



OPEN MEETING

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

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Acting Chair – Jim Matson, James Tung, Lynn Jarrett, Manuel Armendariz, Annette Sabol Soule, Judith Troutman, Maggie Blackwell

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair – Bert Moldow, John Frankel

OTHERS PRESENT: Dick Rader, Juanita Skillman, Andre Torng, Diane Phelps, Beth Perak

ADVISORS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton, Lulu Bector, Larry Hernandez, Mike Swingholm

1. Call to Order

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

2. Acknowledgement of Media

No press was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of Meeting Report of September 19, 2018

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

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Acting Chair Matson announced that Chair Moldow is on medical leave and will be back in a couple of weeks.

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

Doug Gibson 5289 – spoke about the landscape in the RV lot has been corrected and looks wonderful but the RV area is in need of rodent bait boxes. The light pole, which is controlled by SCE, does not work in the RV area. The West Creek has improved but still needs more cleaning. The Cypress trees on Santa Maria are dry and others are dead.

7. Response to Member Comments

Director Tung responded to Mr. Gibson and stated that he is glad the landscaping at the RV lot and West Creek is being handled and thanked Staff for their work.

8. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann introduced himself as the new Senior Field Operations Manager and stated that he and his Staff are going to systematically re-evaluate all of the operating procedures and look for improvements.

Mike Swingholm introduced himself as the Landscape Supervisor for the GRF facilities.

Larry Hernandez introduced himself as the Landscape Manager.

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:

9. Aliso Creek Update

Mr. Hernandez gave a brief update on the Aliso Creek. The cleanup of the debris at the Aliso Creek has been completed.

Mike Swingholm spoke about the pruning of the cattails adjacent to Building 921 and estimated a week to complete the work.

Mr. Armendariz spoke about the Aliso Creek. He discussed the Aliso Creek booklet which was given to the committee members. He had a discussion with Director Blackwell and Director Saboul about the two different agreements in the Aliso Creek booklet regarding rules and guidelines by the entities who control the creek.

Director Armendariz recommended that all committee members read the Aliso Creek booklet.

Mr. Wiemann stated that Staff has had conversations with a biologist this week regarding upcoming maintenance of the creek.

Director Torng inquired about what parts of the creek are within GRF boundaries and what parts are not.

Sally Sunderhaus 580-O - spoke about that sandbags at the creek need to be removed after the rainy season.

Director Armendariz commented that sandbags are needed at the creek but they should be removed after the rain.

Shannon O'Neil 581-P - spoke about the bridge on the creek that needs repair and that the creek needs maintenance attention. She would like the sandbags to be removed after the rainy season is over and would like Staff to pay more attention to the creek.

Kerry Stiles – spoke about the trees being hauled away by a contractor. She believes it was the El Toro Water District and asked Staff to find out who took the trees.

Mr. Wiemann commented that it was the El Toro Water District who took the trees and they are aware of our creek agreements and creek responsibilities. The El Toro Water District had Mutual permission to remove the trees. He stated that the Village will get more trees than were lost at the creek.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

10. Elimination Of Round Up

Mr. Wiemann spoke on the elimination of Round Up. Staff is asking the committee for approval to continue to investigate alternative products to Round Up. Staff performed a test with two alternative products and the results showed that alternative products work but they are not financially viable at this moment. Staff is working on more proactive alternatives for weed control. Staff is planning on a systematic test within the next couple of weeks. They are hoping to test six products for their viability and economic advantages or disadvantages. The test will take about 6-8 weeks.

Director Blackwell spoke about golf course use of Round Up and that the Womens Golf Club is satisfied with the use of Round Up on the golf course and they don't want anything differently done there.

Director Tung commented on Round Up and supports Staff on testing other alternatives.

Director Soule spoke about Round Up and how a cost increase to use different herbicides will affect some residents.

Director Armendariz commented on discrepancies he found in the Financial Analysis Report.

Director Troutman made a motion to approve Staff's recommendation and to:

1. Direct Staff to continue to systematically investigate alternative products and methods to eliminate the use of Round Up for the purpose of identifying a feasible, effective, and economical non-glyphosate based herbicide(s) for the control of weeds at all GRF facilities maintained by the Landscape Division, excluding golf facilities and;

2. Direct Staff to determine a feasible, effective, and economical non-glyphosate based herbicide(s) for the control of weeds at all GRF facilities maintained by the Landscape Division.

The motion was second by Director Armendariz. The committee was in unanimous support.

Shaun Tumpane 3077-A – spoke about Round Up and stated that Round Up has not been proven to be linked with any carcinogen and he supports the use of Round Up.

Andre Torng 389-Q – spoke about Round Up and the cost of alternatives and encourages Staff to do the study.

Richard Rader 270-B – commented on the Financial Analysis Report and elimination of Round Up. He spoke about studies regarding whether glyphosate is associated with any carcinogen and glyphosate is classified as a 2A item.

Elizabeth Morris 581-O – informed the Committee that she has an allergic reaction to Round Up.

Director Blackwell supports the motion made by Director Troutman to give Landscape the authority to make decisions on alternatives.

Mr. Wiemann stated Round Up is never sprayed on grass. Round Up is not sprayed widely in the Community and is currently only used in flower beds and for edging around tree and plants. The testing of alternatives to Round Up will last approximately 90 days. At that time, he will present the preliminary findings to all Boards.

Items for Future Agendas:

11. **GRF Properties within Third Mutual**
12. **Request for Three benches – West Creek**
13. **Updates to Herbicide Test**

Concluding Business:

14. Committee Member Comments

Director Blackwell thanked everyone for being there.

Director Armendariz was pleased with the agenda for today's meeting.

15. Date of next meeting – Wednesday, March 20, 2019

16. Adjourned at 2:52 p.m.


2-5-19 Acting Chair, Jim Matson

Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer

Lulu Boctor, Administrative Coordinator, 949-597-4650