

SVOA Landscape Committee
2 p.m. May 12, 2015

While awaiting arrival of our guest the committee agreed to change our meeting dates to Tuesdays a full week before Board meetings. New dates are 6/2, 6/30, 8/4 and 9/1/2015 in the Club House meeting room at 2:00 p.m. A special meeting will convene at 2:00 Thursday, May 28 if ARC committee is available. Chair Richard Miller will invite them.

Rex Dodge, NLS Enhancement Supervisor for Oregon, took questions from the committee. He described the process of removing candles from mugo pines vs. selective pruning early in the year to control their growth. It is not possible to reduce the size of a mugo without damaging it. Too-large pines may need to be removed and replaced. Our concern is mostly along Country Club Drive, where it is important to provide privacy and sound buffering, though other mugos on the campus also may be becoming out-of-scale. Laurels benefit and will recover from aggressive pruning.

Rex suggests that a community such as ours is wise to have a long-range landscape design plan. Especially regarding trees he suggests a 2-5-10-year plan taking into account several tree characteristics: hazards; disease & pest identification; structural health (pruning); space adequacy; root conditions. The Extension service or city arborist could be consulted. Also, NLS has design and architect resources. An initial consultation with a rendering is free of charge. It can help determine how involved a campus-wide plan may be, how to phase the options and how far to proceed. Cost is incurred for a buildable set of plans.

Rex described processes to improve turf conditions. First is to take core samples then consider options. This will be done beginning May 14 along with our scheduled aeration-thatching-seeding treatments. Options include to aerate and seed with lime (to balance acidity and make fertilizer effective) and to introduce sand. Rex will be on campus Thursday, May 14.

NLS Jim Zauner is a resource for horticulture health and broadleaf treatments (spraying.)

Specific concerns from the committee were shared with Rex. Barbara volunteers to be present when irrigation along Country Club and 49th, especially along the sidewalk near the bus stop and along the lane leading to the bus stop, is being assessed. Rex mentioned that usually an irrigation technician's services are provided outside the normal maintenance schedule. Dick mentioned height of plants around the club house. The committee requests that pruning crews be clearly informed about pruning standards according to the maintenance contract. The committee expressed appreciation for Rex's attendance at our meeting.

Kurt reported two quotes for bark mulch. The better offer is from Lane Forest Products, Eugene, at \$224/unit. The other is from The Bark Place at \$300/unit. Kurt will schedule with Lane Forest Products to apply mulch after plant removals.

Kurt reported that only one bid was received to remove failed plants. **The committee asked Kurt to accept Shonnard's proposal (attached) and to add six more shrubs at the South end of 49th Street to the job.** The committee requests to be informed when Shonnard schedules shrub removals.

Kurt reported that Shonnard informs us that the cost is about \$2000 to lay down irrigation pipe over St John's wort and that it is difficult to maintain, as well as costly to remove seasonally.

Kurt reported that Gaia will spray Track K three times this season and remove dead clumps. About 30 bushes will be removed; sedges will remain. An area 6' wide and 3" deep will be covered with 1-1/2" rock. Gaia suggests bark to cover the lower part of the berm as well as over the higher side. Grass is more maintenance-intensive.

Good Earth Pest Company is eradicating rats and mice for \$80 over two months. No active nutria or skunk is evident.

Barbara and Lyn brought to the committee's attention the unmaintained South border running from 45th to 49th behind landscape plantings. They request that committee members visit the area, especially at the 49th street end and at the stub of Dahlia, before our June 2 meeting. Weeds, oak sprouts, lupine, viburnum etc. are growing within the shrub areas. They require hand pulling. Do we want to maintain or leave that strip seedy and unkempt? What is our level of satisfaction & tolerance?

Regarding Exemptions from front yard service, the existing practice is to have all the landscaping services or to have nothing except lawn care, which never is exempted. Owners who choose exemption are responsible for their own pruning as well as planting bed maintenance. Logistics to personalize services are too complicated. The committee could draft a request form to owners making this clear, while informing them that their maintenance must match the standards set forth in the landscape contract.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20. Next meeting is 2:00 May 28 with members of ARC. Next regular meeting is 2:00 June 2.