

Adair Landscape Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Minutes written by Meg Walton

Attendance: Sandra Mendel, Meg Walton, Alita Silverman, Doug Weiss, Melinda Marshburn

Completed spring projects:

Small courtyard is completed. Camellias were relocated away from Libby and Hugh's house to the planting area around the bird bath. Ferns were relocated around the bird bath. Monkey grass along the edge was replaced with fescue. Fescue grass will be mowed high to give roots time to establish.

The fertilizing is complete. A big jump in growth is noticeable.

On-going projects:

Thank you to Glen Stine for managing our properties watering system for the past 14 years. Members of the Adair board (Chris Casey and Lou Loricchio) are now taking over. They are doing a good job making adjustments to the watering schedule. They have increased the watering of the small courtyard area to 7 days a week for now, which was needed for the health of the new fescue sod. The landscape committee has been asked to take turns overseeing the system by walking the grounds and reporting broken water heads, over watering or under watering. No particular volunteer schedule has been created, as of now.

Benito and his son (RUHO employees) have been pruning their way around the property, from the front to back. Discussions continue on the choice of "buzz" cut vs. "natural" cut for pruning. As of now, RUHO is using both techniques, depending on the type of shrub. It was decided that the combination is looking good and we would like for them to continue mixing it up. RUHO has also been "opening up" the inside of some shrubs to let more light in, which will help with the health of the plant.

RUHO needs to be reminded that creeping vines cannot grow onto the wood of a home. That being said, if the vines are located above a certain height (6ft?) then RUHO is not responsible but the homeowner is expected to trim and will be responsible for the damage that could occur to the wood.

There has been several requests to uncover the house number signs on the property that are covered by grown up shrubs. They have not been identified yet and they need to be. Apparently, they are concreted into the ground and will be difficult to move. Sandra will work on this as soon as someone shows here where they are.

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Two creeping jasmine were planted under the staircase behind the mansion. The committee will need to put wire around the brick foundation to aid in the vertical growth of the vines. Meg volunteered to work on that.

Future Projects:

We are on budget and have an extra \$3,000 that is not yet allocated for the year. There was a discussion over if we needed to reserve that money for unknown issues or use it for a fall pine straw allocation. We are unsure if the RUHO contract included 2 pine straw applications per year. We discussed that when ordering the pine straw, we must order it early. We have run into issues in the past with landscape material shortages.

****After the meeting, Alita checked the contract and noted that we are only allotted 1 pine straw application per year in the current contract. We decided to use some of the overflow funds to pay for a second application in the fall.

It is agreed that the east side of the property is a mess. There are invasive weeds, deadwood and vines that need to be removed or trimmed. There are also a lot of bamboo leaves that we would like to have removed from the property line. They need to be blown from the adjacent property, into our driveway and removed. Sandra will discuss with RUHO. We are hoping that it can be addressed in the fall.

A concept of "tagging" things that need to be removed, trimmed etc was discussed. There could be a tag color for each category (remove, trim etc.). Blue tags are currently used to alert Boutte of a project. We agreed that this is a good idea but made no final decisions.

The south side of the property is in need of new landscaping. The committee discussed putting funds aside in next years budget to improve this area. There were plans drawn up in the past that were not followed through. Melinda is going to see if she can find the plans for use.

Other business:

Sandra will be out of town for the month of July. The committee members are each taking a week out of month to be the contact for RUHO. The person in charge for that week should contact Julian on Tuesday, supply their contact information and ask if there is a need to meet on Wednesday.

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