

MINUTES from 11/3/2017 Waterlefe CDD Landscape Committee Meeting

CDD Landscape Committee met at property management offices at 2pm on Friday November 3rd. Members present included Dona, Nancy, Karen & Mike. Also in attendance was CDD liaison Bill and John Crawford of Rizzetta.

Three items were on the agenda: minutes from the previous meeting; updates on The Roundabout; annuals at the Front Entrance.

MINUTES: Minutes from the previous meeting were approved; motion by Nancy; seconded by Karen.

ROUNDAABOUT: Dona distributed a copy of an article in The Observer Newsletter that was very complimentary of the renovated Roundabout. It included a great photo of the new landscaping. Mike suggested we prepare a similar article for our Fairways and Waterways newsletter and Dona asked Mike to write that article, which he agreed to do.

Dona noted that she and Nancy had met with Shawn of ArtisTree to go over a punch list on the Roundabout landscaping. The group agreed to relocate the Elephant Ears (EE) because they were obstructing the view of the Ribbon Palms and because the broad leaves were showing signs of damage from the wind. We are trying to find an appropriate location, but have ruled out the median island leading down Winding Stream Way. We also discussed adding more Bridal Bouquets to fill the space where the EEs are located. They also discussed adding more topsoil to fill a few depressions under the new sod. Shawn suggested it would cost up to \$1,621 to do that work, which seemed high. The committee agreed that we should not be charged to fill the depressions, since that work had been done incorrectly during the initial installation. Subsequently, Dona contacted Shawn's supervisor, Joe, to discuss the cost.

Dona and Nancy expressed concerns that Shawn was presenting "total cost" invoices without providing itemized costs, making it hard to determine how much we were being charged for individual items. Further, they expressed concerns about the excavation that had been done at the outset of the project. They believe ArtisTree agreed to excavate the entire area to at least two feet below grade. Instead ArtisTree started to excavate only the areas beneath the previous palm mounds to two feet below grade. Nancy and Dona called that to the foreman's attention during the excavation, and he then did additional excavation to comply with the terms of the contract. Another concern that Dona and Nancy had was that new dirt was being dumped on top of old dirt before all of the old dirt was completely excavated and removed from the site. Dona and Nancy noted that the excavation issue was just one in a series of concerns they have about Shawn's performance as project designer. They indicated we might ask ArtisTree to provide a different designer for future projects, in part because he doesn't seem to be sufficiently organized, nor communicate as well as we would like. Dona asked Nancy to contact Shawn and discuss the proposed changes to the landscaping and to negotiate a fairer price, and Nancy agreed to do that.

Discussion then moved on to the current cost of the landscaping project. It was noted that the CDD Board authorized \$59,514 for the project. The cost to date is \$55,854. Moving the EEs, regrading, and installing more Bridal Bouquets will push the cost to \$57,475. That puts us \$2,039 under budget. The committee would like to ask the Board for permission to use the unused funding on other landscaping projects in the community. One area in need of updating is around the monuments at the Front Entrance. As part of that project, the

committee would like to power wash and repaint the monuments at the front entrance. Karen agreed to get an estimate on that work. However, that power washing and repainting probably will be postponed because that work will interfere with new annuals that must be planted this month.

ANNUALS: Delay in planting annuals at the front entrance, at the gatehouse, and on the end caps throughout the community has been complicated by the fact that Hurricane Irma damaged tens of thousands of young plants, leaving the supply of annuals low. As a result, it appears that we can't get our first choice of plants in 4" containers, per our contract with ArtisTree. Instead, larger containers *(10" pots) will be used to get the high performing petunias that Sig Feile (on our committee) has recommended. Frank, one owner of ArtisTree, has quoted \$9.50 for each 10" planted petunia. Using larger pots will cause us to use way fewer plants, so although the cost per pot is higher than the contracted price of \$2.20, we will come in way under budget. The committee believes those flowers will look great. It was noted that the board approved \$5,500 for the annuals, and we think that should be more than ample to get the job done. The planting should begin soon, before Thanksgiving.

There was also discussion about mulching needs. ArtisTree is swamped with work, much due to hurricane Irma along with their previous commitments to clients. ArtisTree suggested a subcontractor for us to call directly for a price that Scott, our AE with ArtisTree, says will likely cost us less. As of this meeting, John Crawford had not yet called said subcontractor for a price. Dona asked him to do this asap.

John reported that the previous landscaper broadcast fertilizer on the end caps incorrectly, burning some of the plant leaves. During a recent site survey with Bill, John also noted that 15 viburnums along a wall near Mossy Branch had died and will eventually need to be replaced. He also indicated that a large Hong Kong Orchid tree had been blown over near Misty Pond and Discovery and probably can not be salvaged. He reported an area near the nature walk on Discovery near Misty Pond had fallen into disrepair. Bottom line, there are many anticipated expenses (beyond the roundabout, the front entrance and the annuals) as we strive to bring Waterlefe back to its condition before Yellowstone.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 3:45 p.m. by Karen Bobo and was seconded by Nancy Rechcigl. Motion was approved by all.

* Since the meeting, Dona has confirmed that the type of petunia that we want is available in 6" pots. Frank has quoted us \$4.50 per plant for the 6" size which is a very good price. The cost for said 6" plants will be approximately \$1575.00. We will also reserve 50 additional plants in 10" pots (3 plants per 10" pot) @ \$9.50 per plant = \$475.00. Both will total approximately \$2050.00 which is way below the approved budget. Dona will ask Rizzetta if they were provided with actual invoices from Yellowstone evidencing that 2500 annuals were purchased and planted in the past. Unless we have grossly underestimated the quantity needed, we question the need previously quoted for 2500 - 4" annuals per plant rotation.

**Note taker had to leave the meeting at 3:50pm