



OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRD LAGUNA HILLS MUTUAL
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 10, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair-Lynn Jarrett, Jon Pearlstone, Anne McCary, Reza Karimi, Cush Bhada

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Cindy Baker from GVA

ADVISORS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton, Maribel Flores

1. Call to Order

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

2. Acknowledgement of Media

No media was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Director Karimi made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Bhada seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

4. Approval of September 5, 2019 Report

Director Karimi moved to approve the Report. Director McCary seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Chair Jarrett welcomed everyone in attendance. She is glad residents care about the community and let us know how to improve. A lot had been going on lately.

Aeration program will be starting and she will ask Mr. Wiemann to discuss that process.

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

Phyllis Waite (3428-N): She understands that there a plan for landscaping. She requested more quality control in the field. Please don't blow things right into the shrub and flower beds.

Sondra Gabriel (2270): Weeds are taking over the Village. Landscaper responding to request "only took out six weeds and never came back." There is litter all over the sidewalk. She claimed no call back about complaints.

Ed McGill (2390-2C): The Wandering Jew has grown back and is blocking the stairs. The bougainvillea at CDS 219 is blocking parking spaces. He requested planters moved during GV Breezeway work to be put back.

Ellen Rose (5566-B): A letter in the Globe stated that the landscaping at Gate 9 is in disarray. Weeds are growing between the sidewalks and curb on Sosiega. Some areas have good supervisors and they come out when asked.

Don Cole (3365-2A): The weed issue at the entrance to our building has been happening since July. He emailed Marti from GVA to see if anything can be done and she told him to attend this committee meeting. There are also some missing plants in the planters and two days ago two new plants were put into the planters.

Virginia Kajikawa (2366-A:) Some of her issues have been addressed but only with two manors, all the rest are the same. Tall orange lilies are never trimmed. She resented reading that she could go pick up mulch for my patio. That should be part of what I pay for. *Mr. Wiemann explained that that mulch is for personal use, not for the common areas.* Please clean up as all is blown back into our patio and the carport.

Myrna Farkas (2325-A): "There was a big sink hole that I reported and it was filled in; no grass has grown on it. They seeded it but didn't grow." Also, she would like some bushes, all the other buildings do. The trees are dying that cover up her view of the garbage area. She hired someone to thin them out but they are still dying. There are leaves everywhere from an enormous tree. The roots are going over to sidewalk.

Norine Cusick (5215): Her big issue is the slope between her unit and 5214. All of the plant material was removed on the slope but it was never replanted. Now, it is just eroded. She has called for last three years but nothing gets done. During heavy rains, it floods my neighbor's house. Also ground squirrels on that slope.

Betty Mosebrook (3364-1F and 2G): A tree branch broke and fell off. Weeds are growing into the flower beds. She requested pine needle be cleaned up regularly. We also have pine cones. Get rid of three dead trees.

Gloria Barton (3509-B): She walks her area each day. There are tall weeds in the sidewalk and it looks terrible. Coyotes poop everywhere and landscapers didn't pick it up; they just blew around it.

Marilyn Goldman (3198-B): She called about a tree in common area behind her house which is getting over grown. She was told it wouldn't be trimmed until 2021.

Myrna Keitges (3245-A): She inquired if landscaping communicates with other departments. Her building is being painted and the Ficus in front of building drops many berries and creates a huge mess on the bridge. How will they paint that bridge with that going on?

Rhoda Harris (3455-A): Her neighbor at 3456-A, is putting in all sorts of things and encroaching into common area. On Oct. 5, they removed a plant of hers. Has the committee granted permission for them to plant? Also, please remove rats in my area.

Kay Havens (5353-B): She is grateful that brush is being cleared. Thank you!

Doug Gibson (5289): 5314 going west towards 5315; brush has been cut. But some is still there. West Creek does not smell quite as bad. He was wondering about responsibility as it relates to mosquitoes.

Susan Smallwood (3033-N and 3456-B): Nice landscaping increases and maintains our real estate values. Flower beds aren't maintained. There is debris everywhere. Trees are shedding their bark. We must eradicate the asparagus fern. It takes away foundational bushes. Her neighbors clear the small slopes on their own. At 3033, there is a fig tree she would like removed. Gate 7 and 8 concrete blocks are being hit by lawnmowers. She made additional comments on photos she passed out to the committee.

Annette Sabol Soule (3428-C): Behind building 3427, there is a huge cactus that goes 30 feet up and it has been dead for over a year and leaning on a pine tree.

Lois Rubin (5509-B): "Thank you for your patience in listening. I live on the small golf course and real estate value will plummet because weeds on golf course are three to four feet high. When landscapers cut lawn, why are they not edging? Workers eat their lunch on the lawn and leave debris and chicken bones on the lawn. Consider more outsourcing and get professional landscape company in here. We pay for our maintenance."

