

MINUTES from CDD Landscape Committee Meeting, Friday, January 5, 2018

Attending: Committee members Dona Lasseter, Nancy Rechcigl, Karen Bobo, Sig Feile, and Angela Potter; John Crawford from Rizzetta; and visitor Waterlefe resident, Rich Donahue.

Absent: Tom King and Mike Jacobs (committee members) and Bill Strollo (CDD liaison)

Dona called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Motion to approve minutes from December 1, 2017 meeting was made by Nancy and approved by Karen.

Rich Donahue was asked to introduce himself and given an opportunity to discuss his concerns. He is a nighttime dog walker and expressed his concerns about the lack of street lighting along Waterlefe Boulevard. He stated he has voiced this concern many times in the past and is frustrated because the palm tree foliage continues to obscure the street lights. Dona explained that this has also been an ongoing concern of the current committee and has been addressed with the new landscaping vendor, ArtisTree, who has only been working with Waterlefe since September. Apparently, there was some confusion as to what trees are included in the contract and what are “add-on” items, but that had been recently clarified in a separate meeting with the vendor, including Dona, Bill Strollo & John Crawford (see notes below). The taller trees should be pruned in the near future. Rich said he had no other concerns and left the meeting.

Regarding the ad hoc meeting with ArtisTree, Dona explained that, since there seemed to be confusion over the stipulations in the service contract and because a new account executive had been assigned to Waterlefe, she had requested a meeting to get everyone on the same page. In attendance at that meeting were Dona, Bill Strollo our CDD liaison, John Crawford from Rizzetta, and, from ArtisTree, Scott the outgoing account executive and Scott Morrell, the incoming account executive. Points discussed included:

- ArtisTree prunes trees and bushes up to 15 feet in height.
- ArtisTree removes moss from foliage up to 15 feet high.
- ArtisTree performs weekly mowing, blowing, etc., once a week during growing season and every other week in dormant season.
- A difference in contract and ArtisTree’s standard operating procedure is that weeding of planting beds and other areas is done four consecutive days once a month, when the detail team descends on the community and does everything at one time, rather than a little at a time throughout the month, the latter of which is stipulated in our contract with ArtisTree. Concerns over this approach were discussed and Bill Strollo approved ArtisTree’s current approach for the time being i.e., four consecutive days once per month.

The next topic of discussion was the junipers: who is responsible for removal and when, included in the standard contract or additional quote? The dead ones are included in our contract

with ArtisTree, but the live ones are a compensable add-on. Sig said we should also be concerned about the cause of the decline in the junipers, and several in attendance said they had seen evidence that hot asphalt had been discarded in those areas during the repaving of portions of our streets. Sig said maybe Waterlefe shouldn't pay vendors so quickly until it was determined if said vendors had damaged other parts of the property.

Next discussed was the Waterlefe lighting along UMRR. Our new ArtisTree designers, Clinton Lak and his manager, Joe Mantkowski, have been on site and said they would have a proposal to us by the first week in February. Joe had said the best company he uses charges about \$500.00 per light. A previous proposal provided by Jeff Dieter was \$200.00 per light. We all agreed that \$500.00 each seemed exorbitant but noted that we do not know what that price entails so will wait for the full proposal. Nancy suggested that we get multiple quotes and noted that Gate Pros does The Shores. Karen also mentioned Cool Today as a potential light vendor. Dona will ask Mike Jacobs to research this, and John Crawford will research who does the lighting for other communities managed by Rizzetta.

Sig started the discussion regarding current annuals and his dismay at the inconsistency between and within the beds (e.g., the bed on the left in front of the guardhouse which has few flowers and plants with no flowers and white spots within the left bed at the entrance). Sig's experience leads him to believe that the plants in the bed to the left of the guardhouse had been overtreated with growth retardant because the plants had not thrived after being planted in the ground. He also said geranium bud worm might be to blame for the poor performance in the left front entry bed, and that he had seen evidence of fertilizer burn in several areas as well. John added that he saw lots of tiny white spots on the petunia leaves when the field inspection was done that same morning. Scott Morrell had suggested an application of 20-20-20 fertilizer. John will follow up with Scott on this.

It was also noted that all the beds had not been changed to petunias because the crew was not able to complete all planting in one day, so some plants were returned to ArtisTree's Venice location where they got overwatered during Thanksgiving break. Said plants were subsequently rejected by Dona when ArtisTree returned to Waterlefe for planting. The pentas were therefore left in place in four areas and were thriving, though a bit overgrown. We agreed to leave the pentas in place for now but have them pruned and then replace them with Sunpatiens with next annual planting beginning April. John will ask ArtisTree to prune the pentas and also ask if they can add an application of Osmocote to ensure their thriving until spring.

Upcoming annuals were discussed, and Dona's selection of Compact Sunpatiens colors, Electric Orange mixed with lavender (Otchid) was endorsed. We also decided in lieu of peach and yellow purslanes (portulaca) in front of the guardhouse, orange, yellow, and red will make a more striking impression, specifically the Rio Grande and/or Mojave variety because of their larger flowers and proven performance. It was also noted that the Waterlefe Boulevard endcap nearest the roundabout was not being planted with annuals like the other two endcaps terminating at the

roundabout, and we agreed that all three endcaps should contain annuals. The same was decided by committee for the endcap in median just before (incoming) the beds in front of the guard house. Dona will follow up with ArtisTree regarding these changes.

We also touched on the fact that we chose ArtisTree because of what we observed of their performance in other similar neighborhoods. Since they are professionals with a vested interest in doing a good job for Waterlefe, too, we agreed involved oversight rather than micromanagement might provide better results and relieve unnecessary stress from committee members.

The Bridal Bouquet (*Plumeria pudica*) bushes that had been transplanted from the circle island seem to be doing poorly. John provided us each with a handout, and in addition to planting and replanting being partly to blame, it appears these plants are cold sensitive and would benefit from an application of 20-20-20. The elephant ears (*Alocasia*) that were transplanted from the roundabout to the median between Sand Crane and Portside on Waterlefe Boulevard are also looking bad, but we agreed that this could partly be due to the stress of being transplanted twice and that we will wait three months or so before becoming too concerned. That morning, Scott Morell stated to Dona and John that he would give them a prune to remove the ugly foliage and therefore improve the overall appearance. It was also noted that the crotons recently planted need to be watched and perhaps assess their irrigation needs.

Karen has tried many times to get a response from Adams (painter) regarding the addition of the monument abutting Moore's Dairy Road to their proposal for repairing and repainting, as well as an annual contract to have the monuments power washed – to no avail. Given Karen's other responsibilities, Angela was asked to assume responsibility for following up with Adams and also for getting proposals from other vendors due to Adams' lack of response. Karen suggested Walter's Painting and Staining and forwarded her communications with Adams and contact information for both Adams and Walter's to Angela.

There being no other business before the committee, Dona made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35, which was seconded by Nancy.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2018 same time and location.