

Conservation Committee Minutes/Report
September 21, 2015 meeting

In attendance: Karen Anderson, Jan Burkhart, Cheri Calvert, Judy Dauchy, VeeAnn Finnemore, Marleah Llewellyn, ~~Sandi Mottau~~, Greg Ware

A) Minutes: The committee still needs to approve the September minutes.

B) Reports

1) Water Usage: Clean River Rewards Application.

No further information at this time. The latest information is in the September minutes.

2) Water usage:

Sprinkler System

- John Vecchio, with some assistance from Greg Ware, has developed a detailed map of our sprinkler system. The map includes the locations of all controllers and valves, and areas serviced by each valve. As noted in the September minutes, we discovered that the majority of our sprinkler heads have been updated by our rotator heads, apparently much the most efficient, as opposed to spray heads. The exceptions are the manually controlled areas

Action: Greg will discover if any of the five controllers have smart rain sensors, and will get an estimate for installing such sensors.

Action: Discover if the manually controlled sprinklers, in front of units 642, 646, 701, 705, 709 and 715, are rotator or spray. (Need a committee member to volunteer)

The Committee reconfirmed its recommendation to the Landscape Committee that lawn and bed watering times be reduced 25% starting next year's sprinkling cycle, and that further decreases or increases of watering times be based on regular observations.

Low flow toilets.

- The Committee believes it has addressed this topic and no more committee action is needed. However, since there are always changes in unit ownership, the committee encourages the editors of the Riverhouse Newsletter to, at least annually, remind and encourage HOA members towards water conservation practices.

3) Converting the area on the corner of Tomahawk Island Drive and North Hayden Bay Drive to a more sustainable landscape.

- The Committee continues to work on this project, including developing designs, collecting images of sites and plants, developing a line item budget, outlining workflow and labor needed, etc. etc. We discussed and decided to further divide the project into four smaller projects that could be tackled sequentially over time, and would create a unified, coherent whole when complete.

Action: Greg and Judy will take the lead on dividing the site into four separated projects. We will reach out to members of the committee for assistance to ensure we have a well-considered robust plan.

4) Communication

- Sandi Mottau has created a wonderful, informative display of images of drought resistant plantings/landscaping to demonstrate possible directions for Riverhouse landscaping. The display board has been installed in the Pool House for all to see.

Action: Judy will get some cost estimates about stone and an estimate about sod remove.

Action: Greg will add the existing cost estimates in to the emerging budget.

Action: Greg will touch base with EMSWCD to confirm availability of a 50/ 50 project grant and to see if their bylaws have changed regarding condo eligibility for smaller grants.

- We are still working on creating a visual matrix of the Conservation Committee's projects.

Action: Judy and Greg develop the project matrix before the October Board meeting. Still pending.

5) Other Issues/Questions

Solar Energy

Action: Greg will check on where the legislature is regarding a resolution that would allow individual members of an HOA to install solar panels.

Organic versus Inorganic landscaping and maintenance

- Some members of the committee raised the question whether Riverhouse was going to commit to organic lawn and maintenance strategies or not.

Action: the search committee, in charge of recommending the hire of a landscape company, has asked the candidates for a cost difference between the two approaches.

C) The Committee's next meeting is currently scheduled for November 16th, 7:00 pm.

Please note: This meeting needs to be rescheduled to accommodate a presentation from one of our potential landscape companies.

Respectfully Submitted
Greg Ware