

Landscaping and Grounds Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2020

1:00 pm TRCC

Attendees: Co-Chairs Joan Howe and Curt Gilroy, member Diane Geramanis, Bloomings Supervisor Shane Battle, and TR Manager Ed Olson.

Russ Gill, Joan Howe, and Curt Gilroy have been working on revising the current contract that Bloomings has with Turtle Rock. (The current contract was last done in 2012.) The final revised version was presented to Shane Battle and Bloomings for review, and Russ Gill will make the necessary edits for final approval.

Ongoing Bloomings Maintenance Checklist

Shane brought an updated list of items currently being worked on by Bloomings; additionally, we discussed briefly our own list with Shane. Covid 19 has played havoc with Bloomings' work schedule, and some items have not been accomplished. Highlights of items discussed are below:

- Trimming of all TR palms is scheduled for the weeks of June 22 and 29; mulch is to be spread in early July.
- Fill-in hedge plantings along TR Blvd will take place as soon as possible.
- A yellow Jacaranda flowering tree will be planted along Central Sarasota Pkwy in place of the oak that was struck by lightning. Funds were approved at the last Board meeting.
- Low hanging branches of oak trees on TR Blvd will be trimmed as soon as possible.
- Bloomings will submit a landscape plan for the South and North guard houses and the median inside the north entry. Funds were approved at the last Board meeting.
- Sabal Lake (northern intersection closest to gatehouse, SW and NW corners)—there is a large area of Pittosporum which is either dead or nearly dead. Bloomings recommends that all Pittosporum be removed. Board member Brian Daily suggested that Florida friendly plants such as Silver Buttonwood and/or Pitch Apple be introduced to that area. The Committee, in consultation with Bloomings, discussed this at length and believes that, while Buttonwood and Pitch apple would be alternatives, they would be inconsistent with all the street corner plantings along the Boulevard. The Committee would certainly entertain Board member Daily's recommendation for other common areas in the community, but for these particular corners, would prefer to keep the consistency of plants intact. The cost of replanting these two street corners would be \$1,728. **The Committee recommends the Board approve this amount.**

- Butterfly garden area: Bloomings will select some appropriate plants and donate. Beforehand, they will remove the old small-jet irrigation system and either replace it, or, if surrounding rotors reach the area, adjust these for proper coverage
- Landscape refurbishments for west side of south entrance at CSP: additional bougainvilleas were installed in February, but the area still needs attention; we await a plan from Shane.
- Removal of Duranta in median just south of clubhouse: these shrubs have grown tall and interfere with vehicle sightlines when leaving the CC parking lot. A possible alternative such as Dwarf Carissa was considered. Bloomings will offer options and costs next month.
- Magnolia tree just inside southbound south gate is failing as is another across the street from the CC. Committee recommends removal of both and replacement of the latter.
- Honore hedge, far north end along Somerset: This area has about 200-300 lineal feet of old, dying Eleagnus shrubs which need to be replaced. Bloomings will need to remove all the dead/dying mass of overgrown shrubs, add irrigation to the area, and replant. Bloomings recommends viburnum, and estimates needing approximately 100 plants (3-gallon containers, under \$20/ea) and will provide a proposal next month.

Other Common Area Items

Community Center Flooring:

Subsequent to the March board meeting where several residents advocated installing carpet to improve poor acoustics in the building, the committee has continued its research of acoustical companies to address the sound issue. The committee remains resolute that carpet is neither an appropriate flooring material for this area, nor an adequate sound damping option.

Tennis Court Resurfacing:

Vendor will begin work the week of July 6.

Cleaning Vendor:

At its last meeting, the Committee unanimously recommended that the Board give the current cleaning service, Jan-Pro, the required 30-day notice and hire "Rebecca's Cleaning Chores and More" as replacement. Unexpectedly, the selected company has moved. As a result, the Committee selected "JC's Reflection Cleaning LLC," which was the other company interviewed, to undertake the work. The latter has already started since Jan-Pro failed to honor its 30-day notice.

Pruning Oak Trees along TR Blvd:

The Committee recommends that this be done, but also recommends that the TR Manager solicit a company to prune 3 of the oaks to see how they turn out. If all looks well, the Committee will put together a proposal for the Board to prune the entire boulevard.

Seating Benches in the Community Center Area:

The Committee discussed the possibility of installing 3 or 4 decorative benches in the CC area in response to continued resident enquiries. Depending upon cost, the Committee may propose a plan for Board approval next month.

Holiday Lighting:

Holiday lighting at the entrances to Turtle Rock for the December holiday season brings cheer to the community. Many residents, however, were somewhat disappointed with the display last year at a cost of \$2,800. As a result, the Committee arrived at a proposal from the Trimmers franchise owner that would bring more light and impact to our entrances. We recommend to no longer do the spiral strands of white on the royal palms (which had the strands at 18" apart), but instead a uniform wrapping that will be about 6-8" apart from start of green frond to ground. We suggest wrapping 18 total palms:

South entrance: 6 palms in center island and 2 on each corner (total 10 @ \$250 each)

North entrance: 4 palms in center (3 north of gate house and one south) and 2 on each corner (total 8 palms @ \$250 each)

We propose not to have the monument signs trimmed with garlands (a savings of \$750). We have paid for garlands trimmed with lights in the past, but the spotlight on the signs obliterates the lights making the garlands redundant. **The Committee recommends that the Board approve an increase of \$1,700 for a total expenditure this year of \$4,500.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Submitted by Curt Gilroy