

Grand Lakes Green Committee

Meeting Date: October 8, 2017, 4-5:30pm

Committee Members in Attendance: Leigh Anne Goerland, Nazim Guendil, Julie Bush

Meeting Minutes

Old Business:

Community Garden:

Recap Info: Leigh Anne contacted the Fort Bend Master Gardners regarding what to do when a garden has flooded. They recommended removing all plants, applying 4-5" of compost (do not till in), let sit for 120 days with no activity, send soil samples, then plant if all is well. We requested a quote from IMS for plant removal & compost lay down. Additionally, our newsletter article was approved; the article asks for feedback regarding how residents would like to see garden managed and how it has been used in the past 24 months.

Meeting update: We met with Denise Dibble and discussed how her 5th grade Girl Scouts juniors troop could assist with the community garden rehab/revitalization for their bronze award. Ideas included having the scouts assist with planting of vegetable plants, flowers, or butterfly/pollination plants, or helping with purchase of signage. We will regroup with Denise to discuss further details in January once we have resident feedback.

Target dates are as follows:

- October - Obtain IMS quote and gain Board approval
- November - Planned plant removal/compost lay down; clock starts NOW for 120 days of no planting in beds
- November & December - Obtain resident feedback; newsletter, social media, and signage at garden (Leigh Anne)
- January - Review feedback and develop recommendation for Board for simple guidelines on community garden usage and next steps; obtain Board approval
- February & March - Further planning on next steps
- March - 120 days COMPLETE; send soil samples to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for testing
- April - target for planting!

Recycling at Events:

Recap Info: All Around Bounce (allaroundbounce.com; they do the event bouncy houses) handles our event trash as a courtesy. Leigh Anne called them (866-931-7883)

and they said they would be happy to haul recycles to some place local, and would not charge to do so. Currently All Around Bounce takes the trash to a dumpster at their location. Also, the representative confirmed that the HOAs provide the trash bins/bags for the events.

Two options were discussed.

1. All Around Bounce to take the recycles to a location Best Trash recommends
2. PMG collects recycles and places them in a recycle bin at the pool nearest the event; Best Trash picks up the recycles on Thursday (GL recycle day)

Action: Leigh Anne will email Best Trash to get their input on these options.

Action: Julie to research options for 3-4 recycle bins to put out at the events.

Recycle Center Tour:

Recap Info:

Per Grand Lakes MUD 4, there are two processing centers Best Trash uses: 1. Waste Management: 713-461-9933. 2. ITR: 832-333-3300.

Leigh Anne contacted Waste Management and talked to Sherrell Cordas (713-365-2163; scordas@wm.com) in WM public affairs. WM offers tours at their facility off HW 90 at South Post Oak. (The Gasmer Recycling Center - 4939 Gasmer Dr, Houston, TX 77035). That facility is the "middle man" and does the sorting/packaging of recycling coming in. They have a large education room there, and we would see the facility from large glass windows. We would need to make a reservation with Ms. Cordas. Tours are offered M-F 8am-5pm - last tour needs to start by 3:30pm; 10am is when ppl typically do tours. Note: in order to book a tour we need to have a few people coming to justify WM taking her time; 4 ppl is fine.

Waste Management also has a website www.rorr.com that has tips on recycling.

The following Potential dates for a WM tour were discussed at the meeting: Fri Nov 3rd, Fri Nov 17th, Fri Dec 1st. Proposed time 10am. *Leigh Anne to check with Vicki.*

Christmas Tree Recycling:

The Wildlife Committee will not recommend utilizing trees as fish habitat in the lakes this year, per Cecil Jones, wildlife committee member. Julie voiced concerns that our lakes are shallow and placing trees in the lakes could cause people to get their fishing lines tangled up in the Christmas trees. She also noted that adding organic content (trees) to the lakes may increase the algae issues that we already combat.

The committee discussed the option of offering mulching. Considerations included

uncertainty in resident participation rate, variability in when residents dispose of trees, and cost. We decided to table this item for now due to other more pressing post-Harvey issues.

Draft details of mulching, were we to pursue it:

- 2 locations (parking lots at Frog Pool and Lazy River Pool)
- Mon, January 1 to Fri, January 5 resident drop off. (note: program for GL residents only). Saturday, January 6th pick-up by Best Trash.
- Cost considerations: Best Trash provided a quote of \$300-\$500 to take the trees to Sprint Landfill where they would be mulched. If we decide to landfill the trees due to a low number collected, Best Trash would pick them up for free. Minimal notice (within week) is needed for the special pickup, which would be on a Saturday. The committee tentatively agreed that if < 40-50 trees were collected we would recommend landfilling due to lack of cost benefit.

New Business:

- Leigh Anne will write the “Green Corner” article for the December issue. Due date October 20th.
- Nazim will write the article for the January issue. Due date November 20th.
- The Common Area Sprinklers item was deferred to our next meeting. Nazim has requested information from PMG/IMS regarding a map or schedule of watering; we are awaiting receipt of the information.

Spring Litter Pickup:

The committee reviewed the KISD calendar and Easter dates. Saturday, March 3, 2018 = recommended event date. Saturday, April 7, 2018 = rain date. *Leigh Anne to get Board approval and email out the litter pick-up check-list.*

Next Steps:

Leigh Anne will attend the Monday October 9th HOA meeting to bring the above items to the Board for input, as needed.

Next meeting Sunday, November 12th or 19th at 4pm same location.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.