



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Thursday, January 7, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room  
24351 El Toro Road**

**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair - Lynn Jarrett, Cush Bhada, Reza Karimi, Ralph Engdahl, Donna Rane-Szostak

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Annie McCary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**ADVISORS PRESENT:**

**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**

Director Karimi made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**4. Approval of the December 3, 2020 Report**

Director Karimi moved to approve the Report. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Jarrett stated that the committee had a good agenda prep last week. We have a problem with the slopes in Third Mutual and she would like to address that today.

## 6. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann reported that planting of the slopes will begin next week. The Board approved the new slope contract last month. The contract allows for slope work twice a year. That's the amount of money we had for slope work. We do use pre-emergent to cut down on the weeds but it is important for residents to know that the slopes are only worked on twice a year.

We have started spraying some selective herbicides to take care of the weeds in the turf. We will be waiting to fertilize the turf early in the spring. Right now, much of the turf is brown because it is dormant.

We are starting fresh with the shrub bed cycles. This time of year, we cut them back more so they have more room to grow during the growing season.

Our planting crew will be starting a five-man crew. There is a long list of people who need new plants so both the planting crew and the regular crews will be planting.

The crews are working well together and we are fully staffed.

Chair Jarrett asked who takes care of slopes; both staff and the contractor? Mr. Wiemann stated that the degree of the slope dictates if staff can work on it; up to a 30-degree slope may be worked on by staff. Chair Jarrett stated that the building captain at 3363 CDS said there are a lot of bare slopes and a lot of tree debris from trimming.

Director Karimi asked about tree trimming for this year. Mr. Wiemann said the bulk of the routine trimming will be done by the contractor. For each tree, we evaluate whether it's more cost effective for staff to trim it or the contractor. This is also the case for tree removals. Director Karimi asked how many trees will be trimmed this year and Mr. Wiemann told him he believes there are 3,800 trees to trim this year.

### Consent Calendar:

None.

### Reports:

## 7. Project Log

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the Project Log with the committee and answered some of the committee member's questions.

Director Engdahl requested that some contract information be added to the future project logs.

## **8. Tree Work Status Report**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee.

### Unfinished Business

None.

### Items for Discussion and Consideration

#### **9. Tree Removal Request: 4010-3D Calle Sonora Oeste (Macomber) - One Carrotwood Tree**

Director Rane-Szostak made a motion to accept staff's recommendation to remove the Carrotwood tree. Director Bhada seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

#### **10. Tree Removal Request: 5003 Duverney (Williams) One Bottle Brush Tree**

Director Bhada made a motion to accept staff's recommendation to remove the Bottlebrush tree. Director Engdahl seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

### Future Agenda Items

- 11. Fruit Tree Maintenance Policy**
- 12. Review and Discuss the Current Tree Removal Policy**
- 13. Review and Discuss the Current Tree Topping Policy**
- 14. Review and Discuss a Revised Tree Policy to Include Removals, Trimming, and Topping of Trees**

Mr. Wiemann reported that we are removing any fruit trees at resale. Also, any fruit trees which residents don't want to maintain will be taken out at no cost.

Director Karimi stated that he would like to add for future agenda to look at any problems in irrigation system prior to the spring. Mr. Wiemann reported that there is an RFP for a centralized irrigation system as a five-year project. The centralized controller computer is in a small office and now is not a good time now to have staff work with a contractor in such a small space. We will ask the two low bidders on ideas on that. Currently, our central irrigation system doesn't notify us of leaks. We need to get flow meters to fix this problem. That would be the most economical solution right now.

Concluding Business:

**15. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)**

**Lynne Corboz (3505-C)**

*"The website says you will be reviewing tree removal, trimming and topping policies and practices. I am requesting that your group address two issues:*

*1. Currently your Committee charges owners to pay for off-schedule trimming and topping. When the reasons for owners' requests are to remedy the problems caused by the original Laguna Woods developers' mistakes in choice of species, location, or space between trees, why are you either denying or charging the owner for fixing the problem? This should be a shared cost. How do you justify the unfairness?*

*2. The evaluation of the landscape requests by the Laguna Woods arborist employee should always include the real cause of the problem. For example, when a species with thirty-foot canopies was planted in a row of six trees, six feet apart, eight feet from building balconies, why is this not a condition that should be documented in the evaluation report? In my case, it was not.*

*Here's hoping your review will include fairness to condo owners as an objective in the future."*

Mr. Wiemann responded that we are looking to thin out groves of trees. We need to add that to the updated tree policy we will be working on. We only charge residents for the trimming of trees if it is off schedule.

**Steve Stanfill (3425-C)**

*"Good Morning, at your July meeting, I raised a concern regarding the time frames for Shrub & Bed maintenance schedules. At that time, there had been a 5-month interval for maintenance on my building & street.*

*Shrub Maintenance for my building & street was just completed this past Thursday, December 31, 2020, marking a 6-month spread in maintenance.*

*Have the timeframes for this activity changed recently? If so, the Landscape guidelines don't reflect any change. And my assumption is that we should simply submit tickets for this type of work activity to remedy issues of shrubs & bushes growing into walkways, entrances, etc.*

*Thank you."*

Mr. Wiemann stated he will look into this and contact this resident. Shrub maintenance is four times per year.... roughly every three months.

**16. Response to Member Comments**

Responses above.

**17. Committee Member Comments**

Committee members stated it was a good meeting and thanked Mr. Wiemann for his work.

**18. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.**

**19. Adjournment at 10:32 a.m.**



L J Jarrett (Jan 11, 2021 14:46 PST)

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Lynn Jarrett, Chair  
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer  
Eve Morton, Landscape Coordinator – 268-2565