



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Friday, November 12, 2021 – 9:30 A.M.**

**BOARD ROOM/VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair- Maggie Blackwell, Pearl Lee, Anthony Liberatore

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

**4. Approval of the Meeting Report for October 14, 2021**

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

**Chair's Remarks**

We are entering the winter season but right now we are having hot days. Welcome to all.

## **5. Department Head Update**

Mr. Wiemann reported that staff has modified the mowing schedule and are now mowing every two weeks which gives them more time for trimming and weeding. They have been working weekends since they are currently short staffed. They are placing more mulch out into the community now to help with weeds later. Rotating spray heads cost \$1 each, others 10 cents.

### **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.

## **6. Member Comments (Items not on the agenda)**

Member noted poor landscape care, tall weeds, few visits, recommends more turf reduction, dislikes current plants. Wants catchers on every mowers.

Member stated staff needs more training and more supervisors, all mowers need catchers. Reports palm fronds above roof.

Member noted voluntary water conservation by 20% 2022. United needs more drought resistant landscape. United has no recycled water.

Member noted that CA water shortage. LA possibly won't allow lawn watering.

She suggested United use Third water control tactics.

Member asked when the Pines and Peppers will be trimmed near Building 933.

## **7. Response to Member Comments**

Mr. Wiemann stated that a landscape architect was hired to design drought-tolerant areas and the committee was shown the possibilities and chose one. That design was used on the first six projects.

For now, we only do turf reduction on smaller areas that are harder to maintain.

Prior to 2010, we had 210 employees and now we have budgeted for 146 employees. This affects the amount of work that can be done. We are seven people short now and that is one person per crew. We are trying to keep up with what we have.

Seven of our 35 mowers have catchers. We proposed to have all mowers with catchers but Boards denied it due to the cost.

Chair Blackwell stated that United pays for four landscaping visits per year. That's why plants have to be severely trimmed. You can put in a request for off-scheduled trimming and your request will be decided by this committee.

United cannot get recycled water over to us due to infrastructure issues.

Third has individual water meters to monitor. United has no individual water meters.

We are trying to keep assessments down.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

**8. Tree Removal Request: 2144-B Ronda Granada – One Carrotwood Tree**

President Liberatore made a motion to accept staff's recommendation and approve this request. The committee was in unanimous support.

Concluding Business:

**9. Committee Member Comments**

President Liberatore: Southern California is a desert and the only reason we can even grow grass is because people got water here. But now there is a drought and the Sierras and Rockies are not getting as much water and rainfall here is down.

Director Lee stated that it is difficult to slow down on raising assessments and that it affects service. She said more training may help some. We are so used to having it so good and it is difficult when service goes down. It is a difficult balancing act.

Newly developed areas are built with desert landscaping.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, December 9, 2021

11. Adjournment at 10:25 a.m.

*Maggie Blackwell*

Maggie Blackwell (Nov 18, 2021 10:43 PST)

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Maggie Blackwell, Chair