

Landscape Meeting Minutes  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

The Landscape Committee Meeting met in the South building Community Room on Tuesday, January 21 at 9AM.

Those present were Cheryl Thompson (Chairperson), Kathy Luce, Ceel Spuhler, Sally Hadden, Donna Wardenian, Jill Jordan, Dee Platt and Gary Izzo (Board Liaison). Gina Furdella, our Condo manager also attended. Diana Blackstone and Frank Thomassino were absent.

Cheryl Thompson stated the Call to Order and Proof of Meeting. Cheryl will remain as Chairperson and Kathy Luce will remain as Co-Chair. Kathy Luce volunteered to be Secretary.

The meeting started by discussion of what the 2014 goals of the Landscape Committee should be due to it's minimal budget of \$900.00 for all plantings and it's replacement budget of \$1500.00 for the year. It was felt that we need to maintain and replace what we have. Many comments were made that the beauty of Creciente's grounds were one of the reasons they bought and that guests also comment favorably. First impressions are important.

Discussion of the Allamandas and dying Bougainvillea at the pool and around the garage walls. Sandy from Green Heron to replace one Allamanda that appears stressed and will fertilize and trench the Bougainvilleas for free as a one time gesture to see if they will bounce back. We should know in 1 month if the pool Bougainvilleas will come back or need to be removed. The Bougainvilleas need a more frequent schedule of fertilizing and we are down to only twice per year instead of four times (for the entire property) due to budget cuts. Gary Izzo suggested to contact Green Heron to find out the cost per fertilization and Cheryl Thompson will follow up. We will also find out if all the garage wall Bougainvilleas are of the same variety due to variations of thriving.

Next order was to choose a ground cover for the Allamandas. A motion was made by Dee Platt to estimate the cost of Leptinella Pusilla Purple Brass Buttons and this was seconded by Sally Hadden.

If the Bougainvilleas at the pool must be removed, the Committee is investigating to replace the area with a hard surface to accommodate more chairs and provide some shaded seating which is lacking for the residents. Cheryl provided basic cost estimates as follows;

- 1) Paver bricks @ app \$4,000.00
- 2) Stamped concrete @ app \$7500.00
- 3) Flagstone @ app \$11,000.00

It was felt that flagstone was too expensive and pavers too unstable for the intended use as well as weeds that might grow in between the bricks. So we will continue to move forward with this as an option to approach the Board but only after considering if the Bougainvilleas die, their maintenance, fertilization and replacement costs to weigh against the cost of stamped concrete. We will also need to determine access and exact cost for the job.

Discussion moved to the Garden Club and it was agreed that they would;

- 1) plant the ground cover around the Alamandas
- 2) mulch the garage deck planters (thru \$ donation instead of Creciente budget)
- 3) transplant 2 offshoot Hope Philodendrons from the North Building to the deck planters

Dee Platt presented plan and cost estimate of 4 sets of 10 lights at approx \$75 per planter. This would be a donation thru the Garden Club and volunteer time from Ken Platt to do the electrical wiring. It was felt that it would really enhance the ambiance of the deck at night for our community to enjoy!

The last discussion was regarding the time it takes from Landscape Committee decision on what to purchase from it's budget and then having to have it Board approved before putting it into action. As an example, it took 3 months to replace a completely empty area by the pool with Hibiscus by the end of 2013 budget. Gary Izzo, Board member, recommended that the Landscape Committee to be autonomous in spending it's budget. We ended on candid talk about actual Landscape budget money vs. personel donations and volunteer time to keep our property at it's best. At some point the budget may have to be adjusted.

Adjournment was at 10:30

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Luce

Secretary, 2014 Landscape Committee