



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Wednesday, September 8, 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, Manuel Armendariz, Elsie Addington

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Reza Karimi

**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 the Meeting Report for June 9, 2021**

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

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Horton remarked about the slopes. She asked Mr. Wiemann if a pre-emergent was put onto slopes. Weeds are up to eight inches already. He stated he will check on that and get back to her.

She was swimming at pool at CH5 and all plants around the pool there are dead.

She received a complaint that mowing is starting too early at CDS 7. Mr. Wiemann stated that mowing starts at 7:30 a.m. The mowing starting point is rotated so same people are not effected each time in early morning.

## 6. Department Head Update

None.

### Consent:

None.

### Reports

## 7. Update on the Creek

Mr. Wiemann reported on work being done in the creek.

The creek has a higher water level this year and hip waders were needed to go out into the water. Cattails were cleared. A 500-foot buffer zone was set up around a protected turtle who was found there. A bird survey is done prior to the start of any work and no active bird nests were found.

The entire cost of this recent cleanup was almost \$37K. That's why we are only able to clean up there once a quarter.

We are working on making a five foot channel down the middle of the creek which would allow us to chemically treat this channel to help with some of the upkeep. This would also help with erosion of the banks.

Chair Horton said the the willows downstream have not been trimmed. Mr. Wiemann will look into that.

Director Armendariz said he read that if you cut cattails a foot below water level, that they will die. Is that accurate? Mr. Wiemann stated that if they were to trim all the cattails below water level, they would eventually die off because they wouldn't get any sun. However, cattails' roots from others on the bank would make them re-grow into the creek.

The permit we have only allows us to cut cattails a foot above the water.

The creek is all on GRF property. The meadows around it are mostly GRF and some United Mutual area. The majority of the slopes out there belong to United Mutual.

Resident at 580-O stated that the creek look like a forest downstream. She was glad that there will be more cattail cutbacks. She is glad that staff is working on a channel.

She learned that getting the cattails is less about restrictions and more about cost.

She doesn't like that Member Comments detail aren't in the Minutes. Who would she talk to about this? President Carpenter said she can speak to Cheryl Silva about Minutes.

Director Blackwell said actions made in a committee are the content in the Minutes. It is not a transcript, like in a courtroom.

**7A. Presentation by Vector Control**

Lora Young from Vector Control presented some information on Aliso Creek and mosquitos. There are 27 types of mosquitos in OC. We have four main types here. They trap weekly at the Creek and an average amount of mosquitos are trapped, not a larger than normal amount.

Most biting complaints are from a different type of mosquito than found at the creek. These biting type breed in standing water like flower pots, pot saucers, and bird fountains that aren't being maintained. They bite during the day.

There hasn't been a case of West Nile Virus in Village in last five years.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

**8. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)**

2369-2B: Asked about the weeds in the sidewalks near Gates 5 and 6 on Via Mariposa. Mr. Wiemann reported that staff is currently working on removing the weeds on sidewalks.

None.

**9. Response to Member Comments**

Above.

Concluding Business:

**10. Committee Member Comments**

Chair Horton asked if vinegar has been used for weed control. Mr. Wiemann reported "yes" but it is not very effective and very malodorous. He is always looking for new products to come onto the market for weed and rodent control.

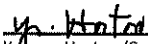
Mr. Wiemann said the birth control rodent treatment is not cost effective. We are having some success with it at the stables. It sterilizes the females for 30 days but all females have to ingest it for it to work. That would be incredibly expensive for such a large environment like the Village.

Director Addington asked about the difference between generations of rodenticides. Mr. Wiemann said first generations required more to be ingested for them to work.

Mr. Wiemann reported that they are trimming out dead fruit trees at the garden center and have put in new rules regarding fruit trees there to the keep rodents population down.

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

**12. Adjournment at 2:24 p.m.**

  
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Yvonne Horton (Sep 15, 2021 13:42 PDT)

Yvonne Horton, Chair