

Common Grounds Meeting Minutes May 19, 2015

The meeting was held at the Duck Pond Activity Center 7:00PM

Present:

Rich Bird, 717 SW Admiral Byrd, 366-0161
Marsha Hosick, 901 SW Drake Drive, 804-8959
Sharon McCann, 3957 SW Starboard Ct. 623-3352
Sue Rusco, 4221 SW Homestead Ct, 591-3552

Guests:

Brian and Angela Mitchell 322 SW Marsh Wren #573
The Mitchells addressed a drainage issue. (see p. 3)

Tyler Schwope, 324 SW Raintree Drive in Cobblestone
Mr. Schwope addressed planting trees on Common Ground (see p. 4)

Old Business

Update on additional funds approved:

On April 28, 2015, Marsha Hosick attended the Raintree board meeting and requested an additional \$653 dollars be added to the 2015 Common Ground budget of \$2500 for replacement planting. The request was approved.

Update on plantings: Sue reported that the Regatta pots, clubhouse pots, and flagpole circle had been planted. Once the invoice is received from Nick's we can see what our budget looks like. The Kaleidoscope Abelias and Nandinas are being planted this week. The long bed at the duck pond is in.

Sapelo is on hold until we make some decisions. We are still researching ideas for Raintree Circle. The "soldiers" at 291 still need to be addressed.

Update on trees being planted: Rich informed us that Colonial began planting the trees. There was a problem with stake but additional should arrive next week.

Update on naming ponds: Rich informed us that name the ponds info is in the May Shoreline. Karen did a great job mapping the existing and newly named ponds. Also with one page for location, description, and background for the 8 ponds. Rachelle ordered and has received signs and posts for the newly named ponds. These are exactly like the five existing. Locations for the new signs are flagged for grounds to install.

Decision about reconfiguring Sapelo: Rachelle is having the staff address the rocks at Sapelo. The issue besides there being too many rocks of different sizes is that (1) there is no weed block material underneath and the suggestion to put potted plants in a spot that has no irrigation is being questioned.

Rachelle is asking the committee to consider adding some areas of mulch that can be landscaped with some rock areas intermingled. Creekmoor does this at all their islands, and it is becoming a modern look in subdivisions.

New Business

Budget deadline reminder:

All plans and requests for money are due to Rachelle September 30th.

With that in mind the committee needs to decide which areas need to be replanted next year and with what plants, which new areas to consider for planting. It was decided that the members present go on a field trip June 2nd and report back to the committee.

Suggestions from committee members by email:

Toni Travalent: #The plantings at the Regatta monument AND islands need to be addressed. Plants are either dead or dying. Need to pull out dead and have a plan to replant. The islands at the Raintree dr entrance need attention also. This is our first impression of Raintree for visitors. #like the idea of lights on the aeration sprays
#for the future plan- think we need to do a field trip to different areas that need improvement and make a list. After we decide on that present to residents to see what they think is most important to them.

Roberta Prudden: I would like to see lights put on the fountains in the Duck Pond. Also, have the "up lights" that are in the 2 islands by the Duck Pond put back in working order. Maybe we could come up with a list of possibilities of things in the area and present them to the residents in the Shore Lines. Have them vote on what the residents would like to see happen.

Rich Bird: Ponds are a great asset. The three new ponds need a lot of work. The stones placed around the ponds by the developer are rough and haphazard which makes it difficult for grounds folks to trim and care for the pond borders. Long term we need budget funds to improve these areas.

Brian and Angela Mitchell, 322 SW Marsh Wren Lot #573, attended the Common Ground committee meeting 5/19/2015. They brought pictures and emails documenting the history of an issue regarding ponding in the common ground that backs up into their back yard.

They have an email send to maintenance@rlpoa.com and office@rlpoa.com dated October 31, 2003 and picture explaining that a project to alleviate a problem of water in the basement of a resident on Green Teal, that he says was performed by Raintree maintenance, caused a ponding issue for him.

Another email was sent August 25, 2014 to manager@rlpoa.com with attached photos restating his complaint. Emails were exchanged between Brian and the office regarding possible solutions. To date Brian says no one has attempted to resolve the issue.

The Common Ground committee told Brian and Angela that they would visit the common area between Marsh Wren and Green Teal when weather permits and get with Rachelle to see what can be done to correct this issue. The office will contact them when a decision is made.

Include in Common Ground minutes for May 19, 2015

Tyler Schwope, 324 SW Raintree Drive in Cobblestone (816-525-5955), came to the Common Ground meeting 5/19/2015. He said three years ago he went to a Common Ground meeting with a plan to plant trees in the common ground adjacent to his house. He does not have a copy of the plan; he did not specify how many trees were on the plan or how long it would take to complete the plan. There is no record of the plan and no one on the common ground committee remembers Mr. Schwope attending a meeting three years ago.

Years prior a request was presented to the Common Ground committee by another resident. The Common Ground committee approved the planting of three river birch at the edge of the common ground due to complaints of standing water in that area. In 2014 Mr. Schwope was approved for one tree in the Adopt-A-Tree program.

Some of the common ground committee visited the property in question. The trees include 7 birch, 8 white pine, 4 spruce, 4 maple, and 8 or 9 small pine. The plan appears to be semi-circles facing in toward Mr. Swope's property. There are at least 5 trees that are bagged. Mr. Schwope said those trees were planted last year and the only trees planted this year are the 8 or 9 small pine.

When told the latest planting impeded the mowing operation Mr. Swope seemed to think it should not take more than ½ hour to mow that area and he did not consider it a problem. It was pointed out that the latest semi-circle of pine would eventually grow together so that mowers would not be able to get to half of the common ground, Mr. Schwope thought that would not happen for ten years and then he could get Cobblestone or the neighbors to mow the area.

The Common Ground committee is requesting that Rachelle ask Marco if removing the recently planted trees semi-circle of little pines would solve the mowing problem. If removing the trees is necessary, it is requested that Rachelle send Mr. Schwope a certified letter asking him to remove the trees in a timely manner or Raintree will remove the trees for him.

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