



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Thursday, February 4, 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, Annie McCary, Reza Karimi, Ralph Engdahl, Donna Rane-Szostak

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**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**

Chair Jarrett made a motion to amend the agenda by removing agenda item #10. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**4. Approval of the January 7, 2021 Report**

Director Karimi moved to approve the Report. Director McCary reported a correction. The motion passed to approve the report, with the correction, with a unanimous vote.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Jarrett stated that, each month, she visits the location of each tree request on the agenda. She urged the committee members to visit them each month also, prior to the committee meeting. It gives a better perspective than just looking at the photos provided with the Staff Reports.

## **6. Department Head Update**

Mr. Wiemann reported that he will have year-end reports next month and service improvement recommendations; it's time to start thinking about the 2022 budget. Next month, he will also report on the accomplishments of the Landscape Department, also any shortcomings from 2020, and where Landscape is headed this year. Landscape came in under budget for 2020. He is happy about that. A supplemental project awarded last year, regarding a slope at 3195, has been completed.

Chair Jarrett stated that Mr. Wiemann is working on FAQs to put onto the website. She asked the committee members to bring the FAQs they hear to next month's agenda to discuss. She requested that this topic be added to the agenda for next month.

Mr. Wiemann stated that many calls into Resident Services are within 30 days of Members' next service date which tells us that Members aren't aware of the landscape schedules. Informing residents about the landscape schedules would reduce a lot of these tickets. We need to inform residents and educate them about using resources available to them on the Village website to help reduce the number of calls to Resident Services.

### Consent Calendar:

None.

### Reports:

## **7. Project Log**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the 2020 and 2021 Project Logs with the committee and answered some of the committee members' questions.

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

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee. A contractor is working on the species-based tree trimming cycle and staff is helping to get caught up on the deferred tree trimming from previous years.

## **9. Proposed Landscape Modernization/Turf Reduction Project 2021**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the three areas staff is proposing for turf reduction to save water. The majority of Third doesn't qualify for turf reduction rebates due to recycled water restrictions as rebates aren't available for recycled water at this time. We are focusing on the smaller, more difficult-to-maintain areas for turf reduction. They take more time than they should to maintain and some of these areas involve safety concerns for staff, such as steep areas.

These proposed projects are already in the budget for this year.

Director McCary made a motion to start construction on these projects. Director Rane-Szostak seconded. No objections. Approved by consensus.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

**10. Tree Removal Request: 4006-3C Calle Sonora (Pearlstone) - One Canary Island Pine tree**

This item was removed from the agenda, per the committee's request.

**11. Tree Removal Request: 4026-2G (Kim) - Two Canary Island Pine trees**

Director McCary made a motion to accept staff recommendation and remove these trees. Director Engdahl seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Karimi asked if the third tree there should also be removed and Mr. Wiemann explained why it shouldn't be at this time. The cost to remove a tree that may not need to be removed right now takes away from money to trim trees since the money is from the same line item in the budget.

**12. Tree Removal Request: 5333-B Bahia Blanca (Hsu) - One Camphor Tree**

Director McCary made a motion to accept the staff recommendation and deny this request and instead perform a root trench, as well as a crown reduction and thinning during the next scheduled trim cycle. Director Rane-Szostak seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

**13. Tree Removal Request: 5589-A (Pullman) – Bottle Brush Tree**

Director McCary made a motion to accept the staff recommendation and deny this request. Director Engdahl seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

**14. Proposed Revisions to Tree Trimming and Removal Guidelines**

Mr. Wiemann explained that he would like to condense the two existing tree resolutions with the tree guidelines so all the rules regarding trees are clear and are all in one place for Members. He added the fruit tree maintenance policy to this resolution also. Rodent guards will be provided as a chargeable service. Staff will not be installing rodent guards on all the trees.

Director Rane-Szostak said this might be a good item for the FAQ section we are working on. Mr. Wiemann stated that it will be included.

Chair Jarrett that the Breeze is another good location for information such as this.

Director Rane-Szostak made a motion to approve an all-inclusive tree resolution to supersede the previous resolutions and to recommend it to the Board. Director McCary seconded. This proposed resolution will be brought to the next Board meeting.

#### Future Agenda Items

#### Concluding Business:

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

N. Ira Lewis (3449-A)

- *Will you be using Kurapia in the upcoming turf reduction project(s)? If not, why not? It is in the very low water and maintenance category.*

Mr. Wiemann stated that we do use this a lot and when it is available. It is a popular ground cover and sometimes it is sold out at the nurseries. They are slow growing and drought tolerant and are in high demand. It may be used in these upcoming projects, if available.

- *Do you intend to establish Owl Boxes in the community? Areas of perfect usage are near the Laguna Wilderness area. If not, why not? They are more efficient in eradicating all rodents, rats, mice, gophers, etc. (i.e. a family of 3 owls eats 2,000 – 3,000 rodents a year with no poison) lowering costs dramatically as it will eliminate the need for bait stations.*

Mr. Wiemann stated that are not currently plans to do this. That would be a committee decision.

- *Do you have plans to retrofit the walkway areas with drip to lower water usage but more importantly reduce general liability eliminating slip and fall events on wet/moist cement walkways. This will qualify for an insurance cost reduction.*

Mr. Wiemann stated there are no plans to put in drip irrigation on walkways as there are miles of walkways in the Village.

#### **16. Response to Member Comments**

Above.

#### **17. Committee Member Comments**

Director Engdahl thanked Mr. Wiemann for putting the vendor category onto the project log.

Director McCary thanked the committee, Mr. Wiemann and his staff. Great meeting.

Director Rane-Szostak thanked Mr. Wiemann for combining the tree policies and creating the FAQs for the website.

Mr. Wiemann stated that the Landscape Manual is intended to be a living document. If something in the manual must be clarified, please let him know. He asks that Members not make requests to the crews but kudos are appreciated.

Chair Jarrett stated that Mr. Wiemann teaches us a lot.

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

**19. Adjournment at 10:54 a.m.**



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