



OPEN MEETING

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

Monday, March 10, 2021 – 1:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center
24351 El Toro Road

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Bunny Carpenter

ADVISORS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

REPORT

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

4. Approval of Meeting Report of November 30, 2020

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

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Chair Horton stated that she has been getting positive feedback on the creek and to keep up the good work. Thank you for the trees at the Equestrian Center.

6. Department Head Update

- Annuals at Gates
- Equestrian Center

There was an adjournment of the meeting from 1:45 to 2:00 p.m. as Mr. Wiemann encountered technical problems and could not re-join the meeting.

The meeting re-started at 2 p.m.

Mr. Wiemann reported: "We started annuals at the gates last fall. We will start it again in April at the gates which have room for annuals. We have been spending a lot of time at the gates, been putting down mulch and fertilizing there.

At the Equestrian Center, we planted nine trees and assorted shrubs. We have also been doing irrigation repairs out there.

In our Capital Plan this year, we have funds for new irrigation for the nursery. The contract is out for signatures. Will save a lot of man hours not having to hand water everything.

We have purchased a shade structure for use at the Nursery.

Power and communications will be put in at the Nursery. Now, things are all done by hand over there. This will approve efficiencies. In time, crews will be able to place orders from the field."

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

7. Update on the Creek

Mr. Wiemann reported that the creek is a natural habitat that must be preserved. A bone of contention for the residents is the cattails. We have been trying to find ways to open up the Creek more. We have found a way to accomplish some of the cattail clearing. We will go in with a biologist in advance to identify any nests and mark them. Then, we will clear 100 yards of cattails, leave 100 yards, and so on. The biologist will make sure we don't disturb nesting birds.

Sally Sunderhaus(580-O) *"I thank all of you for your willingness to serve on the committee. I ask today's minutes include the comments I made during the November meeting as they still apply. The comments Mr. Wiemann just made about reducing the cat tails twice a year will be a big help.*

In his Aliso Creek Update of today, Mr. Wiemann does not address what we would hope would be a third objective of his department – namely, restoring the area around the bridge to its prior state. It is an unsightly mess. How much longer must we wait until this area becomes a priority and our property values finally restored? Pilfering

our view is no different than taking a bedroom or garage from an owner without providing restitution.

I realize many areas of the creek are lovely and enjoyed by residents. But, for those of us opposite the bridge, we have no such enjoyment. Every day we look upon the corruption of our view.

I realize the current landscape department inherited a mess from the prior one. But, perhaps Mr. Wiemann would like to alter today's update and correct the latest issue of the Village Breeze to disclose that the need for and cost of continued monitoring is a result of the lack of compliance by the prior and current landscape departments. Otherwise, we might all think it is just about "several government agencies" and their rules.

In spite of Mr. Wiemann's denials at the November 2020 landscape meeting, there are actions that can be taken, which he discussed at previous meetings, including buying credits to permit moving the willows. While the willows may be required, their location could have been one that did not interfere with owner's views.

Finally, when the bridge was constructed, when a storm was predicted, the railings were removed and do not cross signs erected. This year the railings are not to be found, and instead, crime scene tape is crisscrossed over the bridge and makeshift sandwich boards placed in the middle. The hundreds of walkers who cross the bridge daily, just push these things aside and continued crossing. Eve Morton (who is always prompt and thorough with her answers) said this was not the responsibility of landscape and directed me to security. However, thus far security is also unaware of any railings. I'm hopeful someone on this committee can direct me to the proper department."

Mr. Wiemann stated that buying credits would be millions of dollars.

He suggested that cattails are currently cleared once a year. We can trim them more often but there is a cost involved to pay for the biologist.

For the Willows; we are only allowed to trim out the bottom third. Tops need to be left for nesting birds.

Director Aremendarez made motion to approve the \$13K for the consulting fees to clear the cattails twice a year. Director Blackwell seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

8. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

None.

9. Response to Member Comments

None.

All Corporations' Landscape Cooperation

10. Performance Improvements: Mulching Mowers Versus Bagging Mowers

Mr. Wiemann stated that he brought this information to this committee so all the corporations can have an open discussion on where to go with landscaping over the next few years. We are starting to put together next year's budget. He will bring this topic to the respective committees next month to see whether each Mutual would want to spend this money or not for next year.

Discussion ensued.

11. Performance Improvements: Increase Service Levels to Five Cycles

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this informational report with the committee. This topic will also be discussed at April's United and Third Landscape committee meetings to determine if each Mutual would want to include the cost for this into next year's budget or not.

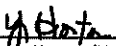
Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 9 at 1:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment at 3:05 p.m.



Yvonne Horton (Mar 26, 2021 19:55 PDT)

Yvonne Horton, Chair