



OPEN MEETING

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

**Wednesday, June 9, 2021 – 1:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair - Yvonne Horton, Maggie Blackwell, Lynn Jarrett, Reza Karimi, Manuel Armendariz

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Andre Tornng

OTHERS PRESENT:

ADVISORS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

1. Call to Order

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

2. Acknowledgement of Media

No press was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of Meeting Report of March 10, 2021

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

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Chair Horton stated that the annuals at the gates look really nice. The sales in the Village are up 14% so that is good news.

6. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann shared some slides regarding recent updates to landscape on GRF property.

Mr. Wiemann thanked the committee for their compliments regarding the landscaping at the gates.

Mr. Wiemann presented a PowerPoint to the committee to show them some GRF improvements including new irrigation systems at the Village nursery. There are 87 varieties of plants in the nursery. Most everything used in the Village is grown in our Nursery. Four staff members work there full-time. A new shade structure and electricity were put in at the Nursery. Some new mowers were purchased. Also, all new edgers were purchased since the existing were very old.

He spoke to committee about that the mower shop needs new lifts. He will bring costs for the new lifts to the next meeting.

Consent:

None.

Reports

7. Update on the Creek

Mr. Wiemann reported that we have finally passed all the mitigation requirements at the creek. Now, moving forward, we don't have to pay a biologist when working in the mitigation area.

Maintaining the creek means leaving native plants alone while maintaining areas we are allowed to maintain.

We will be removing any non-native wildlife, along with a biologist.

We are not allowed to alter the streambed so cannot touch stagnant water. He will ask California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) about altering the streambed.

Director Armendariz receives many emails from residents about the bridge at the creek.

He said some cattails are as tall as the trees. Why should installing that bridge cause all these new rules about what can be done at creek? Residents ask why is it that we can only do some of the work if we purchase credits.

Mr. Wiemann responded that the creek area was always under the jurisdiction of all these agencies but when we applied to build the bridge, it alerted all those agencies to our creek.

We cannot "remove" cattails, only trim them. That is part of not disturbing the bottom of the streambed. Biologist did go in a week before trimming and told us what areas had wildlife in them so they couldn't be touched.

In August, we can clear out more cattails because nesting season will be over.

Director Armanedariz suggested posting a statement to Members who live in that area about what we can and cannot do at the creek and why. Mr. Wiemann said there was a full-page article in the "Breeze" about the Creek. Director Armendariz said it should be run again with information regarding the credits.

Director Armanedariz asked if you bought credits, could you remove cattails? Mr. Wiemann said we were looking at purchasing credits just for the 1/3 acre of the mitigation area and the cost was in the millions of dollars just for that area. Buying credits for the entire creek would not be feasible.

Director Blackwell stated that any information about the creek should be available on the website.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

8. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

Several Member made comments which were answered by the committee.

9. Response to Member Comments

None.

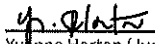
Concluding Business:

10. Committee Member Comments

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 8 at 1:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment at 2:23 p.m.



Yvonne Horton (Jun 21, 2021 10:16 PDT)

Yvonne Horton, Chair