

**Ceres Gleann HOA  
Landscape Committee Minutes**

(February 17, 2014; 3:00 pm at the Community Center)

Committee Members Present: Larry Samuelson, Bob Comella, Bob Thornburg, Jack Carlisle,  
Ruth Bluhm, Linda Holland, Ron Dodge (TAC substitute)

Committee Member Absent: Barbara Kerr

Residents Present: 6

1. Quorum is satisfied.
2. Questions and concerns from Homeowners: There continue to be clean-up issues and there was some question about what was sprayed on a recent landscape maintenance day.  
Larry assured the attendees that he had recently spoken to Carmen about the clean-up issue and she was unaware it was happening.

On the plus side, there were some positive responses regarding their personableness and those homeowners who accompanied the maintenance people on pruning day had more success with pruning issues than those homeowners who did not. Ruth Corsi verified that she has received mixed reviews from the homeowners as well.

**Linda Holland moved that the Landscape Committee sit down with Russell's (Carmen and John, specifically) and discuss these and other issues that are coming up. The motion was seconded by Ruth Bluhm. Motion passed.**

Ruth Bluhm volunteered to schedule this meeting as soon as possible.

Jack Carlisle mentioned that the dead tree is still partially standing in the empty lot on Rhododendron. Larry Samuelson agreed to call Ron Hannegan, lot owner, to ask that it be removed before lot mowing will commence in the Spring.

3. **Bob Comella moved that the January minutes be approved. Seconded by Bob Thornburg. Motion passed.**

Linda Holland will send minutes to Denise Seith AND will place a copy in the minutes binder in the clubhouse.

- 4a. Larry Samuelson submitted a draft of the new construction checklist to the committee members. The committee was asked to add or alter the checklist so that this checklist could be handed to project managers and owners of homes to be built. The idea of the checklist is to state up front the HOA requirements for landscaping BEFORE they begin the building and landscaping process. Bob Comella volunteered to include specifications for planting street trees. Committee Members will submit their suggestions for this checklist at the March Landscaping Committee meeting.
- 4b. Ruth Corsi, passed out documents she printed off the internet regarding snow mold and red thread, lawn conditions seen in Ceres Gleann. The documents indicated under what environmental and/or manmade conditions these diseases are created and how they can be ameliorated.

Bob Thornburg suggested that these documents on snow mold and red thread be included in the Landscape Manual and on the Website.

- 5a. Linda Holland addressed some issues found in the Landscape Manual and believed strongly that the manual should be reviewed by all members before putting it on the website and before passing it out and/or calling it a final project. There was some discussion about whether it should be done a little bit at a time or if it should be revised in its entirety all at one time.

**Bob Thornburg moved that Ruth Bluhm and Linda Holland review the manual and bring the revisions back to the committee for review and discussion. Bob Comella seconded. Motion passed.**

- 5b. Checklist was discussed in old business.

- 5c. Linda Holland suggested that the entire committee should be interested in how the Landscaping HOA budget is being spent and would like to have a breakdown of expenses each month so that we can articulate this information to our HOA membership in the event we are asked and to just be more knowledgeable. Linda Holland suggested that since our committee is responsible for the biggest bill that the HOA has, that it behooves us to be more alert to our financial responsibilities. Larry Samuelson reminded Linda Holland that while our Landscaping bill is huge, our budget is not.

Budget items that we can anticipate in the future include replacing oversized street trees with more size-appropriate street trees.

Larry Samuelson requested that Russells be asked to do this work and Bob Comella agreed to call Russells for this future service. There are between 15 and 20 street trees still needing to be replaced because of their extensive growth habits.

Discussion ended with no motion and no decision.

5d. Ruth Bluhm suggested that Russell's Newsletter be reviewed by two people before it is sent out to the homeowners. It is agreed that whatever is in the Newsletter should be as accurate as possible so that homeowners are clear on what is being said and are not being misled. There was some discussion about how to do this efficiently and deliberately. One suggestion was to send it out through Announcements and Reminders since Russell's newsletter does not arrive in time for the CG Newsletter.

**Linda Holland moved that when Ruth Bluhm and Larry Samuelson receive information from Russells, they evaluate it and decide how to disseminate it.**

**Bob Thornburg seconded. Motion passed.**

5e. Ruth Bluhm indicated we should evaluate Russell's services monthly. (Due to the time constraints and other pressing issues on the agenda, this topic will be more fully discussed at the March meeting.)

5f. Ruth Bluhm indicated there were three trees (instead of the required two) planted in the backyard of the new house on Lynchet. Larry Samuelson explained all the work that has gone into communicating with the landscape architect thus far and expressed frustration at the difficulty of doing so for a variety of reasons. Evenso, it is believed that the three trees may be acceptable based on size and location.

5g. Ruth Bluhm volunteered to send information to Russells as to which homeowners would like to have their lawns thatched in mid-April at a cost of \$90.00 for inside lots and \$140.00 for corner lots. She will also find out which homeowners wish barkdust be applied at the end of March for \$50/yard for fir and \$60/yard for hemlock. It is understood that if many people wish barkdust, the price will reflect that. She also agreed to ask Russells for suggestions on how we can rejuvenate our winter-damaged lawns.

**Linda Holland moved that Ruth Bluhm communicate with Russells regarding rejuvenating our lawns, and in identifying which residents wish the barkdusting and thatching services this Spring. Jack Carlisle seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

5h. Replacement of photocells. (Due to time constraints, this issue was not discussed and will be placed on the March agenda.)

**Bob Comella moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Thornburg seconded. Motion passed.**

Submitted by Linda Holland, Acting Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_