

Grand Lakes Green Committee

Meeting Date: February 27, 2022, 7-8:30pm (Virtual)

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

Meeting Minutes

Grand Lakes Community Garden Trees

The committee discussed the grassy areas directly adjacent to the community garden. A number of trees died in this space after Hurricane Harvey and the recent hard freeze, but were never replanted. Margie shared pictures of the space, an aerial map of the area with measurements, and brochures from the Garden Club of Houston regarding recommended trees for our area. She also shared a table of tree characteristics for several tree species, which detailed whether the species is native, lifespan, leaf type, height, and spread. Leigh Anne shared a 2017 photo from when the original landscaping plan was still in place.

The committee members discussed various options, and factors such as cost, longevity, space, and aesthetics. Julie mentioned that for aesthetics, adding two pear trees in the south east quadrant would be beneficial because it would restore symmetry. The committee agreed. We noted the pear trees should be the same species as the existing pears. Teresa noted that a Live Oak tree would provide shade in the north east quadrant. We discussed the rather large size of this area and Leigh Anne noted that the one tree there that did survive Harvey and the freeze in may not live long. The committee agreed to recommend a Live Oak in that quadrant as it would blend well with the Oaks at the back of the garden and the oaks lining the circle. We will recommend a Celeste Fig in the north west quadrant to replace the one that died in the freeze so that there will be two total in that quadrant. The south west quadrant does not need any changes, as it still has all six trees from the original landscaping plan for the neighborhood.

Teresa will compile the recommendations to send to the Board.

Next Steps:

Next meeting TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.