



OPEN MEETING

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

**Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 9:30 A.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair- Diane Casey, Maggie Blackwell, Lenny Ross

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Juanita Skillman, Cash Achrekar

ADVISORS PRESENT: None.

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 Blackwell made a motion to approve the agenda. The committee was in unanimous support.

4. Approval of the Meeting Report for December 9, 2021

Director Blackwell made a motion to approve the Report. The committee was in unanimous support.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Casey stated this her first Zoom meeting as Chair. She is excited to hear Mr. Wiemann's reports and any comment from Members.

6. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann explained that Canary Island Pines (CIP) are too numerous and too close to some structures here in the Village. When these trees grow too close together, they compete for sunlight and water, affecting the long-term health of the trees. The Landscape Committee directed staff to put together a project to identify CIPs for removal. There are 979 CIP trees in United Mutual. Staff arborists spent the better part of two years examining every CIP for several characteristics; overall health, causing infrastructure damage, proximity to buildings, and proximity to other trees. Staff identified 393 trees who meet criteria to be removed.

The United Mutual Canary Island Pine Grove Reduction Project was put out to bid in January of 2022. Mr. Wiemann shared the bid results with the committee.

It was bid as a three-year project. There are some funds remaining from last year's budget and total cost for each year would be about \$200K.

He asked the committee if they want to recommend to the Board a supplemental funding to fund all three years or just approve the one year for now.

Chair Casey asked if these removals would be mapped first? Mr. Wiemann stated, yes, at some point.

The majority of these pines are in Gate 1 area.

Mr. Wiemann stated that Sections 3 and 4 should be done first, where there aren't as many trees.

Director Ross asked if money could be saved by using Village Landscape staff versus a contractor? Mr. Wiemann stated that Village staff doesn't have the proper equipment for this type of removal. Currently, when a tree needs to be removed which requires a crane, that work is given to a contractor.

Director Blackwell asked how long it takes to remove a tree. Mr. Wiemann responded four to six hours.

A Member said to consider how you will fund year two and three. He thinks it will result in a raise of the HOA fee.

Director Blackwell made a motion to use the excess tree funds from last year, along with the money in this year's tree budget. The committee was in unanimous support.

Mr. Wiemann will bring a formal request to the committee about this next month. He just needed direction from the committee on which way they wanted to fund this project.

a. Project Log

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

b. Off-Schedule Tree Work

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee.

c. Key Performance Index Slides

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the landscape key performance index slides with the committee.

d. Recommended Locations for Turf Reduction

Mr. Wiemann showed the committee four possible locations in United Mutual for turf reduction. The cost for this turf reduction is already in this year's budget. Director Blackwell made a motion to move ahead with turf reduction for those four areas. Director Ross seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

7. Member Comments (Items not on the agenda)

A Member state that Mr. Wiemann is doing an excellent job.

She is glad when there is more turf reduction around the trees. She is looking forward to more of the drought tolerant plants in the community to update the look.

She is thrilled with updates to the irrigation system.

She wishes they would show Mr. Wiemann's PowerPoint presentation on TV6.

There was a water break by her home. Staff was very responsive. She sent an email to Resident Services and it worked well. That option should be stressed in the e-blast. The wait line on phone is frustrating so email is much quicker.

Mr. Wiemann added that he is looking at an area within United designated as a chemical free zone. He is putting costs together

A Member asked Mr. Wiemann if he would include a report for each meeting to compare last year's water usage to this year, by month. Perhaps that would show the impact of turf modification on water use.

Mr. Wiemann reported that he can do such a report. But he can't separate residential use from other use. He will provide that information going forward.

Director Skillman reported that Village arborist, Bob Merget, is going to be at the GRF Landscape committee and will be telling us about our tree program. Also, Third Mutual Director, Donna Rane Szostak, is going to be reporting on water use.

A Member stated that more people need to know that information about the Kikuyu grass and how it can irritate pet feet and skin. He also said there are chemicals in many products that we use, not just herbicides on grass. We need to do more to educate residents that we only spray herbicides to certain areas at certain times.

A Member commented about replacing trees that are removed. Mr. Wiemann reported that, for the most part, there is no need to replace trees when they are removed. Although there are situations where a replacement is warranted, in most situations the trees are too numerous for the acreage.

Response to Member Comments

See above.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

8. Landscape Revision Request: 880-B Via Mendoza

Director Blackwell stated that Mutual does not allow a sliding glass door onto common area. So, a patio outside that sliding glass door is also not allowed.

The requestor was on this Zoom meeting and said what she is requesting is not permanent and can be removed when the house is sold.

Mr. Wiemann reported that a few years ago, United decided to follow Davis-Stirling rules regarding condominiums. Now, a Member would not be allowed to put in a sliding door there. This rule policy shift doesn't allow her to use that common area as she is requesting.

Director Blackwell moved to deny this request and Chair Casey seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Concluding Business:

9. Committee Member Comments

Director Blackwell said it's difficult when residents have ideas that we can't approve.

Chair Casey enjoyed this meeting and Mr. Wiemann's information.

Director Ross thanked Kurt and felt he did a phenomenal job, was organized, and clear. His is looking forward to continuing on with this committee.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, March 10, 2022

11. Adjournment at 11:40 a.m.

Diane Casey
Diane Casey (Feb 23, 2022 15:26 PST)

Diane Casey, Chair