



OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair - Bert Moldow, Jim Matson, Lynn Jarrett, Manuel Armendariz, Maggie Blackwell, Reza Karimi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Judith Troutman

OTHERS PRESENT: Juanita Skillman, Andre Torng

ADVISORS PRESENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

1. Call to Order

Chair Moldow called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Media

No press was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Director Matson made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Jarrett seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

4. Approval of Meeting Report of May 15, 2019

Director Armendariz made a motion to approve the Meeting Report. Director Karimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

5. Committee Chair Remarks

None.

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

Sharon O'Neil (581-P) We have been told pulling cat tails is allowed from October through January. Can we cut the cat tails twice during that window of opportunity? In October and again in January?

The big sycamore tree; can an arborist save it? It is dying.

Andre Torng (389-Q) Can we establish a performance index? What is the number of days in the mowing cycle. We need to hold Staff to that schedule.

Doug Gibson (5289) He asked that this committee meet more frequently.

Walt Herd (579-B) The creek path needs some help. Also, there is a lot of sand. He also asked that this committee meeting more frequently.

Marilyn Goll (590-D) When each cattail blooms, it makes 200 more cattails. There should be a happy medium between native plants and having our natural wildlife we go down there to see.

Charles Prater (901-A) He walks the creek twice a day. Eight trees were removed along the creek bed when ETWD work was performed and only four trees were replaced but those aren't along the creek bed. The company that inventories turtles found no turtles but he knows there are turtles in there. There are over 50% non-native species in that creek right now.

7. Response to Member Comments

Director Matson said he spent two hours at the creek yesterday and he did see that sand that the rain had brought into the grass. He said a branch of that old oak branch broke off.

Director Armendariz said we considered disbanding this committee. The main subject at this committee is the creek so we feel quarterly meetings are sufficient. Solutions for creek won't happen over night. The first agreement was to build a bridge and repair an area. Then there was another five-year agreement which ends this year and will be extended to maintain the mitigation area so we may improve it with plants.

Mr. Wiemann reported that he will look into the sand on the creek path and thanked Mr. Herd for bringing it to his attention. As far as the tree, we are scheduled to trim the trees there this fall.

Mr. Wiemann reported that in exchange for trees which were removed, ETWD gave us a certain number of trees back but all aren't at creek. He said he will double check on that agreement.

8. Department Head Update

None.

Consent:

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by the Committee by one motion. In the event that an item is removed from the Consent Calendar by members of the Committee, such item(s) shall be the subject of further discussion and action by the Committee.

None.

Reports:

9. Discuss and Review the Survey of Aliso Creek

Mr. Wiemann reported that Landscaping has been using old irrigation charts to determine what parts of the the creek maintenance costs should be dispursed to the Mutuals. In 2020, Staff will be changing to an hours-based process. Mutuals will be charged for hours spent on their area of creek. However, there is nothing in the field to tell us were United area ends and GRF area begins. We need to hire a land surveyor to come in and mark the boundaries.

Director Armendariz made a motion to recommend to the Board to approve an unbudgeted expense of \$5,800 to hire a land surveyor to determine the Aliso Creek boundaries. Director Jarrett seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Tornng asked if sprinklers can determine what is the GRF area. Mr. Wiemann said it's not precise enough and that is why a land survey is needed.

Ms. Muse at 579- A reported that she has photos of how the creek looked in 2011.

Sharon O'Neil (581-P) She feels GRF should pay most of the cost. We need grass down there. That was what was there before. All those willows and there now were not there before.

10. Discuss and Review a Request to Donate a Bench

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this request from the Baha'i Club to donate a bench and two Plumeria trees.

Mitra Khoulsi of 55-T was at meeting and is the person who is offering the donation on behalf of the Baha'i Club. She asked if she may look for a different type of bench than the one indicated in the committee packet

Discussion ensued on whether there is currently a Standard for benches. Ms. Blackwell reported that there is but the type of bench in the current Standard is no longer available.

