

Bel Mare Condominium Association, Inc.

Landscape Committee

2/17/2022 Meeting Notes

Committee Members Present: David Peterson (Board Liaison), Patricia Ewer, Karen Shupe, Thea Tokajer, Giselle (Gigi) Stolper

Committee Members Excused: Wendy McDougal

Also Present: Peter Fehr (Director of Maintenance), Bill Horton (Owner), John Ollsen (Owner)

1. Introductions made by Committee members.
2. Appointment of Committee Chair: Gigi nominated Patricia Ewer who graciously accepted.
3. Review/Discussion of Landscape Budget:
 - A. 2021 landscape actual expenses shared with the Committee by Board Finance Chair Morris Bencini briefly reviewed. The Committee noted its appreciation that expenses associated with dead tree removals and preparation of plant beds for Building 2 painting were removed. It hopes that 2022 landscape expenses associated with Building 1 painting/construction work will be similarly treated.
 - B. The Committee expressed concerns that the landscape budget has remained flat for past 3 years (including 2022) and has not been adjusted to accommodate inflationary increases in plant and labor costs that are already known. The Committee anticipates needing to approach the Board for a small budget increase just to maintain the current 2 annual plantings, irrigation, mulching, palm tree injections and maintenance, trimming, fertilizing and other required plant maintenance.
 - C. The Committee agreed that it will revisit the projected 2022 budget at a future meeting scheduled AFTER it does the walk around and notes landscaping needs.
4. Discussion of Replacement Cactus in lieu of Palm Trees in Amenity Deck Planters:
 - A. John Ollsen and Bill Horton expressed concerns related to 1) change to the appearance of the amenity deck as a result of replacing the Fox Tails with Agave cactus after they were infected with Ganoderma; and 2) reported they had consulted with a locally experienced and certified Master Arborist who stated that: a) with proper cleaning and all new soil and planter lining change, the removed trees could be replaced with new Fox Tails with little risk of re-infection by Ganoderma; or b), using existing new soil in pots, Christmas Palms are a species of Palm that could be installed in planters without concern for re-infection by Ganoderma. No written evidence was submitted to the committee.
 - B. Committee members agreed that the current Agave Cactus in planters were aesthetically displeasing and not in keeping with the tropical/resort feel we want for Bel Mare.

- C. Committee members then inspected the two Agave Cactus in their walk – through and re-affirmed their view that they were unsightly and “underwhelming” and that consideration be given to replacement with either Fox Tail or Christmas Palms, depending on cost and budget constraints. Further consultation with the BelMare Board of Directors and fact finding will be needed on this issue.
 - D. P. Fehr agreed to get pricing on both options (fox tail and Christmas Palm tree costs and installation).
5. Timeline for Spring Planting of Front Beds:
- A. Committee members agreed that this year our Spring/Summer annual plant request for the front of the buildings should be submitted to the Landscaper in March to ensure that we get the type of plants (and colors) that we want.
 - B. Committee members took a preliminary look at pictures of possible annuals and agreed that each would think about color scheme and plants they would like and would **reconvene on March 1 at 10:00 to pick desired annuals.**
6. Walk – Through with Peter F: A comprehensive walk around Bel Mare by the Committee resulted in the following identified areas for future projects:
- A. Raised Planters 24 and 25 be considered for removal of Agave and replacement with Fox Tail or Christmas Palm (depending on cost, budget, and Board Approval)
 - B. Raised Planters 27 and 28: removal of ixora shrubs. Coontie plants should be extended around palms and interspersed with annuals. Consider trailing vinca.
 - C. Ground Level Planter 67 (to left of double doors exiting Building 1 to pool) has to be replanted to remediate large unsightly “dead” spot in center. P. Fehr agreed to ask Landscaper for recommendations and bring back to Committee. (Planter 66 is a companion planter and will need to match.)
 - D. Ground Planter in front of Planter 21 has a large empty space (missing plant) on the Amenity Deck 1. This should be replaced.
 - E. Fill in missing ferns in ground Planter 63 on Amenity Deck 1.
 - F. Remove ornamental grass in ground planters by bathrooms Deck 1.
 - G. Fill in gaps in front low hedge along Riviera Dunes Way with like kind shrub.
 - H. D. Peterson informed Committee members of Board’s concern about hazardous conditions at front gate exit and its consideration of removing shrubs along the entry side of the front gate extending 3 sections on Riviera Dunes Way. The Committee believes it would destroy the aesthetics and symmetry of the gate, reduce visual privacy, and very likely would still not solve visibility and car speeding problem on Riviera Dunes Way. P. Ewer will send email to the Board expressing the Committee’s views and asking that other strategies be considered.

7. Next Meeting: The Committee will meet on **Tuesday, 3/1, 10AM** for purpose of choosing Summer annuals for front circles and guard house and prepare request for submission to management.

Notes taken by Gigi Stolper 02/19/2022