



OPEN MEETING

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

**Thursday, May 2, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Parsons, Cindy Baker for Garden Villas Association

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 the Agenda

Chair Jarrett directed Staff to move 9a and 9c from “Consent Calendar” to “Items for Discussion and Consideration” since the residents were present and wanted to speak about their tree requests. Director Karimi made a motion to approve the agenda with those updates. Director McCary seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

4. Approval of April 4, 2019 Report

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

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Chair Jarrett reported that there is a lot going on in Landscaping. She thanked everyone for coming to the committee meeting. Kurt Wiemann is giving the herbicide testing report today. The Board is currently planning the budget and there is a lot of money needed for landscaping. Third also has a large water budget and are always looking for ways to save money on water.

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

Lazar (5220) Ms. Lazar thanked Staff for their work at Gate 11. Is the every other week mowing going to change for the summer? Will the sprinkler schedule be changing or staying about the same?

Black (3112-P) Ms. Black complimented the landscapers and said they are very hard working. However, she has never seen so many brown spots in Via Serena South. She brought photos to show how the embankment is filled with dirt. Landscaping does plant some very small bushes but they never grow in. She feels some stepping stones are needed for the embankment.

Draper (2384-3E) Mr. Draper stated that trees are growing into his view and should be trimmed for everyone's benefit, not just his. He would like to see the tree trimming schedule. Also, the grass is not being cut short enough and grows to be a foot high.

7. Response to Member Comments

Mr. Wiemann reported to Ms. Lazar that irrigation is based upon the weather station which measures the rate the water is evaporating. So, there will be more irrigation time in the summer months.

Mr. Wiemann reported to Ms. Black that he will look into the Via Serena South area.

Mr. Wiemann reported to Mr. Draper that the reason why grass is taller is to reduce water usage. He explained the yearly landscaping schedule and mowing schedules. He said mowing will become an issue in the summer since Staff is stretched and lawns need to be mowed more frequently then. He let Mr. Draper know that the tree trimming schedule is in the Globe and on the Village website.

8. Department Head Update

None.

9. Consent Calendar:

- a. Recommendation to Approve the Request for Tree removal in Fiscal Year 2020 (5561-B) Ficus Tree
- b. Recommendation to Deny the Removal or Off Schedule Trimming Request (5389-A) Spotted Gum tree

Director Bhada moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Director McCary seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

10. a. Recommendation to Deny Tree Removal Request (5560-B) Camphor tree

Dr. Lin was present and said this tree is an aggressive grower. He stated it was last time trimmed in 2015. He said the trimming must be to the trunk, not just the limbs.

Director Pearlstone made a motion to accept Staff's recommendation to deny the request for removal and trim the tree on schedule. Director Bhada seconded. This was approved by consensus.

10. b. Recommendation to Deny the Appeal for Tree Removal Request (5578-B) Rustyleaf Fig Tree

Arthur Levy was present and asked when this tree will be trimmed. Mr. Wiemann said he will get back to him with the answer. Mr. Wiemann reported that there is not much money for tree trimming this year in Third Mutual.

Mr. Levy reported that his wife has contacted Resident Services many times about changing the bushes in front of their house. There is also black mold on some of the bushes. Mr. Wiemann will follow up.

Director Pearlstone made a motion to accept Staff's recommendation and deny the request for removal and trim on schedule. Director Bhada seconded. This was approved by consensus.

11. Review Rendering of Turf Modernization Project

Mr. Wiemann reported that this is just the preliminary phase of planning this project. The landscape architect, Monica Simpson of MS-MEGT, introduced herself and presented her rendering of the project. She said the goal with this project is to reduce water use and water costs in this area. Also, this project would reduce the overall maintenance costs of the area, will reduce water runoff, and the mixture of plant materials will provide a lot of benefits for wildlife. This location is near Gate 14 at Calle Sonora Este.

Advisor Tung inquired about the water savings. Mr. Wiemann indicated that there will be an ROI study done on this project.

There were various other questions from the committee members which Mr. Wiemann addressed.

Mr. Wiemann stated that this will be a pilot project and if the committee and Board approve this, similar projects could be done in different areas within the community. This will modernize the palette throughout the community. Mowing turf every week in the summer is very expensive. These types of plants have lower maintenance needs.

Chair Jarrett stated that the area is in CDS 408. If it turns out that this project would have a good ROI, there will be a Town Hall to answer any questions residents may have about the project. Then, it would go to the Board for final approval. Money has already been budgeted this year for this project.

Irrigation would not need to be redone on the main lines, only some modification on existing lines.

Director Bhada made a motion to move forward. Director Pearlstone seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Reports:

12. Herbicide Testing Final Report

Mr. Wiemann presented a PowerPoint presentation on the alternative herbicide testing and the results.

Director Pearlstone made a motion to approve an unbudgeted expense of approximately \$24,000 for the alternative herbicide products. Chair Jarrett seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

13. Project Log

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the Project Log and answered some questions from the committee members.

14. Tree Trimming Status Report

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee.

Items for Future Agendas:

15. Review Landscape Manual

Mr. Wiemann answered some questions regarding what this updated manual will include.

Concluding Business

16. Committee Member Comments

Resident, Hal Okholm (5091) spoke and said he has lived in the Village for 19 years. On April 3, he believes a different type of weed spray was used which affected him and several of his neighbors with extreme itching from head to toe. He was in misery for the whole day. Mr. Wiemann reported that no new sprays have been used but he will look into it and get back to him.

Director Karimi stated there is a CDS which needs to be planted on Avenida del Sol. Bushes were all removed and never replanted. He has photos. Mr. Wiemann said he will look into it.

Director McCary thanked Mr. Wiemann for all the information he presents to this committee. She has learned a lot and she is glad to see the community coming out to these meetings. She is glad Staff is using protective gear with any herbicides.

Director Bhada asked about Arbor Pro. Mr. Wiemann reported that Staff uses it as a database of the trees, their condition, size, etc. Some of that information may be put onto website at some point.

Advisor Tung wanted to say Mr. Wiemann is doing great and he is happy that aeration will be done and that turf reduction projects are being considered. He is happy.

Chair Jarrett thanked Kurt for all he is doing.

17. Date of Next Meeting is June 6, 2019

18. Adjournment at 11:01 a.m.



Lynn Jarrett, Chair

Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer

Eve Morton – 268-2565