

Grand Lakes Green Committee

Meeting Date: September 28, 2016, 9-10:30am

Committee Members in Attendance: Leigh Anne Goerland, Patrick Friend, Larry Lucarelli, Grace Young Baechle

Meeting Minutes

The meeting started at 9:07am.

Old Business:

1. Leigh Anne shared the following updates from the HOA meeting she and Larry attended on Monday:

The below green initiatives have been implemented in Grand Lakes to date:

- The GL common area sprinkler system has been upgraded from a conventional to a centrally managed system. 95% of the irrigation can be managed via laptop wirelessly, and weather stations help determine whether or not to water based on recent rainfall.
- Lake Management does Christmas tree recycling. Trees picked up on the announced recycle date are put in the GL lakes for fish habitat. We have not reached the participation limit in past years (only so many trees can be recycled each year as to not overwhelm the lakes).
- Curbside recycling is implemented via the GL MUD districts. GL solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and shingle policies are in effect; the Board stated that legislative laws a few years back prompted their development.

The Board indicated they will discuss and provide us with their decision on a liaison before the October HOA meeting. The Board is working on putting together the budget for 2017. They asked the committee to send some ball park numbers to Erica Morgan in the next 2-3 weeks.

Regarding the survey, if we want a mention in an EOY mailing then we will need to have our wording and survey ready by the end of October. The Board also mentioned a MUD mailing as another avenue of resident communication.

Email approval of web site and newsletter content is acceptable. Committee meeting dates and events may be posted on social media; all other content is to be approved first.

2. Larry shared his research on a BOPA campaign and pricing. The contact information at FB County is Stacy Slawinski stacy.slawinski@fortbendcountytexas.gov; phone: 281-663-7500. Larry spoke with Jack Ranney, HHW Account Manager at Stericycle Environmental Solutions. john.ranney@STERICYCLE.com Ph: (512) 663-2090

Recommendation for BOPA Concept: Schedule 2 Stericycle staff to manage BOPA event, 6-8 community volunteers to assist with car offloading of latex paints and for bulking and packaging of latex paints received. Disposal cost is dependent on the number of resident households that participate in the event and quantity of paints collected. Below is a preliminary budget:

Latex Paint Recycling/Fuel Blending

Assumes 200 Households participating (7%) each bringing 25 lbs. of paint = 5,000 lbs. of paint

Bulked: 10-55g drums @ \$221.23 = \$2,212.30

Supplies: 10-55g drums @ \$30.87 = \$308.70

Visqueen: \$97.24

PPE: \$200

Mobilization: \$324.13

Labor: 2 Technicians @ \$38.07/hour = \$304.56 (4 hour event)

Dumpster: \$850 (20 CY dumpster for empty paint cans and dried paint cans) This cost is an estimate, contact MSW service provider and request they provide a dumpster as a customer service.

Total Preliminary Estimate: \$4,297 (\$21.49 per participating household)

Note: Total cost is dependent on the quantity of paints received.

If the collection event can be partnered by Fort Bend County and the waste paint can be taken to Fort Bend County HHW collection center, this will generate a cost savings of approximately \$22.70 per 55g drum of paint, for a total cost savings of \$227.50.

3. Patrick informed us that Grand Lakes is in the "Greater Katy Area", not a part of the City of Katy, but within the City of Houston's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) and that Houston has the ability to annex it in the future should it so wish.

New Business:

1. Leigh Anne will draft Green Committee webpage content for www.grandlakeslife.com
2. Leigh Anne will create a Green Committee email address.
3. Team picture taken at next meeting. Location TBD.
4. Grace will post meetings and event information on social media (Facebook Grand Lakes and Nextdoor Grand Lakes ONLY.)
5. Some programs to look into: www.Recyclebank.com to receive financial incentives for recycling and share with community. "Read, Deed, Run" at RAE this fall. October 5th is National Cycle to School Day. *Action on "Read Deed Run": a good deed could be doing a litter collection with parental supervision somewhere in the neighborhood. The action on National Cycle to school Day: a) flag it up as a green alternative to going to school by car (parent can cycle with the kids too!) and b) a great way to get some exercise! Why not think about continuing the practice when the weather permits?*

6. We have defined our priorities for 2017. See table below. Many of the ideas are postponed for future consideration.

Next Steps:

1. Next step is to finalize our priorities and create a budget at the next meeting and submit to the Board for approval.
2. Following a 2017 budget, we will create a survey and submit to the Board for approval.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 12th 2016, 9-10:30am.

Meeting adjourned 10:55am.

