

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Formalized just a year ago, the Landscape Committee is a pilot program to determine if self-government is feasible for River Club. The committee is made up of volunteers from various backgrounds who have fearlessly tackled and conquered a great deal in 12 months.

An approved plant list has been compiled and Board-approved. It is currently available on the RCMCowners.org website. This list includes plant materials currently thriving in RC, confirming that the growing conditions here are suitable to the specific plant species. The plants selected are low maintenance and require little more than water and sunshine.

An updated work order form, available on the website, is designed to address issues specific to planting needs. For example, buried wires, pipes and irrigation tubing need to be located prior to digging. The LC work order helps owners get the help they need from start to finish.

The LC website went live with the new year! There owners will find all the information needed to submit a maintenance or planting request. Also, the status of work order requests can be viewed on the website under the heading Action Log. Check it out at RCMCowners.org.

RC has historically trimmed the palm trees on the grounds before hurricane season. Costs associated with this process is per tree, with some species of palms costing more to trim than others. LC felt it was important to inventory the palms so that we can better budget for their trimming. We were surprised to learn that the number of actual trees was a bit more than what we thought we had. LC compiled a spreadsheet showing how many and what species of palms are growing at each building and, in the process, we learned that many of them are diseased and needed to be removed immediately.

We have been tasked with trying to find a solution to the safety concerns due to poor visibility at the entrance/exit of RC. The LC is looking at options such as removing taller plants and trimming the shrubs low, installing convex traffic mirrors, and reconfiguring the entrance. This is a work in progress.

A new annual contract with 707 Nursery has been negotiated. On the advice of experts and FSU, LC is considering reducing the palm tree trimming. Many of the palms onsite are self-cleaning and will drop dead fronds without assistance.

This year, in order to gain a more accurate budgetary figure for mulch, LC is reviewing and tracking the number of bags required for each building and all common areas.

LC sought proposals from local vendors for annual spraying of lawns and shrubs. Two companies gave detailed proposals pointing out that there is a good deal of insect and fungal infestation in RC. LC opted for Spath Spray offering 6 annual spray treatments at a slight decrease over the previous provider, now retired.

We are aware that our irrigation system and many of our plantings are aging out and will need to be replaced in the near future. To that end we are discussing a long-range plan for a sustainable landscape plan that requires little care, discourages reptiles and rodents, and provides privacy and beauty to the community. We will be discussing this much more in the coming months.

Long time owners remember when each building had a Building Captain who was a volunteer and spokesperson for his or her building. LC believes this is a fabulous idea to revisit.

LC has completed over 40 work order requests this past year entirely with volunteer labor!

NOTE: This notice is posted on the River Club website at: rcmcowners.org.