



OPEN MEETING

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

Thursday, October 14, 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- Manuel Armendariz, Neda Ardani, Maggie Blackwell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

ADVISORS PRESENT: Annie Zipkin, Teresa Frost

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

1. Call to Order

Called to order at 9:38 a.m.

2. Acknowledgment of Media

No media were present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously.

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

The Meeting Report was approved unanimously.

5. Chair's Remarks

None.

6. Department Head Update

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. Herbicide Information

Mr. Wiemann presented some slides on this subject to the committee and answered some questions.

7. Member Comments (Items not on the agenda)

A Member stated that she is in favor of turf reduction. She was a Director years ago and she is happy there is progress being made there. She is encouraging these types of projects, as well as solar projects.

A Member stated that the hillside maintenance outside his manor was done poorly. They did haul away a lot of debris but many pine cones and needles were left. Flammable honeysuckle was left at the base of the pine trees. Hillsides should be re-planted.

Project to remove Canary Island Pines; is there a map of which trees will be removed?

A member discussed dogs and herbicides. She stated that she has read many sources to learn about this topic. She also spoke to experts about this. Mr. Wiemann said he will meet with her to discuss further.

8. Response to Member Comments

Mr. Wiemann will speak to Mission Landscape about cleaning up of the hillsides.

It is a Board decision on whether to want to start replacing honeysuckle. Slopes are currently maintained to OCFA standards. Slopes are cut back twice a year and can look bad in between.

Landscape must balance between labor costs and chemicals used. Staff sprays every three months so it is not constant spraying. Spraying schedules are posted on the Village website. He will speak to staff about making sure they put out flags. Vinegar does not work on the Kikuyu grass. We need systemic herbicides that work at the root.

An advisor commented that the yellow rings look bad. They last for a long time.

Unfinished Business:

9. Tree Removal Request: 3-D Via Castilla – One Canary Island Pine Tree

Discussion ensued.

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

10. Tree Removal Request: 432-B Avenida Sevilla – One Crape Myrtle Tree

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wiemann recommended that staff procure three more neighbor's signatures who are in favor of allowing the Member to remove this tree and replace it with another type, at her expense.

Chair Armendariz moved to accept Mr. Wiemann's suggestion and gave conditional approval based on procurement of three more neighbor's signatures who approve of this plan. Director Blackwell did not agree and Director Adani agreed. The motion passed.

Director Blackwell stated that any resident is susceptible to slipping, not just this resident. She doesn't want to remove trees because people get older.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

11. Tree Removal Request: 532-F Via Estrada – One Crape Myrtle Tree

Chair Armendariz made a motion to accept staff's recommendation and deny this request. The committee was in unanimous support.

12. Tree Removal Request: 702-A Avenida Sevilla – One Carob Tree

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

Concluding Business:

13. Committee Member Comments

Director Blackwell commented that it is good to be back on the committee, at least for a day. She appreciates work people do in the interest of the health of the dogs.

Chair Armendariz commented that there are some real challenges in Landscaping. He has found that staff is responsive when he calls in requests.

Mr. Wiemann stated that the Pine tree removal project is going out to bid soon and if the project goes forward, there will be a large outreach to the Village with information about that project before starting.

14. Date of Next Meeting – TBD since regular meeting date falls on a holiday

15. Adjournment at 10:45 a.m. into a Closed session.

Manuel J. Armendariz
Manuel J. Armendariz (Oct 19, 2021 14:36 PDT)

Manuel Armendariz, Chair