



UNITED LAGUNA WOODS
MUTUAL

OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNITED LAGUNA WOODS MUTUAL
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