



UNITED LAGUNA WOODS
MUTUAL

OPEN MEETING

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

**Thursday, August 8, 2019 – 9:30 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, Elsie Addington

ADVISORS PRESENT: Catherine Brians

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

1. Call to Order

Called to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Acknowledgment of Media

No media were present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the Meeting Report for June 13, 2019

Director Armendariz made a motion to approve the report. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

5. Chair's Remarks

In the informational booklet regarding the Creek, it says that maintenance agreement shall expire on Aug. 31, 2019.

The GRF meeting is next Wednesday at 1:30 which will include additional information about the Creek.

6. Member Comments

Roberta Berk (933-B) is grateful for the edging that is being done. It makes a positive presentation. There is a new landscape person who works in her area with a blower and it is the first time that anyone has cleaned up after landscaping was done. Her breezeway was cleaned. Thank you.

Bushes were taken out in the past next to a Magnolia tree that drops a lot of leaves. No one regularly cleans away the leaves. The water from sprinklers lands on top of leaves and accumulates and doesn't get into the ground.

She feels that someone should check to see if everything is in order after landscape crew goes through. Oversight is needed.

Jeri Miller (2030-C) stated she has dead grass and has been told the grass won't grow. She was sold a "park like" setting. She has been dealing with this problem for four years.

Jean Bender (2037- B) stated that landscaper edges and then blows the clippings into her flower beds. Supervision is needed. Also, there are a lot of bare spots.

Kathryn Krajnik (2035-B) reported that her clippings weren't picked up.

Andre Torng (389-Q) inquired about mowing schedule. How often? How many days between mows do we pay for? How much money do we spend and are we getting the service level we need.

Sylvia Heyman (466-D) stated that starting three years ago, the edging keeps creeping up so lawn is now only a foot. Then, crew steps on it and it dies. Weeds aren't pulled and gardeners say they won't pull them. Former Landscape Director came out and said it would be taken care of. They put in some junipers but the rest is just dirt. She has called many times.

Pat Brady (466-B) Landscapers only come to her house once a year. She has thick pine needles on her sidewalk.

Huber (788-Q) A Supervisor said some roses he wants to put in are not on the plant list. Couldn't find approved plant list on the website. Resident Services couldn't give him one either. Is there an authorized plant list and where would it be?

7. Response to Member Comments

Chair Blackwell told Director Torng that the mowing schedule changes throughout the year. Shortest time is 7-9 days and longest time is 14-21 days. Budget is yearly.

At 10:10 a.m., Security removed Director Andre Torng from the meeting for disruptive behavior.

Mr. Wiemann responded to resident concerns:

- Improvements have been made but we aren't perfect.
- He is aware of bare spots.
- It is true that we can't plant in summer months.
- We are experimenting with mowing methodologies. We are also looking into growth regulators.
- Budget and frequency: we are budgeted for four visits a year to each unit. We just bought some new mowers which should help with our mowing cycles.
- We are designating a day to pick up clippings so everyone will know that is the day to put them out. The current system is obviously not working well. He promised it will get better.
- Everyone at this meeting who has a concern will get help from Landscaping staff by the end of next week.
- Mr. Huber at 788-Q may plant his roses.

Advisor Brians appreciates people's frustrations.

Director Armendariz said we have a lot of catch up and a lot of problems to solve. Continue to come to these meeting when you have problems. He asked to keep in mind also that Landscaping is facing staffing issues.

Director Blackwell said Mr. Wiemann is the third department head we have had in three years. We are still in transition and we understand your concerns. He stated the Mr. Wiemann is organized and is making good changes. The Board is not curtailing the landscape budget to try to meet our landscape needs.

8. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann reported that on Saturday there would be a mulch day were staff would be mulching the flowerbeds of several cul de sacs, and free mulch for residents for several days at Clubhouse 4.

Kurt presented a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate some of the changes which have been made in Landscaping.

Member at 2035-B asked why landscaping staff doesn't just pick up clippings or branches when they see them? Mr. Wiemann reported that they are working on this.

He asked attendees to please speak to the Foreman or Lead Men in a blue or white shirts with any landscape requests. The crews wear green shirts.

Consent:
None

Reports:

9. Project Log

Mr. Wiemann showed slides of possible revitalization areas for turf reduction which will reduce landscape hours and water use in those areas. These areas are about 20,000 square feet in total. There will be rebates to help finance the project. Chair Blackwell stated that these are trouble areas for mowing and that is why these areas have been chosen. Mr. Wiemann stated that the smaller the area, the more cost to maintain it.

Director Armendariz moved to make a recommendation to approve the locations shown in the slide show and in the committee packet as sites for turf reduction this year. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

10. Discuss Prohibition of Fruit Trees and Vegetables

Mr. Wiemann explained there is a drastic increase in rodent complaints and the best way to fix it is to remove food sources and that is reason for this proposed resolution to prohibit new plantings of fruit trees and to remove fruit trees at resale.

Director Armendariz asked to add to the resolution "and vegetables" where appropriate. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Armendariz moved to approve the proposed resolution, as amended. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

The Committee asked staff to make sure that Members will be told that their vegetables will be removed when that time comes.

11. Discuss and Review the Survey of Aliso Creek

Mr. Wiemann discussed the need to determine the actual boundaries of the two Mutualls in the Creek.

Director Armendariz made a motion to approve an unbudgeted expense of \$5,800 to survey the creek. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Ms. Burke stated that she believes there was a "rainy day report" several years ago which included a survey of the creek. She felt all Mutualls should pay a share of the creek maintenance since all residents are free to use the area.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

Director Armendariz made motion to accept the staff recommendations for agenda items number 12 thru 15. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

12. Request for Landscape Revision: 134-A

Mr. McKeon is a neighbor (133-C) and was protesting this planting. He stated his reasons.

As per the motion stated above, the committee voted to accept Staff's recommendation and approve this non-standard landscape request.

13. Request for Landscape Revision: 321-D

As per the motion stated above, the committee voted to accept Staff's recommendation and approve this non-standard landscape request.

14. Request for Tree Removal – 2G – One Canary Island Pine

As per the motion stated above, the committee voted to accept Staff's recommendation and approve this request to remove the tree.

15. Request for Tree Removal – 67-C – Three Silk Oaks

As per the motion stated above, the committee voted to accept Staff's recommendation and approve this request to remove the trees.

Items for Future Agendas:

16. Herbicide Usage Update (in 2 months)

Concluding Business:

17. Committee Member Comments

None.

18. Date of Next Meeting – October 10, 2019

19. Adjournment at 11:19 a.m.



Maggie Blackwell, Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer

Eve Morton, Landscape Operations Coordinator – 268-2565