



MSOA received notification from the county that the A1A landscaping project would become our responsibility on June 10th, 2018. This project included areas along the sides of A1A as well as the median strip. The contract that initiated the project was signed in 2015, when conditions in the Hammock were quite different. At the time of agreement to the project, MSOA agreed to fund the on-going maintenance following one year of maintenance by the county.

John and I met with the county representatives, who also viewed all the landscaping. We are in agreement that it looks bad, with a few exceptions. The county has the responsibility of ensuring that their contractor cleans it up, replaces any dead plantings and makes the landscaping ready for turnover to MSOA. Yes, it truly HAS been a year from when the majority of the plantings were done. Most of the plantings **are** maturing; some are distressed but appear to be recovering and a few are dead and will be replaced. You may remember the irrigation trucks brought in last summer to water them.

The county is aware of our view of the landscaping as it looks now. They will hold their contractor responsible for cleaning it up by June 10th. We will maintain the areas after that and will have additional discussion with the county if we feel that it does not look good and is burdensome beyond what we initially contracted to do. We will discuss next steps with them at that time.

The county had the right to replace plants with other plants and to move them from initially noted plant areas. The contract **did not** provide acceptance criteria for MSOA that included a definition of "DONE" and had no other acceptance criteria options for MSOA. The county has not defaulted on their end of the contract at this point, although many may not currently like the landscaping. June 10th will be the date by which it needs to be judged.

As an officer of the MSOA board, I may not agree with, or like all contracts entered into by prior boards; however, it is my responsibility to accept that contracts were entered into with a greater knowledge of the situation at that time and to administer them to the best of my ability in the interests of **all** stakeholders to the contract. The county has spent a great deal of money on this beautification project. This is money "we" willingly accepted and terms that were accepted by virtue of a signed contract. I acknowledge that 2015 was a very different year and our environment looked very different. I will stand by the contract and allow the county to clean it up and give us the opportunity to maintain it as we originally agreed we would.

As I stated earlier, if this does not work out well, I will have additional conversations with the county to come to a mutually acceptable situation.

Karen Hegarty

MSOA Board Vice President