

Town Hall meeting Nov 19, 2009

This meeting has been fully advertised as per Florida Statue; decision and motions can take place if deemed necessary. The meeting should not be any longer than **3hrs.**

The main purpose of the meeting is to have, **open discussions with residents on pending community projects.** Other issues most likely will arise and we may address or defer them until our next business meeting.

The HOA has been invited to attend, so they may become aware or answer questions that might pertain to their responsibility. Their input should be limited with a quick reply and or deferred to their next business meeting.

This type of cooperation between the Boards should limit and reduce resident frustration and confusion as to who does what for the community. Residents will appreciate and understand that their question or concerns will be addressed.

### **Community Projects discussion**

#### **Ponds and Wetlands** (CDD education series from Ecological Assoc) **15 minutes**

Tony is the person that sprays all our ponds. He has already helped Tyree educate several residents when they request the water and Wetlands behind their homes be cleared of all aquatic plants. We have a major problem with residents not understanding Florida Ecology so I am having Tyree create an education program for our residents.

#### **Orange Tree's (Try to limit discussion to one hour)**

1. **Review the history of trees.**
  - a. Developer removed and transplanted most of the trees for development of property
  - b. Trees were not maintained correctly under the developer
  
2. **Review what the community did to preserve and save the trees after the developer turned over the community to the residents**
  - a. Trees were showing signs of significant stress
  - b. Experts were brought into the community to assess the issues and problems

#### **Observation and recommendations**

1. Trees are extremely stressed
2. Trees were not properly maintained, no drip irrigation, fertilization, trimming or spraying program that is required for citrus trees.

3. Drought and Winter frost caused major leaf drop and damage to trees leading to additional stress
4. Trees have sour root stock disease (will kill the trees)
5. Mulch around the trees was starving the trees of vital nutrients;
6. Supervisors went to Orange tree growers to learn what it takes to grow and maintain orange trees, attended seminars from extensions services to learn Citrus issues and problems in Florida.
7. Held discussion and recommendations with residents during our meetings
9. In 2008 the mulch around the orange trees was removed by resident volunteers and recycled onto the Golf Course, Common Areas and resident flower beds. This saved the community about **\$1000** in County Dump fees
10. During 2008-2009 a major attempt to save the trees by providing needed nutrients using root injection techniques, fertilization, spraying programs and weed control costing \$10,800/yr
11. Created a resident survey, received recommendations and posted and distributed survey results for resident review.

**3. Discuss the decision process to remove 188 trees and associated problems**

- a. Preliminary discussion in 2008-09 indicated that the orange tree project would be expensive and would require a 2-5 year flexible plan to resolve all the issues.
- b. Like the Oak tree project, removing a large number of trees at one time is economical and saves the community money.
- c. In July of 2009 a complete inventory and location of all 413 orange was completed, by Aug 09 most dead trees were tagged
- d. The program of fertilization, spraying and weed control ended.
- d. In Sept and Oct 2009 additional dead trees were tagged
- e. During Oct 09 meeting approval to obtain quotes to remove the dead trees.
- f. Quotes are being collected to cut, chip and stump grind the trees.
- g. Wood chips will be moved to the maintenance area for residents flower beds or to smoke meat for barbeque. This will also save about \$1000 in County dump fees.
- h. There is approximately 15,000 sq ft of naked ground occupied by the 188 dead orange trees. Weeds are growing and are be treated by mowing or weed control by our maintenance person Mitch.
- i. Cost for removal of 188 trees can only be an estimated until the quotes arrive but most likely range from \$6-\$8,000

4. **Discuss options**

- a. **Replace dead orange trees with Bahia grass. Cost estimates will be approximately \$6-\$7,000 dollars.**

**Information to take into consideration**

When the 188 dead trees are removed there will be 225 orange trees remaining in various location throughout the community. Additional orange tree loss by Spring is estimated in the range of another 50-100 additional trees that will require removal. Cost estimates range from \$2,500-\$4,000 for removal and sodding of these trees.

- b. **Replace a small number of Orange trees in various locations to be determined with Drought and Cold tolerate Citrus trees.**

**Information to take into consideration**

1. New Citrus trees range between \$20-50 each
2. New trees need to be protected from the deer with a fence or by chemical techniques.
3. New trees need a drip irrigation system. Our present irrigation system for each grove will need to modified for drip irrigation. Quotes for a small drip irrigation system range from \$1500 to \$2,000 depending on the area.
4. New trees will require long term maintenance in the form of fertilization, trimming and spraying.
5. Even if areas are sodded Citrus or other trees can be planted at a later date. The sod can be removed and transplanted to other parts of the community. The area around the Citrus tree would have no sod but between the trees there would be grass. This would prevent the weed problem we are experiencing.

- c. **Replace with other Florida Friendly plants that would include tree's and shrubs that may produce flowers.**

**Discussions, comments, recommendations and concerns from residents regarding orange trees**

**Other Community Projects for discussions ( should be about 1.5 hours)**

**Update information**

**Golf Cart Bridge Repairs**

**Painting white stripping at Stop signs and golf cart crossings**

**Replacement of Conservation signage in specific areas  
Conservation areas, Wetlands and Golf Course**

**New Information**

**Replacement of Street and other signs in the community**

**Donations of Trees and Park Benches**

**Adopt a Pond and Carp project for community ponds**

**Rear gate and other security/monitoring discussions**

**Swimming pool lighting**

**Additional request and discussion from residents,  
Supervior's, HOA or management**