

This report is arriving late because the writer has been engaged in deep thought about how best to represent this month's activities. Unfortunately there has arisen regrettable contention about how the Committee performs.

Committee members work diligently to care for many emerging problems throughout the campus. We carefully select highest priorities to tackle on behalf of the Board and Owners. Our decisions and recommendations are based on knowledge of intricacies of Village systems and infrastructure. We observe on-the-ground conditions; study, test and analyze according to issues which need attention; and seek options based on the best information we are able to glean. We are open to receiving additional input but are not obligated to recommend courses of action which counter the sum of best practices as we understand them to be. We do not consider ourselves to be infallible. Recently we are on record having to correct a misinterpretation concerning pruning. We are able to admit mistakes and move on.

Committee members are a diverse group, bringing a variety of needed skills, knowledge and perspectives. We do not always agree but generally come to consensus about most things. We record motions to document decisions concerning substantial matters. We approach our tasks not from personal/immediate perspectives, but with a mind toward broad impacts for perpetuity. We strive earnestly to facilitate communication between Owners and Management concerning landscape questions. We have thought our work genuinely should assist the Board as well as ease the load carried by Management.

Here's the month's summary of Landscape Committee activities ...

Met on first Monday at 2:00 p.m. Entertained comments from a disgruntled Owner. Found it necessary to interrupt and cut short his presentation. This meeting began at 2:00 and adjourned at 4:30. Some members remained to debrief.

Inventoried conditions in turf at tree wells throughout the campus. We are beginning a thorough evaluation process in order to offer recommendations to Board.

Carefully observed conditions in each reporting ZONE regarding contract compliance by NLS. Reported noncompliance and additional concerns to Management with recommendations / requests for actions.

Received an updated irrigation schedule from NLS.

Received report from Tree Committee.

No new activity at Native Vegetation Plot. Irrigation is sufficient. Eventually we anticipate a second phase to fill out the design.

No new activity at Country Club embankment. One plant has failed. Irrigation is supplemented by hand-watering at far West end.

LC wishes to continue submitting articles to SVOA Newsletter in a sincere effort to inform Owners about our important work so that they are not surprised by necessary undertakings. We only can hope that Owners/residents will read and respond appropriately with their questions and concerns.

Following expressions by Owners whose water bills were escalating alarmingly, and who were disturbed by the amount of water soaking their properties and spraying hard surfaces, the committee surveyed properties served by gang timers. There were MANY problems. One member observed during night hours when most of us are unaware of spray patterns. Another member made corrections to one property with the Owner's consent. Gang timers are very troublesome. LC co-chair asked Management to have NLS cease irrigation at gang timers for one week's cycle to allow boggy conditions to subside. It was not a frivolous recommendation.

Landscape Committee members realize that it is not possible to please everyone. Where properties are linked by gang timers conflicts become acute.

Therefore LC urges the Board to offer Owners a way to remove their irrigation systems from those controls.

LC has learned that costs should be minimal. In some cases there may be unforeseen complications which could raise costs at some sites.

We recommend that Management set up a special rate through any competent Provider. Management should explain & communicate the offer, giving a time frame for affected Owners to respond and for Provider to complete the job.

Closing thoughts ...

The Landscape Committee is not "out of control" as has been asserted. Neither does it have a "hidden agenda." It has, however, articulated a vision for the campus to be healthy, lush and beautiful while requiring far less watering, pruning and mowing, all of which are very costly. Trees, shrubs and plants do overgrow and die. Sidewalks do heave. Roots do invade. Irrigation and other infrastructures do fail.

The Landscape Committee has utilized communication channels at its disposal to inform Owners about serious matters and to invite thoughtful responses. These include Minutes & Reports; Association

newsletters; an informative Bulletin Board; Invitations to New Owners; and a full presentation was offered at the last Annual Meeting of the Association.

Landscape Committee members expend great amounts of time, energy and personal resources to serve this community. We take our charges, according to our Charter, seriously. We consult many resources to guide our tasks. We deserve to be respected even (**especially**) when we must make difficult/controversial decisions.

We have lost talented, knowledgeable, caring committee members who do not wish to be overburdened by political concerns or to be subjected to unkind treatment. Current LC members are feeling fragile. **On this date our Co-Chair Richard Miller resigns from the Co-Chair position. Please make note in the record.**

The writing of this report has consumed nearly all of a day, including ruminating over it during my vacation trip and pondering it ceaselessly since our July LC meeting. Phone calls, consultations and research have been involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreene Carpenter
Landscape Committee Chair

July 12, 2017

p.s. At last month's Board meeting our report was submitted for the Board's consideration. A request from the floor caused me to read it to the audience. If such a request occurs again, please would a Board member read it on behalf of the LC.