

## GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 20, 2010

Present: Becky Spedden (later half) – chair

Larry Alvarez

Dorothy Darden

Donna Ferreri – recorder

Sybil Hewitt

Diane Nicolas

Elizabeth Woods – Board contact

Barbara Karam – guest

1. Discussion was held regarding the fall planting in the front. Brandon Inman (Houston Lawn) has recommended to Dorothy Darden that we plant Vincas at this time and replace them with Pansies later in the fall. If we decide to go with Pansies in the fall, Houston Lawn's supplier can start growing our plants now so we can have input on the color selection. Diane Nicolas proposed we follow Brandon Inman's recommendation. The decision was made to use a mixture of colors available for the Vincas and to go with mixed colored Pansies with a heavier emphasis on blue and yellow flowers.
2. There was brief discussion of "smart goals". Some ideas suggested were the mapping of the sprinkler system, the reworking of the contract with Houston Lawn for 2011, and the continued effort to improve the appearance of our common areas.
3. It was brought to the committee's attention that no work order from AMI or bill from Houston Lawn in the amount of \$1905.60 has been received to date. This is for the work that was done to the front of the complex recently which included plant replacement and the re-working of the flower beds in the front.
4. Dorothy is to consult Brandon Inman for recommendations as to when to trim Jasmine and to ask him to instruct his workers to pull weeds out of Jasmine on a regular basis.  
Diane Nicolas text this question to Brandon and he later text back the answer as to when to trim Jasmine - SEPTEMBER. Diane will put this on her calendar for September and makes sure Houston Lawn cuts and levels the Jasmine.
5. It was decided that the next contract will allow homeowners to request cleaning of their front gutters (if deemed necessary) when the front gutter cleaning is done annually by Houston Lawn.

Becky Spedden joins meeting.

6. Sybil Hewitt will follow up with the mud district to determine if they own the property in question behind N. Riveria. Sybil also said that the city will ask Renee West to mow every two weeks.

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7. Currently we are being charged \$155 to mow three areas that were previously approved by the Board. These areas are being mowed as a courtesy to the home owner; some have wrought iron fences that adjoin woods or vegetated areas. It was noted that some homes included in the "bunched" addresses cannot (because of trees or property drop offs) and are not being mowed. Becky Spedden requested the invoices be corrected to show actual addresses of homes being mowed without any change to the fee being paid. The homes on N. Riviera that can be mowed have already been determined by Dorothy Darden and Donna Ferreri
8. Sybil Hewitt reported that the vacant lots on S. Primavera were mowed up to the tree line by Renee West.
9. Dutch Uran (master gardener/committee consultant) came into the meeting and presented his plan for the beautification of the front portion of the southwest side of the clubhouse. This plan had been requested by the committee, with the intention of presenting it to the Board upon completion. Recommendations by Dutch Uran were to request \$3500 for cost of work and to begin the landscape work in October/November with the completion being done no later than the end of February. Becky Spedden requested a list of the size and number of plants be provided to her as soon as possible. Ms. Spedden also asked for an approximate cost to complete the landscape work that will extend the rest of the way around the clubhouse by August 10<sup>th</sup> so we will have an estimate to include in our 2011 budget.
10. In an attempt for better oversight of Houston Lawn's contract, responsibilities have been assigned to individual members of the committee. Larry Alvarez will check on the area around the lake and the small island behind the clubhouse. Donna Ferreri will be responsible for checking if homeowner's weeds are being pulled and shrubs trimmed. Sybil Hewitt will check on the mowing, edging and trimming of the common areas, including vacant lots. Dorothy Darden will check to make sure fertilization and disease controlling chemicals are applied per schedule. Diane Nicolas with Dorothy Darden's help will oversee irrigation and the front flower beds. Special assignments will be handled by Becky Spedden. Any problems noted in any of these areas will be directed to Becky Spedden.
11. Dorothy Darden quickly announced that hopefully (weather permitting) the fertilization and chinch bug treatment will be done this week. She found out the island with Palm trees behind the clubhouse does have sprinkler heads (uses well water) and that Houston Lawn will be working to clean up the island this week
12. Becky asked that all members think about our "smart goals" for the Grounds Committee and to write them out before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned; our next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