Jackie Martin (5101): A few years ago, gravel was put in between the houses and weeds grow in the gravel and can't be removed. Can gravel be removed? We have some fruit trees we put in. Will they be taken out if we maintain them? *Mr. Wiemann said no.* When grass is mowed, there are piles of debris from the mowers. They used a type of mower that didn't do that but then then the piles came back again. Our crew in Gate 11 is fantastic and kind.

Stephanie Irving (3045-N): CDS 344; slopes were stripped a few years ago for fire reasons. Now there is a mixture of weeds. There were dandelions that were four feet tall. She is concerned that the weeds on slopes will catch fire and go up to homes. Are there designs to use drought tolerant plants and fire tolerant plants?

Michael Sweet (3435-B): He waited two years before some bushes were replaced. They were replaced six months ago but one died because it wasn't getting water. Is there communication between crews and irrigation?

7. Response to Member Comments

Chair Jarrett said the budget decisions were difficult this year. We are doing our best with the money we have.

Mr. Wiemann responded to Member Comments:

A lot of the issues you are bringing up are on my mind also. Blowing back onto the slopes is a labor and funding issue. We are budgeted to visit each manor four times a year. We are in process of lowering the mowers to start aerating in two weeks. Please be patient for the next two months. In the spring, the lawns will be beautiful.

We contracted slopes and they are being worked on. We don't blow seeds any more. We will be stripping some slopes but they will be planted back.

The landscaping industry as a whole is having tough time finding workers.

Species tree trimming will start next year and we do have funds to trim trees. We will reduce those trees by 25%.

Director Karimi said we want our community to be lush green and beautiful. We are facing labor shortages and costs constraints. Mr. Wiemann is working on quality of the work. It used to be quantity of work instead of quality. Mr. Wiemann is trying to change that now. We have to work for more resources and money.

Director Pearlstone said we have never had this kind of turnout. Today is a real eye opener. There is a lot of catch up going on so that is part of the issue.

Director McCary asked that before a Member pays out of pocket to have landscape work done, to contact staff or this committee first.

8. Department Head Update

None.

Consent Calendar:

None.

Reports:

9. Project Log

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the project log with the committee.

10. Tree Work Status Report

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

11. Request to Retain Non-Standard Landscape-3364-1D Punta Alta

Member was present. She owns 1D and 1G. She explained footprints were in her common area and plants were being trampled and that is why she put in the stepping stones. Discussion ensued.

Director Pearlstone made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to retain the revisions to the landscaping, with the exception of the stepping stones. Director Bhada seconded and asked that it be reflected that this request is really for 1-G, not 1-D. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Pearlstone made a motion to *not* follow staff's recommendation to discipline this Member. Director Bhada seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

12. Landscape Alteration Request - 3415-A Punta Alta

Director Pearlstone made a motion to approve staff's recommendation and approve this request to remove the existing landscape adjacent to the Subject Manor and place pavers in its stead. Director Bhada seconded.

The daughter from neighbor 3415-C was in attendance. She said that the signature on the signature page of the Landscape Request Form was not her mother's signature. She does not want the pavers there.

Neighbor from 3415-N was also in attendance and also said this is not her signature on the request form. She is also against their request if it harms the tree that is there.

Director Pearlstone amended his motion to recommend to the Board to deny staff's recommendation to approve this request since the signatures on the Landscape Request Form are suspect. Director Karimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

13. Landscape Alteration Request - 5165 Belmez

Director McCary made motion to approve staff's recommendation to revise the landscaping adjacent to Manor 5165 at the expense of the requestor. Director Karimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

14. Tree Removal Request– 3186-D Via Buena Vista – One Indian Laurel Fig

Director Karimi made motion to approve staff's recommendation for the removal on one Indian Laurel Fig tree. Director Bhada seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

15. Off Schedule Tree Trimming Request– 5515-2G Paseo Del Lago W. - Two Cajeput

Director McCary made motion to approve staff's recommendation to deny the off-schedule trimming of two Cajeput trees. Director Pearlstone seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

16. Tree Removal Request–5586-A Via Dicha – One Fern Pine

Director Pearlstone made motion to approve staff's recommendation to approve the removal of one Fern Pine tree. Director Bhada seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Items for Future Agendas:

None.

Concluding Business

17. Committee Member Comments

Director Karimi said Mr. Wiemann will do his best to address the issues brought up today.

Director Bhada agreed with Director Karimi's comment.

Director Pearlstone directed staff to provide the committee with the follow up from this month's complaints and to make sure Resident Service requests are getting to Landscape. Also, we will look for any other money for landscaping costs.

18. Date of Next Meeting – November 7, 2019

19. Adjournment at 3:38 p.m.



Lynn Jarrett, Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer
Eve Morton, Landscape Operations Coordinator – 268-2565