



UNITED LAGUNA WOODS
MUTUAL

OPEN MEETING

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

**Thursday, April 14, 2022 – 9:30 A.M.
BOARD ROOM/VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair- Diane Casey, Maggie Blackwell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Lenny Ross

OTHERS PRESENT: Juanita Skillman, Anthony Liberatore, Siobhan Foster

ADVISORS PRESENT: Annie Zipkin

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 March 10, 2022

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

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Casey stated that this committee will be setting up the Canary Island Pine Tree Reduction Ad Hoc committee.

6. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann stated that the Canary Island Pine Tree Reduction Project is on hold.

Staff was directed to have an environmental impact study conducted and to hire a third-party arborist to write a report with their professional opinion about the proposed project.

Canary Island Pine trees which were on the original list for litter or turf problems have been removed from the list of trees for this proposed project.

Staff is looking at the trees on that list that are on the perimeter and will remove any from the list unless they are damaging infrastructure.

A map of where all the trees are located for this proposed project will be available once the list of trees is finalized.

An Ad Hoc committee is on the agenda for today and next step will be Board review.

The Board approved the funds for the opinion of a third-party arborist and an environment impact study and we are now working on hiring these consultants.

El Toro Water District has put into place a voluntary 15% reduction in water use. Next phase would be a 30% reduction and we are hoping it doesn't come to that.

a) Project Log

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

b) Graph Comparing Village Water Usage Over Time

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee.

7. Member Comments (Items not on the agenda)

Topics included:

- Questions about hiring an environmentalist
- Issues with the Landscape Department
- Water
- White stripe on a slope
- Questions about the proposed Canary Island Pine Tree Reduction Project

8. Response to Member Comments

Director Blackwell said there has always been a procedure in place for a Member to request a tree removal.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

9. Tree Removal Request: 40-C Calle Aragon – Two Silk Oak Trees

Director Blackwell made a motion to accept staff recommendation and deny this request. The committee was in unanimous support.

10. Tree Removal Request: 375-A Avenida Castilla – One Queen Palm

Director Blackwell made a motion to accept staff recommendation and approve this request. The committee was in unanimous support.

11. Discuss a Canary Island Pine Tree Removal Project Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Casey confirmed that she had received a petition against this project which included 241 signatures.

Discussion ensued about the proposed Ad Hoc Committee.

Director Blackwell made a motion to recommend to the Board to form this Ad Hoc Committee. The committee was in unanimous support.

Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments

Director Blackwell stated that tree removal is a big issue. She said it will be good to hear what the environmental report will say about this proposed project.

Advisor Zipkin agreed with Director Blackwell and said we need to look carefully at this proposed project. She said it is great that citizens gave their opinion on this project.

Turf removal is very important and it is a luxury to have any turf during this drought. Succulents are a good alternative. They come in many colors. Perhaps knock on people's doors to see what they would want to see.

Chair Casey stated that these studies will help us with a strategic plan.

Director Blackwell stated that it would be ideal to get rid of small strips of turf which are scattered throughout the Village.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, May 12, 2022

14. Adjournment at 10:39 p.m.


Diane Casey, Chair