



OPEN MEETING

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

**Thursday, July 14, 2022 – 9:30 A.M.
BOARD ROOM/VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair- Diane Casey, Maggie Blackwell, Anthony Liberatore substituting for Lenny Ross

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Lenny Ross

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

ADVISORS PRESENT: Mary Sinclair, Ann Beltran

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Jayanna Abolmoloki

1. Call to Order

Chair Casey called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Acknowledgment of Media

No media were present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Director Blackwell made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

4. Approval of the Meeting Report for June 9, 2022

Director Blackwell made a motion to approve the report. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

5. Chair's Remarks

Chair Casey began her remarks by reading a poem written by William Blake. Chair Casey stated she is happy to introduce her two Advisors, Ann Beltran and Mary Sinclair. Chair Casey also announced the date of the first Tree Ad Hoc Committee meeting, which is set for July 18, 2022.

6. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann stated that he is happy to have the two new Advisors on board as well. Mr. Wiemann shared that he met with El Toro Water District and learned that they are still at “level two,” regarding water mandates, which translates into a voluntary 15% reduction in water use.

Mr. Wiemann discussed his expectation of what landscaping throughout the community will look like over the next several months as water use is reduced. Mr. Wiemann also shared that the nursery has many drought-tolerant plants ready for planting, and that we are looking at semi-permanent changes.

Director Blackwell made a motion to reduce irrigation water use by 15% below regular levels. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support of the motion.

Mr. Wiemann shared that Village Television is in the process of filming a video to highlight the work of the tree crew.

Mr. Wiemann also informed the committee that the environmental assessment had been placed on the back-burner due to budget, but it is being processed now.

Members made comments and asked questions.

7. Member Comments (Items not on the agenda)

Topics included:

- Shrub pruning
- Landscape crew start-times
- Mulch used to reduce water use
- Weeds

8. Response to Member Comments

Director Blackwell informed the audience that the Landscape department only plants at certain times every year. Director Blackwell also mentioned that weeds grow faster than anything else, and we no longer use round-up which was the most effective method to remedy weeds.

Director Liberatore reminded the audience that Southern California does not receive much rainfall per year, which makes it difficult to grow grass.

Chair Casey informed the audience that grass will be addressed later in the year.

Mr. Wiemann stated that a drought presentation on TV6 is a great idea. Mr. Wiemann also shared that he is expecting staff to receive many more calls regarding Landscape dying.

Mr. Wiemann stated that the start-times for Landscape crews are not vindictive. He shared that there are only a few locations within the Village where equipment can be dropped off. However, Mr. Wiemann can ask that the locations rotate to reduce frequent noise disturbances in the early morning hours.

Mr. Wiemann stated that he agrees shrubs should not be topped, but it cannot be undone because certain shrubs have been topped in the past. Mr. Wiemann stated that going forward, new shrubs planted will not be topped.

9. Moving the Meeting Date to Approximately One Week Earlier

Chair Casey informed the audience that the committee would like to move the regular meeting date and time to the fourth Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. to allow for timely submission of documents to the United Board each month.

Director Blackwell made a motion to move the regular meeting of the United Laguna Woods Mutual Landscape Committee to the fourth Monday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

10. Discuss Plantings and Pots in Common Areas

Mr. Wiemann stated that the committee is reviewing a potential policy revision for this topic, and that it would be placed on the next agenda.

Members made comments and asked questions.

11. Tree Removal Request: 28-A Avenida Castilla – Three Canary Island Pine Trees

Director Blackwell made a motion to accept staff recommendation to approve the request for the removal of two of the three Canary Island Pine trees. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

12. Tree Removal Request: 426-A Avenida Castilla – One Canary Island Pine Tree

Director Blackwell made a motion to accept staff recommendation to deny the request for the removal of one Canary Island Pine tree. Director Liberatore seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Concluding Business:

13. Committee Member Comments

Various comments were made.

14. Date of Next Meeting – Monday, August 22, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment at 10:59 a.m.

Diane Casey

Diane Casey (Jul 26, 2022 12:07 PDT)

Diane Casey, Chair

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY