

Nepenthe Grounds Committee Meeting
August 15, 2019 3:00 PM
Nepenthe Clubhouse

Present were:

Don Landsittel, Committee Co-Chair	Christina George, BOD Liaison
David Culbertson, Coast (portion)	Juliana Brown, Coast Site Manager (portion)
Steve Huffman, Committee Secretary	
Paul Dubois, The Grove (portion)	Marty Henderson, Irrigation
Diane Luttrell, Zone 1	Ron Holehouse, Zone 1
Diane Durawa, Zone 2	Liza Tafoya, Zone 3 (portion)
Yvonne del Biaggio, Zone 3	Joleen Hecht, Zone 3
Iris Bettencourt, Zone 4	Pam Sechrist, Zone 5
Kathy Waugh, Zone 6	Joan Trotta, Zone 6
Solvieg Toft, Zone 7	

Not Present:

Christina Romero, Facilities Manager
Valerie Layne, Zone 2
Joan Haradon

Guests:

Carol Duke Dorothy Hagen Pamela DiMaggio Dianne Stafford Anne Marder

The meeting was called to order by **Don Landsittel** at 3:02 PM.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as written on a motion by **Diane Durawa** and seconded by **Solvieg Toft**.

The guests introduced themselves.

Coast Report on General Contract

Juliana Brown of Coast reported recently turf had been aeriated and fertilized. She said the remediation of areas where trees had been removed approved by the board would be accomplished in September.

Marty emphasized the need to complete irrigation projects in Zones 1 and 2 timely so we can be assured the City will reimburse the cost.

Don told Coast of the need to get the removed tree remediations done soon. **Steve** reminded the group that no one knows what the backlog of such sites is. **Don** said he

had received from **Paul** a list of trees removed in 2018, which he said would be a first step toward the identification of all such sites.

Next the committee considered seven proposals for additional tree removal remediations at

- 700 Dunbarton, (to be deferred)
- 711 Elmhurst,
- 1009 Dunbarton,
- 306 Dunbarton,
- 704 Dunbarton,
- 1112 Dunbarton,
- 1433 Commons and
- 2247 Swarthmore.

The committee agreed to defer the one at 700 Dunbarton. The other proposals, costing a total of \$7,895, were approved upon a motion by **Jolene** and seconded by **Yvonne**.

Tree Work

Paul DuBois of The Grove began his report with a discussion root barriers. He said they are best installed when a tree is planted.

He reported on his survey of trees in Zone 7. He presented each recommendation in detail and answered members' questions. His recommended remedies ranged from structural pruning, the reduction of the smaller top of a codominant redwood, to weight reduction pruning, to aphid control, to fruit reduction, and to removal. Recommended removals were for trees 2106 and 2107, birches, next to 1599 University.

Paul will re-write his recommendations in the form of a quote for the board's approval at its September meeting for a total cost of approximately \$12,473. A motion from **Solvieg** and seconded by **Kathy** passed to accept the proposal.

Bulb Plantings

Juliana proposed planting bulbs at the monuments soon for spring color for a cost of \$1,910. Some members favored the idea, while others expressed concern about using labor for not only planting, but later the need to tend the beds when the bulbs would fade. A motion was made by **Solvieg** and seconded by **Yvonne** to accept the proposal. The votes were 5 aye and 6 nay. The motion was defeated.

Paul, Juliana and **David** then departed the meeting.

Remediation vs. General Maintenance

Don stated that remediation had been accomplished in Zones 5, 6 and 7 of dead plants which were Coast's responsibility. He contrasted that work with dead plants Coast had inherited from before their arrival. The cost of those is Nepenthe Association's responsibility. **Pam** questioned the wisdom of doing replanting in August. There was a long discussion of Coast's performance. Another subject was how zone stewards are to communicate with the office – via email. **Don** encouraged stewards to be specific in their requests. **Steve** said some general comments might be appropriate when, for example, weeding was needed over a wide area.

Joan Trotta expressed frustration with the general appearance of the grounds, and in particular Zone 6.

Zone Steward Job Description

Don referred the committee to a draft description he had emailed the day before and asked members to send him comments and suggested changes via email. He commended the work of **Liza, Pam** and **Iris** that led to the draft.

Guest Comment

Don asked for comments. **Carol Duke** replied by saying that in her view Coast is not living up to their contract. Many areas look bad, and she gave examples of substandard work.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Huffman, Secretary

Edits by,
Don Landsittel, Co-Chair

Requests for Board Action

- Approve remediation of seven areas where trees have been removed for \$7,895.
- Approve tree work in Zone 7 for approximately \$12,473.

Next Grounds Committee meeting September 19 at 3:00 PM at Nepenthe Clubhouse