Green Committee Idea List

Priority Focus (Note: Ideas are not ranked)	Category	Pros, Cons, Questions and Comments
1. Review GL's environmental impact in particular on the watershed (Review use of fertilizers, pesticides, plants, and water usage).	Landscaping Practices / Water Conservation	<p>What plants already out there are native vs. not? What landscaping areas use the most water? - would need to understand to quantify benefit. Could be costly to re-landscape areas if they are not already seasonal. Potential to work with new Beautification Committee. We could work on this on a "go forward" basis - meaning focusing on naturalizing as plants die over time.</p> <p>Review of water usage in the common areas. (time of day, rain sensors) <i>Action: Obtain agreement from Board to request information from Landscaping and water management contractors</i></p>
2. Work to extend/add sidewalks (for example across Buffalo Bayou on Peek on west side of road) to make for more friendly walking and biking community.	Transportation	<p>Peek and Fry Roads in Grand Lakes. Add Bicycle Friendly Signs. Investigate cost/legality of adding Bicycle Friendly Signs. <i>Action: Patrick will survey to propose areas and draft some ballpark cost numbers.</i></p>
3. Have a community event to celebrate Earth Day (April 22). Some ideas include: planting trees, providing a community service project for the Girl or Boy Scouts troops in the Grand Lakes neighborhood.	Education/Sense of Community	<p>What kind of turnout have recent GL community events had? Earth Day seems a natural fit for our mission. Potential for collaboration with Events Committee. Where are trees in GL needed? Satellite images could provide perspective. What is the replanting policy when GL trees die? Where would we get the trees from? <i>Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2017 in lieu of National (and Texas) Arbor Days. Action: Grace to research other community Earth Day events and draft some ballpark cost numbers.</i></p>
4. Easier access to waste (paints, motor oils, etc.) removal by working with TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), county, or waste management company.	Trash/Recycling	<p>We have had residents mention to us that they would like to see paint recycled. <i>Larry has a quote for a BOPA event.</i></p>
5. Conduct a hard to recycle residential drive (potentially coinciding with GL garage sales - clean out for the garage sale then recycle the items that aren't saleable/donateable) - e.g. electronics, packing peanuts, worn clothes, etc.	Trash/Recycling	<p>Could also post list of local locations accepting these items online. <i>Action: Larry will look into the cost of an electronics recycling event.</i></p>

6. Add additional trash bins where needed and add recycling bins in Grand Lakes common areas (ex. parks and pools)	Trash/Recycling	Would Best Trash pickup recycle from common area recycle bins? What type of common area recycling bins would we need to ensure trash is not put in them? What locations in GL are in most need of trash cans? <i>Action: Leigh Anne will draft some ballpark cost numbers. Also inquire who picks up trash from common area bins currently - Best Trash? - and how frequently?</i>
Green Tips for Website	Category	Pros, Cons, Questions and Comments
1. Provide recycling and other tips in the Grand Lakes monthly newsletter and on the website.	Education/Sense of Community	Easy to do
2. Engage and educate the students that attend Grand Lakes schools.	Education/Sense of Community	What kind of engagement are we envisioning? Alexander has a RAE Green Team, so recommend we work through them. Not sure if Griffin has any programs/committees. <i>Support and promote RAE - "Read, Deed, Run" program</i> (one of the good deeds could be doing a litter collection with parental supervision somewhere in the neighborhood) <i>and National Bike/Walk to school day.</i>
3. Link to the green info promoted on the MUD website from our Green page on grandlakeslife.com - MUD info includes rain barrel info, sprinkler checkup info, etc.	Education/Sense of Community	
4. Promote TerraCycle (mail in program to recycle normally non-recyclable items - toothpaste tubes, pens, etc.) and FreeCycle (give away items to other people to avoid discarding items in the trash)	Education/Sense of Community	Suggest include as tip in newsletter/on web.
5. Promote vanpooling - link on our Green Committee page	Transportation	Suggest include as tip in newsletter/on web.
FOLLOW UP ITEMS:	Category	Pros, Cons, Questions and Comments
Clean up trash in the neighborhood - either resident run, boy scouts/girl scouts service project invitations, hire out, etc.	Trash/Recycling	How often is litter picked up along 99 feeder roads by the county? Could landscaping crews pick up litter as they tend the plants? Litter can become especially problematic along Fry and along 99. What is the greatest cause of the trash? <i>Action: Leigh Anne to look into how we can get "Don't Mess with Texas Signs". Who is responsible?</i>

		<i>picking up trash by intersection of Fry Rd & 99? [Research item for 2017] Link to "Read, Deed, and Run" → Consider picking up trash.</i>
Promote "Texas Wildscapes" – backyard habitats	Landscaping Practices	Would this be a better fit for the Wildlife Committee to pursue if they so desired? Or perhaps collaborate. None of the committee members have experience with this yet. <i>Action: Leigh Anne to reach out to Wildlife committee to suggest this idea for their future consideration.</i>
Get info from Best Trash on top 10 items put in recycle bin that they don't accept to bring awareness of our being overly optimistic about what can actually be recycled	Trash/Recycling	<i>Action: Larry to arrange for tour of facility.</i>
Encourage rain barrels – investigate if there are MUD incentives to a certain percentage of GL homes having barrels	Water Conservation	<i>Action: Leigh Anne to follow up with MUD to find out if an incentives program exists. [Research item for 2017]</i>
Discuss with MUDs adding drought notification signs and/or post on social media what drought stage we are in and what water conservation they recommend to promote awareness among residents of our rainfall status and conservation needs.	Water Conservation	<i>Action: Leigh Anne to follow up with MUD regarding drought notification signs/process. [Research item for 2017]</i>
Offer uprooted plants to residents on seasonal color changes	Landscaping Practices	Believe Cinco Ranch already does this, could learn from their process. <i>Action: Leigh Anne to look into how Cinco Ranch does this. [Research item for 2017]</i>