

INSPIRATION LANDSCAPE & COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

MARCH 23, 2021 | 5:30 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

Common Area Update

- Turf and mite spraying has been performed, fertilization is next.
- Annual flowers and trees have been ordered. Some deciduous tree varieties were swapped for varieties we think will perform better. We have a lifetime warranty with BrightView for any tree plantings going forward.
- Pool contract with Perfect Pools has been signed, pool preparations are underway. Newland has scheduled their construction work at Inspiration Club to conclude before pool season to minimize debris getting into the pool. Current COVID regulations for sanitation will need to be researched.
- Adopt-a-Tree program is underway with an application deadline of March 31st for spring planting. Dead trees from last year's program are warranted and will be identified for re-planting.
- Piney Creek Trail Connection project is moving along, the three primary review agencies are Douglas County, the City of Aurora and Xcel Energy. Initial meetings with the City of Aurora and Douglas County are now complete.

Water Conservation Project Update

- Rick Forsman briefly reviewed the project history since inception.
- The water bill is a significant part of the budget, currently half a million dollars and could grow to a million dollars per year upon full buildout. A Denver Post article yesterday illustrated the situation regarding the region's water use, we must plan for rising water costs.
- Aurora Water is an eager partner with 8 staff members dedicated to conservation. They offer free services, rebates, intern help, and a grant program.
- We can apply for a variance to be able to water on a schedule that works better for us, given our windy conditions.
- Rick is working with AJ Beckman, District Manager, to learn what a similar metro district did in Aurora to invest then quickly recoup costs.
- AJ recommends a thorough irrigation map be created this spring in collaboration with BrightView to be followed by an irrigation audit by BrightView or a specialist to find weak links and create a baseline of information.

- Irrigation mapping could take significant time. Newer filings have better info than the older ones. The City of Aurora will need to see type of plant materials and square footages in information we submit to them.
- Sophisticated weather-satellite based systems with localized rain sensors are expensive. Rain sensors can stop working within just a few years due to the weather elements, we can plan a maintenance schedule for them.
- A rough budget request amount is needed in time for the Finance Committee meeting on April 5th.
- The committee recommends moving forward with a recommendation to the Board to pursue irrigation mapping and an irrigation audit.

Adopt-A-Bench Designs

- Bob Beeman presented the bench selection from Keystone Designs. We will partner with Newland to place it in the new dog park with volunteer labor.
- The bench is bronze with a bronze plaque to hold up to 80 characters.
- Bob will customize the plaque to remember his wife Julie, who loved to be around animals. He will pay the full cost of the inaugural bench.
- We're discussing ways to cost share with Newland for future benches that are already included in developer plans.
- There will be an event to celebrate the opening of the dog park and the memorial bench, to be coordinated with the Social Committee.

Fence and Pole Proposals

- Sarah Warner discussed the contents of three proposals from a painting company, a general contractor, and a fence and deck contractor.
- Fences can be done on a longer schedule than the light poles that will be done in one mobilization.
- A fence staining schedule can be developed with the help of the chosen contractor -this portion is approximately 3,000 linear feet.
- The Committee is in favor of moving forward with finalizing proposals from Service Plus for light poles and from Simko for fencing.
- Outstanding questions include how many coats of stain will be applied, application method (spray vs brushed), and whether there will be overspray problems if using spray method.

2021 Event and Work Day Planning

- The committee will select areas in need of weeding, mulch addition, etc. for community work days.

- BrightView has offered a BBQ event.
- COVID regulations will dictate how we set up these events and whether we can do an Earth Day event in late April.

Snow Removal Framework

- Discussion of the large snowstorm and resulting problems.
- Public Alliance is obtaining cost estimates to include the actual cost of the snow clearing that was performed by BrightView, and what supplementary neighborhood street plowing would cost for what is not plowed by the city.
- An IGA (inter-governmental agreement) can be investigated which would potentially release us from liability for damage to public streets during plowing.
- There may be a possible investment in BrightView-owned equipment that would speed the clearing of our common areas across all snow events.

Russian Olive Removal Proposals

- Sarah Warner reviewed two proposals from BrightView and Weed Wranglers to begin an eradication program for the Russian Olive trees, in line with Douglas County recommendations.

New Members

- Charlie Goretsky introduced himself as an interested committee candidate.
- Over a dozen members of the community have volunteered to help with future events.

Community Comment & Discussion

- Mark Berkstresser updated that he cleaned out the bluebird houses and there are 10 active nests.
- The detention pond near the lift station is close to overflow, the grate had material stuck in it, preventing drainage. Question is whether the maintenance responsibility is with the District or the City.
- A mass of tangled barbed wire needs to be removed, located between Inspiration Trail and Heritage Eagle Bend, 100 yards west of the emergency access point, along Allenspark Drive. Public Alliance will report this to Newland.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

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