

Hammocks Community Association Inc.

Minutes of the Landscaping Committee Meeting
January 23, 2024 – 7:00 PM – Clubhouse and ZOOM

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Landscaping Committee was called to order by Pete Cabrera at 7:05pm

2. Determination of a Quorum

Members Present: Pete Cabrera
 Frank Perez
 Ricardo Rodriguez

3. Proof of Notice of Meeting

Anthony Serrone advised that Management posted notice for the meeting on all the bulletin boards throughout the community and on the association website on Friday, January 19th, 2024.

4. Old Business

- **Pete Cabrera** – Noemi Rubalcava gave us a recommendation at the last meeting to get a grant and we have a meeting with them on Thursday to see what we can do to get a grant. Gene Sherwood contacted FirstService Residential, and I asked Judge Gersten to be part of that meeting so I can ask some questions, which he permitted. Gene is here today to go over his proposal for The Hammocks.

5. New Business

- **Gene Sherwood** – 10 years ago I spent many hours in this room discussing the landscaping with previous Board Members. I have been in business for 32 years. I only do trees; I do not do anything else in landscaping. I specialize in HOA communities and deal with the Board members around the area. I am currently University of Miami's consulting arborist and have a year-round contract with them. I am also an Advisory Board member of the Autobahn Society. I do have a history with The Hammocks. In 2009 I was invited by management to provide advice and proposals for the community. In 2013 once I had done some work, I was trying to get specific tasks accomplished. Midway through 2016 there were some unfortunate situations that were happening, and I was not getting paid, amongst other things that we won't go into, but I was no longer contracted by the Association. My assessment of the trees of the community is that the trees were not trimmed for several years. The upper canopies are very dense, the work that has been done was done from the bottom up. We want to get rid of the hazardous dead trees in the community as soon as possible. My recommendation for this size community is to replace some of the canopy that has been lost over the years. We created a plan with certain types of species and what is needed for their trimming. The type of tree determines the timing and types of trimming that needs to be done. The most important part of working with HOA's is communication, which is the only thing that makes this work. My company will provide daily logs, including log in and log out sheets. The staff will monitor our crew and staff to ensure we are doing the work that we said we would do. I like to take before and after pictures of trees that are trimmed. For auditing purposes and liability purposes. New trees and palm replacements need to happen over the next two or three years. My annual contract includes ISA certified arborists daily. One of our arborists

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will be here every day. I will help you with the replacement of turf with the current lawn company, as well. I gave you a couple of different tools we use to cut the trees. A bucket truck, a spider truck, a green machine pole cat. We will have three men full time. I have the same trimmer that works for me that used to be here. We are OSHA certified and we will make sure that we go over safety protocols at least once per week. We remove and chip debris daily unless there is rain or weather that prevents us from doing so. The hours on the proposal can be adjusted for your needs. I have included the ANSI 300 Manual. I have included a brochure for planting trees. It outlines what trees need to survive. I have my references and certificates of liability. My certificate of liability is strictly for tree trimming. I gave some numbers and areas; I did the best I could providing consulting to the association. I put together the budget concerning the fact that these trees have not been trimmed in so long. The upper third of these trees have been neglected. It is harder, more expensive, and difficult to maintain the upper parts of the trees.

- **Pete Cabrera** – Looking at what you offered, \$360,000 broken down into days. That \$360,000, how many days is that?
- **Gene Sherwood** – it is about 225 which are actual working days. That can be adjusted to what you want or need.
- **Pete Cabrera** – that comes out to \$1,600 per day. That means on that day you might cut palm trees, this that or the other, and it will still be the same price?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Yes. We can trim 50 trees in one day or just three and it will still be the same price.
- **Pete Cabrera** – How much would one big dead tree to remove cost.
- **Gene Sherwood** – \$1,800 - \$3,500 not including big disposal that cannot fit in the chipper. Which is great for you because you would be saving money.
- **Pete Cabrera** – Do you remember driving around Lake Mimosa, behind Hammocks Trail there is a tree, there. How long will that take to cut down?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Half a day.
- **Pete Cabrera** – We have to talk to the judge about this. We spent \$291,000 in 2023. I don't know what was cut and I don't know what happened there. You were here before and you had a contract for the year, do you remember how much that was?
- **Gene Sherwood** – probably around \$180,000 - \$200,000.
- **Pete Cabrera** – You just said something about debris not fitting in the chipper.
- **Gene Sherwood** – The only other additional price would be for hauling things that we couldn't fit in the chipper for dumping fees.
- **Pete Cabrera** – Do you do stump removal?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Yes, it is around \$700 - \$25 depending on the stump.
- **Pete Cabrera** – Talk to us about removing the roots.
- **Gene Sherwood** – Roots can be root pruned from the side of the sidewalk, streets etc., anywhere that. We would severe both sides of the roots, and then re-patch the asphalt.
- **Pete Cabrera** – Doing numbers in my head, if it took you half a day to cut the tree and the stump removal it would be way more expensive to hire you to do the job solely than on this contract.
- **Gene Sherwood** – By far there is a savings, for tree removals alone you could save money, and I can do three per day for the price that was quoted. You have many trees that are just waiting to be tipped over and we have to take care of those for liability purposes. The advantage if you have a lawn service here, you are ahead of the 8 ball because you have two crews here to clean it up.
- **Pete Cabrera** - Would that be in the contract?
- **Gene Sherwood** – No it would be a separate cost, but we outline those costs very specifically.
- **Pete Cabrera** – how about fertilizer?
- **Gene Sherwood** – We do the granular but if there was fertilizer that would go to someone else. I.e. your Palm trees.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – I have two identical proposals here. One is less, what did we lose.

