



OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRD LAGUNA HILLS MUTUAL
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, September 2, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
BOARD ROOM AND VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair - Lynn Jarrett, Ralph Engdahl, Donna Rane-Szostak, Reza Karimi, Cush Bhada

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Annie McCary

OTHERS PRESENT:

ADVISORS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

1. Call to Order

Chair Jarrett called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Media

No media was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Approval of the August 5, 2021 Report

The report was approved by consensus.

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Chair Jarrett stated that the mowing schedule was moved from every seven days to every nine days.

There is a bare area in Gate 5. There is a drought tolerant project there and they are not happy with tall grass.

We are starting a drought tolerant campaign to ask residents to put in drought tolerant plantings.

We have to reduce potted plants on balconies of multi-story buildings.

We are always looking for ways to reduce water usage.

6. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann reported that due to the cycle of four visits per manor, per year, that the weeds get overgrown at times. Staff mows every week in the summer. They mow less as it gets closer to winter and that will leave more time for weeding.

Landscaping is short-staffed six people at the moment. We are constantly recruiting.

Mr. Wiemann spoke with Vector Control and found out the Creek is not the source of the mosquitos. The mosquitos are breeding in potted plant saucers and other still water areas--another reason why we need to ask people to remove any potted plants.

6a. Project Log

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the Project Log information with the committee and answered some questions.

Director Karimi asked if they will still be cutting grasses back to 100 foot from Village perimeter which borders the conservation area. Mr. Wiemann said eventually, yes. We are still waiting for approval from OC Parks.

Chair Jarrett stated that the Landscape Department didn't get any budget cuts this year and she is glad about that, although it was disappointing we didn't receive the additional \$300K that was requested for 2022.

Mr. Wiemann discussed rodent control measures.

6b. Tree Work Status Report

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

7. Tree Removal Request: 3075-C Via Serena S.– One Rusty Leaf Fig

Director Karimi made a motion to accept staff recommendation and deny this request with a caveat that a canopy reduction will be performed at the next scheduled trim cycle. Director Rane-Szostak seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

8. Tree Removal Request: 3094-C Via Serena N.– One Rusty Leaf Fig

Director Rane-Szostak made a motion to accept staff recommendation and approve this request. Director Bhada seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

9. Tree Removal Request: 5158 Avenida Despacio– One Canary Island Pine tree and One Hollywood Juniper tree

Director Rane-Szostak made a motion to accept staff recommendation and deny the request to remove one Canary Island Pine and to approve the request to remove one Hollywood Juniper tree. Director Engdahl seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

10. Landscape Revision Request: 3085-C Via Serena N.

Director Karimi made a motion to accept staff recommendation and approve the request for revisions to the landscaping adjacent to 3085-C, with the exception of the walkway shown on the plan, which will not be allowed. Director Bhada seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

11. Landscape Revision Request: 3428-A Bahia Blanca W.

Ms. Archer's attorney addressed the committee and provided some documents to the committee members.

Resident will agree to remove the birdbath and Adirondack chairs.

Resident proposes to reduce pebbles back to encompass only 240 sq. ft.

She would like to keep potted plants. Many neighbors have them.

Chair Jarrett brought to his attention a resolution on Page 5 of his exhibit regarding gravel use.

The resident at 3428-O was in attendance and lives above this unit. When she purchased her unit, there was only grass below but now both neighbors have extended their patios onto the common area. It is true that even the residents next to her are using common area and were able to get an extension to their patio. They have continued to extend it further. The resident before the current resident, only took away what they did when they moved out. They did not restore it to its prior state. Nothing is enforced so areas keep expanding. Why are you giving away common area is the question. (VMS and Third are not.)

Resident at 3428-N spoke and stated that she also lives above unit 3428-A. Everyone who has lived there has taken it further and further. When a new resident moved in, it was all dirt. She requested the committee not approve anything beyond that tree.

Mr. Wiemann recommended to table this request and work with resident for an agreeable plan for all.

The committee unanimously agreed.

12. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

Resident at 5289 commented on RV Lot 1 and asked when re-seeding takes place in his area. Mr. Wiemann replied November thru March.

Resident at 3456-B stated her neighbor at 3451 is requesting that grass clippings are picked up.

The Board needs an extra cycle into the summertime. The grass is two feet high. It would go a long way to beautify the neighborhood.

3456-B also commented on blowers and gophers.

She is speaking for six other people today.

5321-A: Issues with sprinkler pressure.

3439-A: Dead dying area on slope behind her home.

3444-A: Issues with large tree in common area that drop leaves and blocks sun. Flowering plants are cut to ground and leave dirt. Every week of mowing turns grass brown.

3457-C: Sidewalk replaced 4-5 months ago and now the ditch area and grass is very high.

3439-B: Crews are different each time they come. No one has history of what had been done. They cut completely to ground. Weed spraying creates dirt areas. No one has authority to do anything outside main work but no one is overseeing work.

Chair Jarrett stated that she would love to have another cycle in summer but we don't have the staff or funding.

3436-O: Requesting that staff replace her current landscape with succulents. Mr. Wiemann asked her to submit a Landscape Request Form.

3446: She asked that when they do the mowing, can they not do the edging? Grass grows under the shrubs.

Topping of the trees, some have gotten very large. Can we have them topped? Mr. Wiemann reported that pine trees cannot be topped.

13. Response to Member Comments

Above.

Concluding Business:

14. Committee Member Comments

Director Engdahl said it was a great meeting and thanked everyone for coming out.

~~Director Rane-Szostak thanked residents. She asked Mr. Wiemann to talk about~~
landscape requests and how they should be done.

There was a panel regarding water use and it will be shown on Village TV. We don't have the date of it yet.

Director Bhada said good meeting and thanked residents for coming.

Director Karimi also thanked residents for coming today. All work and debate happen in committees so best to come to those rather to wait until the Board meeting.

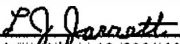
Mr. Wiemann explained when to use the Landscape Request Form. Turn it into Resident Services and they get it to Eve Morton. It then goes to the Supervisor and a report is written which goes to committee and then to the Board for a decision.

Be as specific as possible when calling Resident Services with requests.

Chair Jarrett stated that El Toro Water District reported that the Village water consumption went up 9 percent from last year.

15. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

16. Adjournment at 11:20 a.m.


Lynn Jarrett (Sep 13, 2021 10:16 PDT)

Lynn Jarrett, Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer
Eve Morton, Landscape Coordinator – 268-2565