

**INSPIRATION LANDSCAPE & COMMON AREA COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 16, 2021 | 5:30 P.M.

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

- The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. The agenda was approved with the addition of a budget position summary presentation and tree replacement item.
- The minutes from the October 26th, 2021 meeting were approved by the committee.
- Attendees: Aaron Curtiss, Mark Berkstresser, Holly Svetz, Sarah Warner, Tom Norton, Charles Goretsky, Kate Innes, Kevin Buehner, Ralph Charlip, Steve Powers, Tina Berkstresser, Rea Heatherington, Brenda Patrick.

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

- Russian olive tree removal is underway, scheduled to be completed next week. Additional pruned material was picked up and disposed at no extra cost by the vendor. Herbicide will be applied to the stumps next spring. 41-42 trees plus a half dozen small trees are included in the removal project.
- Irrigation system has been winterized.
- Tree wrapping is damaged in some areas by deer. This should be inventoried so it can be addressed with regard to our tree warranty.
- Playground inspections will happen in the latter half of November.
- Fence staining will be complete next week. Fence repairs will be completed at the vendor's location and re-installed.
- Crash bar at the pool was installed on the gate that didn't have one. Multiple replacement items at the pool are out for bid.
- Railing designs for the Gartrell tunnel have been located.
- Kate Innes updated that the developer representative will be providing an update and brief Q&A session for 30 minutes prior to the December 14th Board meeting.

2022 Budget update and process discussion

- Holly Svetz presented four slides summarizing the areas of agreement and the gaps where agreement has not yet been reached with regard to the 2022 budget planning process, and the recommendations from the Finance Committee contrasted with the recommendations from the Common Area Committee.
- The committee discussed the content of the presentation, including the effect that each recommendation would make on mill levy and assessments.
- Ralph Charlip questioned whether the process can be driven by the cost requirements suggested by the Common Area Committee versus trying to fit the costs into a budget recommendation put forth by the Finance Committee.
- The consensus was that it's too late to implement that process or strategy for this year.
- Several edits were made to the presentation content in order to move it to the next step.

Tract turnover status update

- A meeting was held yesterday with the developer.

- The most likely areas for turnover this year are Inspiration Lane, Picnic Park, Watering Hole Park, some small manicured areas in filing 15 and 17.
- Nothing in filings 8, 10, 16 or 18 is ready for turnover.
- No native grass areas will be accepted this year.
- The developer will be working throughout the winter and spring to establish more native grass in filings 15, 16 and 17 in order to be in a position for turnover next summer.
- Fences in filing 10 need to be re-stained, but the developer will not paint fences until the District has indicated that the filing is slated for acceptance.

Maintenance technician task list

- Kevin Buehner has drafted a list of potential tasks that could be completed by the future maintenance technician to be hired next year by Public Alliance.
- Ralph Charlip added content and the document is now ready to be circulated among the committee for comments.
- One goal is to make the overall workload match up with a 1.0 FTE assignment.

Native grass mowing discussion

- Kevin Buehner drafted a position statement to convey reasons to forgo mowing of the native grass next year to preserve its health.
- The committee will review by the end of November, so that a statement can be forwarded for Board consideration.
- The explanation document can ultimately be posted to the website and communicated in the email newsletter next year. A frequently asked question format might also be useful.

Retaining wall inspection

- Kevin Buehner created a map of structural retaining walls within the District.

Tree replacement assessment

- Kevin Buehner has updated the tree replacement assessment summary.
- Every tree identified as dead, failing or ghost has been assigned an identification number.
- There are 98 total trees listed as dead or ghost.
- 85 replacement trees are allocated for 2022, replacements will have to be prioritized.

Inspiration Lane native grass

- Some of the native grass from Del Norte Circle to Gartrell is not doing well and needs new landscaping. It may require a permit from the City of Aurora.
- A design plan would be needed to get a cost estimate. An initial estimate is anywhere from \$10,000-100,000.
- Twelve specific areas have been documented by Kevin Buehner as a reference.
- The area is high visibility in the neighborhood. It's a project needing volunteers.

Trail names and signs

- Tina Berkstresser made the suggestion that trails not directly along streets be named.
- Wooden engraved signs could be created.

- There is a structure to accommodate a trail signboard at Watering Hole Park.
- Rea Heatherington suggested that signage also be created for the NACs.
- Mark Berkstresser has ordered a router kit with an appropriate font to create a prototype.
- Trails Day is in June and we could create new trail maps.

Median in Inspiration Lane at Gartrell

- The grass on the median is too tall and is creating a safety hazard by reducing visibility.
- Sarah Warner will ask BrightView for pruning or a proposal for removal of the grasses.
- 14 inches is the City of Aurora standard for plant material height on a median.

There was no additional community comment.

The committee determined that the December meeting may be needed even though it's during a holiday week, in order that too many items don't pile up for the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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