

INSPIRATION LANDSCAPE & COMMON AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

APRIL 19, 2022 | 5:30 P.M.

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

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and the agenda was approved.
- Minutes from the meeting of March 15, 2022 were approved.
- Attendees: Mark Berkstresser, Ralph Charlip, Sue Papke, Kevin Buehner, Aaron Curtiss, Russ Paper, Kathy T., Mike and Brenda Patrick, Robert Moore, Rick Forsman, Tom Norton, Forrest Oldham, Charles Goretsky, Jaymes Mack, Justin Janca, Kate Innes.

Sarah Warner, Landscape and Facilities Superintendent, provided a Common Area Update:

- Landscaping services completed this month include a mulch refresh totaling 110 cubic yards for designated tree rings, aeration, turf fertilization and application of pre-emergent weed control.
- Backflows were drained and the irrigation system was activated but temperatures are still too cold to fully activate the system.
- Replacement trees will be planted in May along with warranty tree replacements.

Jaymes Mack, Maintenance Technician, provided a Maintenance Update:

- Multiple fence repairs were made and some items were fixed at the tennis courts.
- He did a walk with Kevin Buehner to note ghost trees (removed trees) on a map.
- The little free library unit and eight dog stations have been ordered and delivered.
- The pool gate has been repaired.
- Letters that had fallen off a monument sign (S and O) were re-affixed.
- Installation of the irrigation upgrade hardware was completed.
- His backflow re-certification has been achieved.
- Started prepping the Vistas pocket park for grass re-establishment.
- Provided event help for the Spring Fling egg hunt.
- Water service was turned on at pool and we found a freeze break in a low spot of the 3/4" pipe in the pool pump room, we are waiting an estimate for repair.
- The bucket feature pole in the pool has been repainted.

Community Comment & Discussion

- Russ Paper thanked the committee for the continued opportunity to participate from the Finance Committee and asked if any previously unbudgeted items could be pointed out as they are discussed.
- Kevin Buehner noted that the city never seeded or sodded the grass on the SW corner of Inspiration Lane & Gartrell, it's a small strip. Irrigation heads may need to be moved out of the frequent truck damage path.
- Aaron Curtiss will cede the Board Liaison role to one of the newly elected Board Members after the election and will provide mentorship to ensure continuity before his term ends in May 2023.

Project Status items

- Tree replacement - Jaymes, Kevin and Sarah have been working with BrightView to finalize the tree order for scheduled replacement trees, warranty replacement trees, and 'Adopt-a-Trees'. Ghost trees (removed trees) and other trees have been staked / tagged. The final number for this year looks to be 78 trees. Justin Janca updated that a GIS tree map with more data is being created as a prototype with tree info and warranty info.
- Vistas Pocket Park - Jaymes has been tilling the area to prepare it. The soil sample sent to CSU Extension revealed high salt levels, he tilled in soil conditioner and is watering to mitigate. Top soil treatment will be applied as we work to find methods that work well on our non-irrigated areas.
- Fence staining - Simcoe will start staining at the end of this week or the beginning of next week in Filing 8, a map will be sent in the newsletter. Residents can protect items from overspray as a precaution if they're close to the fence, although the vendor is already being careful.
- Playground structure replacement - Justin showed the newly selected color scheme. Installation will be scheduled for the end of summer or early fall, it will require a fenced-off staging area in the parking lot during the installation. The project is tracking at \$15,000 under the reserve fund amount.
- Piney Creek Trail connection - When resubmitting final plan sets, it was discovered the creek bottom had been deeded to the City of Aurora, an expedited agreement at no cost is in process to resolve this. KinderMorgan wants gas line crossovers at a 90 degree angle resulting in some minor changes.
- The new soft surface trails will get six signs for trail courtesy and no motorized vehicles (three facing IMD, 2 facing Livengood Hills, one facing Insp. Drive). Extra police patrols are requested in until the ATV and other activity has been reduced.
- Eight new dog waste stations and the little library are ready for installation. Aaron will install poles on the weekend of May 14th. CAC volunteers will install the stations shortly after. Jaymes will determine the installation process for the library box.
- Equipment purchases - The John Deere Gator delivery was delayed because of one of the options which we've re-selected to get a quicker delivery. A broom attachment will be included. A lawn tractor is already in the storage container and has a plow and cart. A full equipment inventory list including small tools is being created.
- Gartrell safety railing was successfully installed at a cost of \$17,000 and turned out well.
- Pond work is underway, muskrat dens will be remediated along with the annual maintenance. Pond 5 will get a city inspection. Pond 4B, 6U and 6L are also being worked on.
- The committee approved a replacement of our existing four-camera surveillance system at the pool area in order to allow staff to view footage remotely, cost is estimated at \$700, specifications will be submitted to the committee.
- The damaged stonework on the fire pits at Inspiration Club and Hops Garden has been repaired. Stone tops were quoted at \$2,890 for two cultured stone slabs, one rectangular and one round. Game boards could be etched on top for an additional cost. A plumber will cap the gas lines. Sarah will obtain the actual costs.

Project list review

- Kevin shared a project list spreadsheet.
- Volunteers were added to projects including the shrub and perennial replacement and mulch replenishment work days (Aaron and Charles), as well as longer term projects regarding landscaping revegetation plans along Inspiration Lane (Tom and Ralph) and Gartrell (Sue).

Water conservation and irrigation update

- Rick Forsman noted that the City of Aurora is likely to revise their landscaping requirements to address the reality of water scarcity. Two newspaper articles today confirm impacts of regional megadrought on the Rio Grande Rive and the South Platte River.
- We're on target with the seasonal irrigation activation. The large property water variance signs are posted throughout the district to help explain why irrigation occurs outside restricted days/hours that would otherwise apply, this is because of the size and scope of our system. A bulk purchase of spare parts has been made to enable quicker irrigation repairs.
- Aurora Water is providing staff help in the form of interns to help analyze data. We anticipate water savings with the new irrigation hardware which we will be tracking.
- Two water-related classes will be announced next week with opportunities for resident participation.
- Biweekly eBlast articles have been well received and we'll provide more context in future issues with numbers and data regarding the huge area of irrigation responsibility.

Community Building

- A new community building is planned for the site currently occupied by the Toll Brothers temporary building on E. Rockinghorse Parkway.
- A fifth resident committee is forming and a representative has been requested from each of the four existing committees. Sue Papke volunteered to be the designated committee representative.
- Preliminary site plans have been received from our architect and posted on the website. It will include a garage facility for our maintenance needs.
- A pre-submittal meeting with the city will occur on April 28th.

Trail and NAC names

- Mark presented a map of suggested trail names.
- More suggestions will be added and a resident survey created.
- There is an unused installation at the Watering Hole Park intended to hold a trail map.
- Wooden trail signs will be handmade by Mark, they resemble state park signs.

Benches in the community

- The first Adopt-a-Bench memorial bench will be installed soon.

Gartrell parking lot removal

- There is a car turn-out area off Gartrell with a fire access road that has become a nuisance with unauthorized parking and dumping.
- It will be a possible project in a future year to tear out the asphalt and restore the curbs.

More committee members would be welcome to join the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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