



OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair - Bert Moldow, Dick Palmer in for Jim Matson, Lynn Jarrett, Manuel Armendariz, Judith Troutman, Maggie Blackwell, Reza Karimi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Matson

OTHERS PRESENT: Anthony Liberatore, Juanita Skillman, Elsie Addington, John Frankel, Annette Saboul Soule, Joan Milliman

ADVISORS PRESENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

1. Call to Order

Chair Moldow called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Media

No press was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of Meeting Report of September 19, 2018

Director Troutman made a motion to approve the Meeting Report. Director Jarrett seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

5. Committee Chair Remarks

None.

6. Member Comments - (Items Not on the Agenda)

Levingston (3131-D) She stated that the Gate 8 landscaping is really shabby. Only dirt by the Gate Ambassador building there. As you turn into Santa Maria, the original wall there needs landscaping.

Morris (581-O) She asked for a current list of the agencies involved with the Creek.

Sania (866-Q) She asked to plant two Japanese pistachio two years ago. They are still waiting for a bench there. Location is at Aliso Creek, close to the 400 year old tree. Also, those Pistachios are not doing well.

Berk (933-B) Too much is being left to residents to take care of. Landscape Staff should be reported what has died or is dying to get it fixed. Also, our equipment is not in the best shape. Hedgecutters used for bushes burn right across and shouldn't be doing that (she has photos). Staff should have blowers. Years of dirt is on top of those rocks at Creek. Tree trimming crews took 14 years to cut her tree tops. They hang over and break off.

Herd (579-B) There is a lot of debris, branches, and sand deposits from the rains by the Creek. Now they have to be careful walking in grass next to the Creek because of this. It turns into mud and pickup trucks track it everywhere. The Paseo de Valencia end of creek with bridge needs water to be directed under the bridge, not around it. It deposits a lot of sand.

7. Response to Member Comments

Director Jarrett thanked everyone for attending this meeting. She stated that the use of blowers should be put in as a request to Resident Services.

Director Blackwell said the bench requested would be a green standard bench. There is a policy regarding benches. Mr. Wiemann stated he will look into it and will get back to the resident.

Chair Moldow said all are responsible for reporting problems in Village to Staff and should call Resident Services.

Mr. Wiemann stated he is aware of landscaping issues with Gate 8 and will be working on it within the next month or so.

Mr. Wiemann agreed that the culture within Landscaping must be changed. In the past, getting the work done was the main goal and now we are taking a more holistic approach.

Mr. Wiemann stated that a new landscaping crew, who will only be dedicated to landscaping tickets, are just waiting for trucks. You will see landscaping improvements over the next few months .

Mr. Wiemann is meeting with a biologist next week to look at the Creek and get some Creek work approved.

8. Department Head Update

None.

Consent:

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by the Committee by one motion. In the event that an item is removed from the Consent Calendar by members of the Committee, such item(s) shall be the subject of further discussion and action by the Committee.

None.

Reports:

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

9. Herbicide Testing Final Report

Director Troutman moved to accept Staff's recommendation to discontinue the use of herbicides containing the chemical glyphosate, where permitted by governing agencies. Director Blackwell seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Blackwell made a motion to recommend to the Board an unbudgeted expense of approximately \$3,000 for alternative herbicide products. Director Karimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

10. Discuss Creek

Chair Moldow said a video he was given about the Creek is too long to show at this committee and misrepresents some information about the Creek.

Director Blackwell said there is an Aliso Creek booklet that is available at the Copy Center.

Director Armendariz said there is a lot of miscommunication and rumors about the Creek. He went over what the Aliso Creek booklet indicates for mitigation and replacing of the bridge. He spoke about a second agreement and timeframes. He doesn't understand why the cattails are being cut. He would like to see what areas are United's responsibility.

Committee discussion ensued about creek.

Mr. Wiemann read list of agencies that have jurisdiction over the Creek. Any requests, like a bridge, have to go through all the agencies to get approved. A new foot bridge would be an extensive and expensive endeavor.

He stated that he only has 10 men to work on GRF areas, which includes the Creek.

The Village is only allowed to take out non-native species at the Creek. We cannot work in the bed creek at all.

Once this mitigation plan has timed out, we can work on a new one.

Robert Berk (933-B) said the reeds could have been put on the other side of the creek so they wouldn't bother people. We need to go to Vector Control. At the other end of the Creek, there is a little house and cement for water to run over, it ponds and the silt level builds up and backs up. Land in front of her house has gotten higher. Need slits in cement to let silt go through. Palm trees there should come down also.

Suellen Zima asked what went so terribly wrong to put us on this terrible Creek path?

Ms. Sunderhaus (580-O) said the cat tails removal was approved and she has copies of those Minutes. She thanked Director Armendariz for his help with the Creek. There is a lot of photo information to reconstruct what the Creek looked liked at different points in time, if it is ever needed. Bridge railings never went back up. What is the game plan?

Mr. Herd (579-B) stated that when John Parker was Chair, he planted a lot of trees. They are native but are now are out of control. Can they be removed? Mr. Wiemann said he will look into it.

Ms. Morris (581-O) stated there is a place at the foot of bridge where you can fall in because there is no barrier and it is a serious problem.

Much discussion regarding how Willows that were planted by the Creek have taken over. Mr. Wiemann will find out if they can be removed.

Mr. Wiemann stated that he will look at all the issues brought up today and will bring back a plan to a future committee meeting.

Director Troutman moved that the bridge request be denied and there be status quo. Director Karmimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

11. Discuss the Possibility of Disbanding the GRF Landscape Committee

Director Armendariz made motion to continue this committee but recommend to the Board that it be changed to a quarterly schedule. Director Blackwell seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Milliman stated that the committee may only make a recommendation to Board and a Staff Report will need to make the case for moving it to a quarterly schedule.

President Skillman said this committee is needed. Landscaping at gates is always a concern and landscaping at the clubhouses. We need a place to present these topics.

Director Addington agreed with President Skillman. The Creek business alone validates this committee.

Items for Future Agendas:

- Status of Creek
- A Plan for Problems with the Creek

Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments

Director Karimi said there are a lot of things we can't do today that we used to be able to do because of regulations that were put into place.

Director Jarrett said this has been a good meeting. She said volunteer growth can get out of hand.

Director Troutman said the Aliso Creek booklet must go onto the website.


Director Blackwell said we will count the days until Creek agreement has expired.

Director Armendariz said that he is thankful to the committee members and hear sthe residents. He has confidence in Mr. Wiemann that he will do all he can do to remedy the Creek problems.

Chair Moldow thanked everyone.

13. Date of next meeting – August 21 (If new quarterly schedule is approved by the Board)

14. Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Bert Moldow, Chair