

**LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES JULY 12, 2016**

**1. REPLACEMENT TREES /REMOVAL REPORT**

A total of 7 trees are to be removed; 4 trees have been removed to date. A total of 4 tree replacements is recommended. The estimated cost per tree is \$ 475 planted, for a total of \$1,900. 1 tree is proposed to replace this summer; 3 trees would then be replaced in Fall with a combo order with AVB. Decision pending Board approval.

**2. DRAIN PROJECTS**

Two drain- remedy projects are presently under cost estimating – Shady Oak drain area, and Selly Oak drain area – both areas drain into Pond #4, and at the base of steep back yards. The Shady Oak and Selly Oak drains receive heavy water drainage from backyard downspouts and rainfall. At the Shady Oak drain water collects in a low area, and lawn mowing the water-logged area drain creates a muddy mess. At Selly Oak the water has eroded top soil into the pond. We want to prevent any erosion and silting. We have asked Gardner to obtain cost estimates from BrightView, and Niewoonder Landscaping. Decision pending Board approval.

**3. MULCH SCHEDULING – 2017-2018**

The Landscape Committee discussed two questions regarding mulching process and scheduling. 1. We presently mulch in a 30%/70% ratio – approximately 30% with Phase 1 & 2 (UNITS 1 TO 55) in 2016. The remainder approx. 70% of Phase 3,4, and 5 are due for mulch in 2017. We recommend the ratio of mulch be revised to approximately 50%/50% starting in 2018. This revision more evenly spreads out the mulch budget.

2. Starting in 2018, the Landscape Committee recommends reducing the amount of mulch used on deciduous and evergreen trees within the community – by mulching all trees in alternate years. Letting mulch degenerate more naturally is more beneficial to the trees than an annual mulch overload. Garden beds would continue to be mulched annually. An overall plan will be presented to the Association Board for approval.

**4. LANDSCAPE BUDGET DESIGNATIONS**

The Landscape Committee recommends that the 2017 Landscape budget be itemized more specifically to designate tree removal/replacement, and assign a portion of the landscape budget to this account.

## 5. WATER FEATURES

We received an estimate from R & A Water Features to clean out and power-wash the waterfall streams (3), clean grass from the stream running from Pond 2 A down to Pond 2. and seal both waterfall basins. The proposal is being reviewed by the Landscape Committee and Association Board.

## 6. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- Mike McLean asked if the natural area behind their units bordering the State Game Area be included in the periodic cutting. This area is getting overgrown. **REPLY:** BrightView will be asked to include this area for trimming in 2016, or 2017.
- Judy Maxwell asked if there will be a guarantee on new trees planted in the community. **REPLY:** A guarantee on new trees may vary by the tree supplier. We will determine the guarantee terms from the suppliers before any order is placed.
- Judy Maxwell reported the discovery of an invasive species plant called "Horse Tail" located in mulch in two areas of the Oak Meadow Cove area. This is an unusual, difficult to control invasive plant, and it cannot be allowed to spread. Plant removal, or chemical treatment, is necessary. **Reply:** we will take steps to properly kill the invasive plant.
- Larry Smith reported the invasive plant Purple Loosestrife is present on the shoreline rock area of Pond #4. Purple Loosestrife spreads through wind-blown seeds. **Reply:** This is a small patch that will be properly destroyed before it matures and releases seedlings.
- **Goosebusters** removed 8 adult Canada Geese, and 13 juvenile geese.

## 7. RESIDENT COMMENTS

- **Jacque Jennings Carter, 8800 Oakland Hills Circle** : resident expressed concern for the potential of evergreen root damage to their foundation. **Reply:** Gardner Mgt, and the Landscape Chair stated that removal of the specific evergreens would require ARC approval. The concern of potential root damage to a foundation will be presented to the Association Board on 7/13/2016. The trees in this area were recently trimmed at association expense. The resident asked for improved trimming around mail box posts, and minimize damage to outside trim areas. **Reply:** these comments will be referred to BrightView. The resident requested outside drains be cleaned out, and treatment for rust from the irrigation system (areas not specified). **Reply:** It was suggested the resident submit a website work order to Gardner Mgt. for rust removal, specifying the specific rust areas to be treated, and for drain cleaning, specifying the drain locations.

**Larry M Smith 7/14/2016**

**Landscape Committee**