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- **Gene Sherwood** – the full-time arborist, so one less employee, and the most expensive.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** - Can we still get the arborist?
- **Gene Sherwood** – You will have me here getting them started in morning and making sure they do what I want them do to every step of the way.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – 50 weeks per year is not in the \$360,000 proposal.
- **Gene Sherwood** – that proposal is for 225 days.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – Do you catalog the trees?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Yes, we provide you with a log of trees
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – How much would root pruning be?
- **Gene Sherwood** – \$30 to \$150. I am very competitive, my \$1,600 is probably about 15% lower than the industry.

6. Owner comments on agenda items

Noemi Rubalcava – Adagio

- Do you use round up?
- **Gene Sherwood** – No we don't that's for landscaping companies.
- **Pete Cabrera** – He is going to do granular fertilizer.
- **Gene Sherwood** – Yes, no Round up.
- **Noemi Rubalcava** – In 2022 I was diagnosed with lymphoma, and I wanted to ensure they were using Round up.
- **Pete Cabrera** – Does Turf use Round up?
- **Anthony Serrone** – I am not sure.
- **Pete Cabrera** – When we asked about canary palms/date palms we were told that there is a magnesium deficiency. What is that?
- **Gene Sherwood** – It is possible that there is, and it turns the leaves yellow at the end. It is just a deficiency in the nutrients the tree is getting. When they come from the nursery they are fertilized and watered every day.

Noemi Rubalcava – Adagio

- If they were to hire you and we are in a local association. Would you do one time per year hurricane for a local association?
- **Gene Sherwood** – yes, of course I would give you a proposal to do your community.
- **Noemi Rubalcava** – Thank you.
- **Gene Sherwood** – I will be here for every landscaping meeting, as well.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – Earlier you had mentioned tree replenishment. What would your strategy be?
- **Gene Sherwood** – I have a crew that just plants trees, and we can show you what we pay for the tree very transparently. My recommendation is that most companies want to sell you a 25-gallon tree that is 10-12 ft. I would recommend a 45 caliber because it is a more mature tree that will stabilize quicker. 45 gallons is going to cost around about \$400 bucks.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – Would you take into consideration the time of year that the tree is planted?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Yes, I would.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – If in the future, we have a contract and we say we are ready to plant 100 trees.
- **Gene Sherwood** – I am ready for it. I have 17 full time employees for tree work. The reason why I don't have more is because train my guys for two years.
- **Frank Perez** – The \$360k vs the daily crew, you have 225 days of work per year. The actual crew that will be working will there be a certified arborist with them?
- **Gene Sherwood** – He would not be doing the actual work he will be supervising. You will see me more than you would see him. We can customize this in many ways.
- **Pete Cabrera** – Just to be clear, you would report here, you would've already spoken with us and Jean Carlos, we have this plan for the next month and a schedule.

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- **Gene Sherwood** – yes this is what we will be doing and taking a picture to catalog the tree.
- **Pete Cabrera** – So then the crew would start a project, do that project, and then move on?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Yes, prioritizing the most important work to do.
- **Pete Cabrera** – And then when we need to plant trees, we come to you?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Yes.

Noemi Rubalcava

- Strangler trees would you try to cut the host tree or remove the strangler tree?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Depends on what tree we are talking about, but I would have to go tree by tree.
- **Pete Cabrera** – Are you overextending yourself with this contract?
- **Gene Sherwood** – Absolutely not, I have just hired 3 new people I have a retention rate of 90% over ten years.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – This fee structure contains all The Hammocks, the local associations as well?
- **Gene Sherwood** – No just the 18 that you manage.

7. Adjournment - 7:58pm

Motioned By: Pete Cabera

Seconded By: Frank Perez

Motion Carries Unanimously