

Grand Lakes Green Committee

Meeting Date: September 15, 2019, 4:30-6:30pm

Committee Members in Attendance: Leigh Anne Goerland, Julie Bush, Jim Herzberg, Margie Benitez, Teresa Huddleston

Committee Members Absent: n/a

Residents in Attendance: Pat Gurfinkel

Meeting Minutes

Pocket Prairies Discussion

Jim contacted the Katy Prairie Conservancy, who provided the following link <http://www.katyprairie.org/buildpocketprairies>. We discussed the concept and benefits of a pocket prairie, and potential locations. It was mentioned that Griffin Elementary recently installed a small pocket prairie. Cross Creek Ranch has pocket prairie landscaping throughout their neighborhood.

We identified the following questions:

- 1) What would be a good location to try pocket prairie landscaping in Grand Lakes? Suggestions such as around lakes and near walking paths were discussed.
- 2) Is there a utility easement to be concerned about where we would want to plant?
- 3) What kind of critters do pocket prairies attract?
- 4) What would the cost of such a project be? The cost will be lower the more seeds and fewer mature plants we utilize. Also, raising prairie plants ourselves and planting them is an option.

As next steps:

- 1) *Action: Jim will reach out to Cross Creek Ranch and ask what their experience with this type of landscaping has been. We would like to visit their community's prairie landscaping as a group, with or without a CCR resident to show us around. We will decide on a date after Jim talks to CCR.*
- 2) *Action: Jim will continue dialogue with the Katy Prairie Conservancy and ask about seeds.*

Solar Panels Newsletter Article

Jim mentioned he had solar panels installed a couple weeks ago and volunteered to write a newsletter on this topic including information about his experience. *Action: Jim to draft an article.*

Brainstorming on keeping donatable items out of trash-pick-up

Margie has noticed that sometimes residents put furniture or bicycles at the curb for trash pickup that, with minor repairs or if accepted in imperfect condition, could still be usable. On several occasions, she has rescued an item from the curb. The committee decided on a newsletter article alerting residents to agencies that will pick up these types of items and notifying them that there is a Grand Lakes Buy/Sell Facebook forum where items can be offered to others (for \$\$ or free). *Action: Margie to draft an article.*

Resident Email Regarding Palm Trees

We reviewed the email from a resident regarding Mexican Fan Palm trees which asked for a trimming ordinance and action compelling removal of private resident dead/sick palm trees. The committee voted not to take action on this item beyond forwarding the issue to the Board. *Action: Leigh Anne to forward email to PMG. For informational purposes, Leigh Anne will investigate if there are any landscaping restrictions noted in the community architectural guidelines.*

Status on Harmony School recycling request

We are waiting to receive the architectural modification form from Harmony.

Other Items

Action: Margie will write a newsletter article about composting. Leigh Anne to send Margie Zero Waste Home composting reference.

Action: Julie will review our page on the website for any needed updates.

Action: Leigh Anne will get the Simple Recycling newsletter article run again to remind residents of the program.

Next Steps:

Next meeting TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.