

INSPIRATION LANDSCAPE & COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 26, 2021 | 5:30 P.M.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8637322103>

- The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.
- The agenda was approved as amended, adding an item for native grass mowing.
- Mark Berkstresser reviewed the minutes from the September 21st meeting. The minutes were approved by the committee.

Sarah Warner, Superintendent of Facility and Landscaping, provided a common area update:

- Simcoe is doing thorough work on the fence staining. In some areas, they filled in cracks and applied up to three coats of stain with a coarse nap roller. They will have completed the fence staining project two weeks from now.
- Pool is closed, winterized and the water supply has been shut off for the winter.

Native grass mowing discussion

- Sarah Warner has been researching the necessity of continuing with annual or more frequent mowing of the native grass areas.
- Some nearby districts have stopped mowing their native grass with the exception of walking trail and sidewalk beauty bands.
- Picking up the grass clippings takes labor, and the clippings can get in the way of the natural seed drop.
- Irrigating the native grass after two years can be detrimental by keeping the root system shallow.
- Aaron Curtiss proposed re-allocating funds from native grass mowing in 2022 to spend instead on weed control in the native grass areas instead.
- Ralph Charlip asked what the native grass should look like in the next year and beyond. There are a few areas with undisturbed native grass that serve as an example of healthy, established native grass: Under the power lines, west of the Hangout Park and Watering Hole Park, and east of Inspiration Lane.
- Rick Forsman added that our area is in a megadrought of insufficient rainfall and stepping down the irrigation after two years is an important measure to take.
- Kevin Buehner asked for Ms. Warner's recommendation to the committee, which is to skip native mow in 2022. He suggests explaining the strategy on the website.

- Mark Berkstresser suggested that the budget expense category be renamed to Native grass management from Native grass mowing.

2022 Budget Planning

- The committee worked through prioritizing projects for 2022 during the meeting, using 1 (high), 2 (medium) and 3 (low).
- These priorities will be provided to the Finance Committee.
- Priority was given to projects impacting safety.

Maintenance Technician Duties

- The committee discussed Maintenance Supervisor / Maintenance Technician duties for a future District employee, to be employed through the management company Public Alliance.
- The budget for the position needs to be approved, then a job description would be created before the position could be staffed next year.

Tract Turnover

- The tract turnover inspection deadline is at the end of October. Some manicured landscape areas are slated for acceptance.

Planning for Replacement Trees

- Kevin Buehner has been helping assess which trees will need to be replaced next year, and BrightView will be inspecting tree health in the spring.

Community Comment & Discussion

- One of the bluebird nesting boxes was knocked down, possibly by mowing. Mark Berkstresser will repair and replace it.
- A question was asked about whether the downed tree and car parts on Rockinghorse Parkway have been picked up. The tree has been picked up and the car parts will be collected and disposed of by the landscaping management team.
- A question was asked regarding whether the District will remove dead shrubs ahead of replacement. This should be worked into the 2022 plan and budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

##