



UNITED LAGUNA WOODS
M U T U A L

OPEN MEETING

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

**Thursday, October 10, 2019 – 9:30 A.M.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Acting Chair – Sue Margolis, Andre Torng, Elsie Addington, Neda Ardani

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Advisor Catherine Brians, Anthony Liberatore

OTHERS PRESENT:

ADVISORS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton, Maribel Flores

1. Call to Order

Called to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Acknowledgment of Media

No media were present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the Meeting Report for August 8, 2019

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

5. Chair's Remarks

None.

6. Member Comments

Carol Cooper (2159-B) "CDS 208 is a mess. No blowers. Angel sent two men to speak with me and they were gentlemen. My lawn is not looking good."

Edward Foster (2140-D) "My area feels abandoned. A few months ago, the department seemed to be getting a handle on things but now it is going from bad to worse." He suggested only mowing in afternoon when grass is dry.

Kerry Stiles (921-B) He found a dying rat here. Can poison from rat get to another predator? He walked along the creek and weeds are all over the slopes.

Yvonne Deru (2161-B) "Staff came out on Friday and cut back my roses two-thirds. Grass is three inches tall and growing into the flower bed." She suggested that crews could miss one week of trimming edges and trim that border.

Roberta Berk – 933-B "I have lived here 20 years and I live on the last house on the creek and they have a gate and a cement walk under the gate. Creek runs differently with bridge now so now when water is low, the silt builds up." She is concerned about water flow with the winter rainy season approaching. She stated there are weeds by her laundry room. "It actually looks wonderful as groundcover but weed man comes and kills it."

Maggie Blackwell (71-D) She asked committee to think carefully about decisions they make here.

Joyce Moser (587-C) "We have a huge fir tree and they don't want to take it out. It is making a mess. Last year they took out grass and put in plants."

7. Response to Member Comments

Acting Chair Margolis reported, "While going through the budgeting process, all the Members I spoke with told me that they didn't want their assessments to go up. It would double the assessments to hire more crews to get all issues taken care of. We are working hard to get landscaping back under control."

Mr. Wiemann reported, "We are budgeted for four cycles a year for each manor. We are behind in United. We have multiple vacancies for landscapers with no candidates applying. In 2020, I will rearrange staff. I am having staff work in United on several weekends to try to get to get caught up with the work. We are using plant growth regulators on the edges. We are also behind on shrub pruning and are trying to catch up."

The year before PCM left, they cut 25 people. We are down 40 people from years ago and could do six cycles back then. Now we only have staff for four cycles per year.

In the summer, we are not allowed to touch creek so that's why it gets backed up. I'm meeting with Fish and Wildlife tomorrow to ask about being allowed to keep portions of the creek open at all times. That would help with the flow.

We do use anti-coagulants to kill rats. We are investigating other rat baits like a contraceptive. We are doing a trial of this in the RV lots and garden centers."

8. Department Head Update

None.

Consent:

None

Reports:

9. Project Log

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the project log with the committee and answered some questions.

10. Herbicide Usage Update

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this information with the committee

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

11. Request for Tree Removal – 75-T Calle Aragon– Southern Magnolia

Director Addington made motion to accept the staff recommendation to deny this request. Director Torng seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

12. Request for Tree Removal – 228-D Avenida Majorca – Fern Pine

Mr. Harwood was present. He stated that five years ago, a branch broke off and broke some private lighting. Three years ago, a branch took out a teak bench in the garden. This year, the roots heaved his patio. Staff took out the roots and replaced the patio and a wall on the house. It will heave again in 5-10 years and he will still be living here.

The committee voted to table this request for further consideration. Resident would like to meet with arborist when he goes back out. Mr. Wiemann said he would arrange it.

13. Request for Tree Removal – 313-A Avenida Castilla – Canary Island Pine

Director Addington made motion to accept the staff recommendation to deny this request. Director Ardani seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

14. Request for Tree Removal – 471-F Calle Cadiz – Carrotwood

Director Torng made motion to accept the staff recommendation to approve this request. Director Ardani seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

15. Request for Tree Removal – 873-D Avenida Sevilla – Star Pine

Director Torng made motion to accept the staff recommendation to deny this request. Director Ardani seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

16. Request for Tree Removal - 2188-Q Via Mariposa E. – Silk Oak

2188-P neighbor was present and submitted a letter regarding his belief that a gusty wind on this tree would blow it over. Mr. Wiemann believes tree is not in danger of falling over. This tree is now on a two year trim cycle.

Director Addington made motion to accept the staff recommendation to deny this request. Director Ardani seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Items for Future Agendas:

Concluding Business:

17. Committee Member Comments

None.

18. Date of Next Meeting – December 12, 2019

19. Adjournment at 10:40 a.m.



Sue Margolis, Acting Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer

Eve Morton, Landscape Operations Coordinator – 268-2565