPECIES: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

TREE VALUE: \_\_\_\_\_ TREE REMOVAL COST: \_\_\_\_\_