The committee discussed asking the Maintance and Construction Committee (M&C) to update the bench Standard.

Director Armendariz made a motion to approve the donation of the bench and the two Plumeria trees conditional on using the updated Standard for the bench once that Standard has been updated by the M&C committee. Director Karmimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

11. Update on the Creek

Mr. Wiemann conducted a presentation with an update on the creek.

Director Armendariz recommended to get land survey done, have United clean up their area, and then to take a look at the condition of the creek again.

Director Karimi asked how were we able to clear cattails at West Creek? Mr. Wiemann reported that West creek is a dry creek and doesn't feed into the ocean

so doesn't have the same restrictions on it as Aliso Creek. Director Karimi feels the Aliso creek will die if it's not dredged.

Director Moldow asked about five foot waterway and Mr. Wiemann reported that he is currently checking on that.

There was a suggestion to select just a portion of the creek to fix up and see how much that cost would be.

Discussion ensued regarding idea that all the Mutuels should contribute to the Creek maintenance since all residents are free to use the creek. Chair Moldow would like to invest money to make the creek area a nice park for the Village.

Director Armendariz moved to allow Mr. Wiemann to research the cost to cleanup a portion of the creek. Mr. Wiemann informed the committee that there would be consultant costs to research this option. Director Blackwell seconded the motion. The committee was in unanimous support.

Mr. Wiemann will bring his findings to the next meeting.

Discussion that money is put into the 2021 budget to fix up the creek.

There was a suggestion from a resident to ask students from a school of landscape architecture to donate their time to help develop a plan for the creek.

Elizabeth Morris (581-O). She said there is a bee hive in one of the old trees and that a group of children were around trees and moved the benches and picnic tables. Suggested to cement them down.

Sally Sunderhaus (580-0) She inquired as to why Village was turned down on the cheaper credits? Mr. Wiemann reported that it has to do with San Diego jurisdiction and that he is still trying to work on getting the cheaper credits.

Carol Osberg (194-B) If there was a problem with the pools or the golf course, would you say there isn't much you can do about; that is just the way it is? My husband and I love the creek but loved it better when we moved here 10 years ago. We subsidize the golf course, etc. Please consider taking care of the creek. It should be considered an asset.

She said the new bridge was a nightmare when it was put in. The sides of the bridge have been falling down since the day it was built.

Andre Torng (389-Q) He suggested a cost analysis on the creek comparing the cost of not doing anything versus the cost to do certain work to the creek. We need to see alternatives.

Charles Prater (901-A) He feels the idea of cleaning up only a portion of creek is just a band aid. If you want to fix the creek, fix the creek. Look at full picture.

Items for Future Agendas:

- Landscaping of Renovated Gates

Director Jarrett is concerned that there isn't money for the landscaping of the gates. Mr. Wiemann said he is planning on doing a survey of the gates and to report on costs to upgrade the landscaping at the gates.

Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments

Director Karimi said there are strong feelings about the creek. We are tasking Mr. Wiemann on what it will take to fix it. If the Mutuels don't want to spend the money, maybe we could start a Save the Creek foundation.

Director Jarrett said it was a good meeting. This issue will take into 2021 to get fixed.

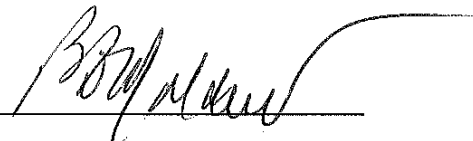
Director Blackwell said she happy with participation and comments made today. Money is the handcuff we have.

Director Armendariz said that this committee is trying hard to satisfy everyone in Village. He is glad Director Moldow is the Chair because he knows how the creek used to look. Mr. Wiemann is doing everything possible to clean up the creek. He is pleased with this. Mr. Wiemann is good at keeping the committee updated on his findings.

Chair Moldow said he appreciates all that Mr. Wiemann and his staff have done. They are wonderful to work with.

13. Date of Next Meeting – November 13, 2019

14. Adjournment at 3:30 p.m.



Bert Moldow, Chair