

BLAIRSTONE FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes October 27th, 2014

In attendance:

Marcus Richartz, President
Bill Walter, Vice President
Jane McElroy, Treasurer
Suzanne Green, Secretary

Kristie with FL Association & Property Management, Inc.
John Bonner Grounds Committee
Dr. Sean McGlynn Pond maintenance
Gwen Harrison- Newsletter Committee

6:08 pm

Called to order, old minutes, posted

New business

1. A walk around the neighborhood is planned on Nov. 13th to take a look at trees that need to come down- there are five slots and all are taken as of this meeting.

2. A removal process has been tried and seems to work on the invasive species Coral Ardisia using a product from ACE hardware. The product is 2-4-D, an herbicide, and will not be used in a mass spraying but on individual plants that are identified as invasive species. It is proposed to start with the common areas and work in teams of three- one person to cut, one to use the product, and one to bag the clippings - which cannot go on the curb for "yard waste" days but need to go in the regular trash cans. Or you can pull up the whole plant including its roots if it is small enough and dispose of it in a bag in the trash. The 2-4-D can be purchased at ACE Hardware or Gramlings.

Old Business

1. Island Planter total cost to improve its appearance will be \$1500 to wrap and cap it. A plumber has been out numerous times about the irrigation there. It has been looked at hiring a person four times a year to change out the color "seasonally" - for the overall benefit it would be cost friendly. Also, a paint color that will be visible at all light levels will be used to help make it visible and prevent the former problem of cars accidentally damaging the corners of the island planter.

2. The recently amended rule on "Renting" was that you can only rent your house out to a single family with no more than two unrelated persons, which was to prevent the unwanted/excessive problems that had originated with certain houses in the neighborhood that were rented out to problem renters. The rule should be re-written or amended again to "two unrelated" as opposed to "one single rental"...

3. Updated tree removal form to be posted on the website.

4. The covenants need to be updated every 30 years or so because we have covenants that are no longer applicable. Each committee should re-address - look at covenants through committees grounds, ACC, board.

5. Creating a master plan, or blueprint, living document with calendar of necessary maintenance schedule with materials, other items, information such as street signs- an Information Book, is an idea that was suggested.

6. Island- the views are beautiful, tree clearing, should be replaced with cypress. lifespan of some trees are 30 years. Island mostly has trees that don't make a good habitat but are good for erosion control. Chinese Tallow needs to come out. Most of what we're trimming has been Chinese tallows. Planting things that will benefit the health and beauty of the pond are things such as native grasses, irises, canna lilies, Fireflag, maiden cane, and aquatic grasses. wax myrtles,

7. Problem identified: it looks as though someone has been making a path with a riding lawnmowing into the forest, for a camping spot, or we don't know what. Will be looked into.

8. Newsletter updates - any help would be appreciated. nextdoor app

9. Pond report, by Dr. McGlynn sean - started out by draining and scraping little lobe; there has been a battle with an algae species that benefits from shallow water that our pond has and tree limbs fallin/resting/growing in pond where it can thrive. Pond had been leaking- making it shallow- algae battle- little bit of herbicide and elbow grease, it seems to have come to a healthy natural balance, looks like wind blows it in to small lobe, Cost of Dr. McGlynn's services to maintain the pond is \$250 month- AND it each month that includes taking out a tree. The benefit: stopping algae before it starts growing again- warmer months-next six months- Idea for floating turtle rafts...Also our geese are helping eat the algae. But still the water levels seem to be going down, might be a hidden plumbing problem- water level needs to be maintained- if we replace big bridge...idea: a fountain- benefit the pond- aerator more efficient- compare energy requirements-

10. Drains - cleared underground- silverwood drainage ditch- on Silverwood- an engineering group - kristi- heinz nursery- has handled - who did the drain on Silverwood? BlackHawk engineering, other work that has been done well recently is NeSmith Landscaping (Jerry) We have easements in the neighborhoods around the properties.

11. Boardwalk- opened again- coming and goings- looking at future funds to cover the repairs entrance from Silverwood to pond near common ground mulch area/platform/on Brookside

12. Speed limit signs-

13. Road Repairs-

14. Property manager report: potholes were repaired, broken trees, around boardwalk work was done, renewing or extending contract for Dr. McGlynn.

15. Treasurer Report

16. ACC Report- nothing new, one roof was put on, but it was identical to the one it was replacing

17. Grounds Committee Report- complete walkaround was done, identified the entrance sign planter leak, identified coral ardisia on common areas and along Brookside area...two foxes have been seen in the neighborhood- do not let cats out at night

Next meeting will be in December 2014/January 2015

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A major spray should be considered for the common areas to get rid of the invasive plants that are disrupting the forest's healthy balance that make it possible to support native flora and fauna.

It is recommended that you use only a licensed and bonded tree removal company/service.

One of our neighbors recommend:

Hick's Affordable Tree Service

850-933-4149

850-514-1268