



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Thursday, April 4, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.  
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room  
24351 El Toro Road**

**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair-Lynn Jarrett, John Frankel in for Cush Bhada, Jon Pearlstone, Anne McCary, Reza Karimi

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cush Bhada arrived at 10:30 a.m.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cindy Baker, GVA

**ADVISORS PRESENT:** James Tung

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

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Acknowledgement of Media**

No media was present.

**3. Approval of March 7, 2019 Report**

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

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

Director Pearlstone made a motion to accept the agenda. Director McCary seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Jarrett reported that she is glad that residents are in attendance because they care what is happening with landscaping.

Spring is in full bloom. It is keeping landscaping crews busy and growth is unbelievable because of all the rain. The area around 3433 is where the slopes were bare and are now going to be hydroseeded.

Water conservation is still important.

There are several interesting projects on the project log today.

The tree trimming cycle is in the agenda packet

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

Eileen Lazaar (5220) She thanked the landscaping division for all their efforts. The lawn bowling area at CH2 has weeds which are so tall that seeds are blowing everywhere. Shepherds crooks are going up so will ivy be taken off the walls? The sprinklers are on in certain areas and off in other areas. Will this be remedied?

Burt Dubois (3425-C) Staff came out to pull out a dead tree a few weeks ago. He had no notice and would like to know what will be replacing it. One year ago, he was at this committee asking about his backyard lawn since tractors have ruined the lawn. His calls have gone unanswered.

John Banks (5090) Mr. Banks stated that when lawn is taken out, weeds grow. By Gate 11, there are weeds in a front yard. He has photos. Some residents are doing their own weeding and he is worried about their safety.

Doug Gibson (5289) said West Creek is looking very good.

Marcia Huberman (3433-A) Her slope is no longer bare, however, it is because thistles have taken over the slope. It is now an eyesore and has subterranean termites. They are concerned.

Michael Sweet (3435-B) He requested that a bush be replaced but hasn't been. No water is getting to his bushes; two are dead and now only one left alive. If he were allowed to replace the bushes himself, he would.

Bud Lazar (5220) He asked what is the spraying in Gate 11 on Del Sol? OC Landscaping is on the trucks which are doing the spraying. Mr. Wiemann reported he will send someone out to look.

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

Mr. Wiemann reported that weeds are a problem community-wide. Currently, landscaping is performed at manors every 8-10 weeks and there isn't enough Staff to do go more often.

Staff was spraying this morning for weeds. The area should have been marked and people notified. He will look into it.

In the Shepherds crooks area, the goal is to minimally impact the existing landscape.

All irrigation should be on now. The system is 20 years old. Electronic communication with the controllers is an issue and is being worked on.

He informed Mr. Dubois at 3425-C that he will look into what tree will be replacing the tree which was removed and will let him know. He will also look into his lawn.

A lawn rehabilitation program is on top of his list. He is working on a community-wide rehabilitation program for lawns.

Regarding the hydroseeding of slopes; the contractor has had the contract for three weeks and hasn't signed it. Now, our people will do the weeding of the slopes until a contractor is in place.

Mr. Sweet was told that a full-time coordinator has been hired to facilitate all landscaping departments working together. He informed him he will get back to him regarding his bushes.

Director Karimi said sometimes it is hard to figure out which contractors are working for the community and which are working for homeowners. Is there anything we can do to differentiate? Mr. Wiemann reported that currently there is no contracted work so if a landscaper doesn't have a VMS shirt on, they are not doing work for VMS.

## **8. Department Head Update**

Mr. Wiemann reported that soon, a landscape survey to look at the current irrigation system will be starting and will include an evaluation and ideas to make our system more water efficient.

- a) Herbicide Testing Update (Verbal) Mr. Wiemann said testing is done and a report and costs are being put together.
- b) Landscape Modernization Update (Verbal) Mr. Wiemann reported that he is working with a landscape architect on this and they are developing a model program for turf reduction that may be replicated throughout community. These will be going to committee and ultimately, a Town Hall.

### 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. Project Log**

Mr. Wiemann reported on the projects in the log and stated that all are reserved-funded projects and are over and above the daily maintenance work.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

**10. 5389-A – Request for Trimming or Removal of one Spotted Gum Tree**

Ms. Friesen was present. She stated that this tree is over her and her neighbor's master bedrooms. The tree sheds on the patios and sheds big branches and pods which make a lot of noise. She submitted her request in November. Two trees have been removed in her area and she said they cost \$700 so why is cost for hers so much more? The tree has been trimmed but it has not helped.

Mr. Wiemann reported that going forward tree trimming will involve 25% of the tree to be trimmed.

Discussion ensued.

Director Karimi made a motion for Staff to revisit this tree. Director McCary seconded. The vote was three in favor and one opposed. The motion passed.

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

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the tree trimming schedule. In the past, crews inspected the trees every 34 months and decided which needed to be trimmed. Some trees were skipped and some were not adequately trimmed. Most tree trimming management programs recommend that trees are trimmed on cycle based species. Staff has gone through all the trees in Third and looked at the last trims. All were sorted by species. His goal is to keep the number of trees to trim each year about the same which makes staffing and funding needs easier to gauge.

Director Karimi asked if the updated landscape manual will have guidelines for off schedule trimming. Mr. Wiemann said yes.

Mr. Banks at 5090 had a question about the fruit trees on Common Area. He reported that a house near his has four fruit trees and no one is taking care of them. Mr. Wiemann reported that each owner agrees to take care of any non-standard landscaping. If they don't wish to take care of it, they need to inform Staff and it will be removed by Staff.

Items for Future Agendas:

**12. Herbicide Testing Final Report**

**13. Review Landscape Manual**

Concluding Business

**14. Committee Member Comments**

Advisor Tung suggested some kind of uniform for any VMS hired contractors. Mr. Wiemann stated that would be a cost to VMS and there will ideally just be one contractor to do all the work and residents will know their name.

Recommendation to tell Security about VMS hired contractors.

Director Pearlman asked residents to give Staff some time to put Mr. Wiemann's plans into place. Gate 11 residents should file tickets for any concerns and interact with Board Members to address any concerns.

Director McCary thanked Mr. Wiemann for the information about the trees.

Director Karimi stated that Mr. Wiemann has a lot of work to do but he thinks he is the right person to do it and we are here to help.

Mr. Wiemann reported that he has created a ticket response crew and their only job will be to respond to tickets. He asked that resident to please not put 'supervisor contact requested' on tickets to avoid delays in responses.

Eileen Lazaar stated that the landscaping in Gate 11 area has been declining and older residents are out there trying to weed or are hiring their own outside gardeners.

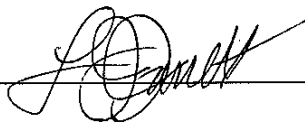
A Member asked if there is a way to see what is happening with the tickets. He said each time they put in a ticket, it is like starting all over again. Chair Jarrett suggested getting the ticket number to reference later.

A Member commented that training on how to trim trees is needed.

Chair Jarrett thanked the committee, Mr. Wiemann, and the residents for attending.

**15. Date of Next Meeting – May 2, 2019**

**16. Adjournment at 10:52 a.m.**



Lynn Jarrett, Chair

Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer

Eve Morton – 268-2565