

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

February 4, 2020 Clubhouse 9am

Present: John Gill, Chip Bellows, Dave Gatto, Deb Gatto, Loreta Gill, Stewart Keefe, Joe Novello; New member Greg Dempsey

The minutes from January 14, 2020 were read and amended as follows: Minutes from the previous meeting were approved and the two work orders (Hlavacek & Edwards) were approved. The minutes have been amended to reflect these changes.

The resignation of John Mears was accepted and Greg Dempsey was appointed to fill the vacancy. Greg is a 30 year resident who is anxious for the self-management of River Club to be successful.

Old Business

Joe Novello explained that currently Cindy scans work orders, pictures and comments and puts them online to be available to the BOD, LC, and all owners, which establishes a database. During the summer months 2 volunteers (Keith Palant & Judy Hlavacek) will take photos as John Gill will not be here to do so. Chip would like the URL access on the website for the database. LC will give it further consideration and address at the next meeting.

John Gill & Dave Gatto completed a palm tree inventory and catalogued it by building on a spread sheet. The inventory will be amended annually as trees are lost or added. It appears that many palms do not need annual trimming. This allows us to monitor trimming costs as we are invoiced on a per tree basis.

We have a number of diseased palms that need removal. The cabbage palms and arecas are especially affected. Cutting is to begin today. We are looking into protective measures such as fertilizing the palms to prevent poor health. A major problem is disposal of the diseased trees. We received two bids and awarded the contract to Wes the stump grinder because he has performed well in the past.

2020 Budget addressed by Chip

Herblawn is no longer in business. Two competitors submitted bids for maintenance of the 6 acres of lawn, shrubs and trees. Royal Green presented a very detailed analysis of River Club needs and recommended fertilizer four times annually, insecticide spray four times annually, feeding palms two times annually. They included photos showing lots of disease and infestations on the shrubs. They proposed fertilizing four times annually, insecticide spray four times annually, and palm feeding two times annually. Their bid was \$15,840. Spath Spray recommended lawn treatment six times annually and ornamental treatment four times annually. They use granular treatments instead of spraying which John felt was preferable. We cannot ignore the disease and insect infestations on the shrubs without losing them. Replacement costs would be enormous. The committee voted to go with Spath at an annual cost of \$11,400 and agreed to consider cutting back on mulch to pay for a spraying program.

Herblawn charged us \$13,300 and didn't seem to do an adequate job.

Our actual budget is \$88,500 with fixed contractual obligations for the lawn contract, irrigation maintenance and electricity to run the irrigation system. Flexible expenses are landscape repair, mulch, tree trimming, and turf supplies. We will look at where we might cut back in the flexible expense accounts at a workshop scheduled for February 13, Thursday at 2pm.

Joe Novello and John Hasper suggested hiring a licensed person to do the spraying under Mark's supervision. This is a BOD decision.

The 707 Nursery contract is still being assessed regarding the palm trimming and the mulch. For the time being we will eliminate these two items from the contract and negotiate them later when we have a clearer picture of what needs to be done.

Stewart will prepare an announcement for the Newsletter regarding the newly live website which includes the approved plant list and the work order form.

John Gill offered thanks to all the people who are working in the field.

At the workshop, Greg wants to revisit "building captains".

Building 1 shoreline restoration is in the early stages and we anticipate more info to follow.

We are no longer watering daily but have gone to every other day.

Tasks were delegated as follows:

Mulch – Joe & Greg

Trimming – John Hasper & Dave

Lawn Maintenance – John & Dave

Shrub replacement – Deb & Loretta

Admin – Deb & John

Landscape Committee is a pilot for successful self-management at River Club.

New Business

Work orders: 12-103 request grass replacement in front of condo, APPROVED and

Privacy plantings, DENIED

The committee will meet at the entrance to determine a course of action to improve visibility on February 6 at 4pm.

Linda Crichton asked that owners be notified when the association has scheduled spraying. Chip explained that this request cannot be accommodated because the spraying schedule floats. Many factors such as weather can disrupt scheduled spraying.

We suggest the BOD address what level of planting River Club will have behind buildings. Sod is easiest to maintain but some owners have previously been given permission to install gardens.

Motion to Adjourn 11:55am John Gill, 2nd Dave Gatto