

Hammocks Community Association Inc.

Minutes of the Landscaping Committee Meeting
February 6, 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 7:06pm.

2. Determination of Quorum

Members Present: Pete Cabrera
 Frank Perez
 Ricardo Rodriguez
 Eliana Arratia

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, February 2, 2024.

MOTION

To approve the meeting minutes for January 8th, 2023, Landscaping Committee Meeting.

Motioned by: Pete Cabrera

Seconded by: Elaina Arratia

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION

To approve the meeting minutes for January 17th, 2023, Landscaping Committee Meeting.

Motioned by: Pete Cabrera

Seconded by: Frank Perez

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION

To approve the meeting minutes for January 23rd, 2023, Landscaping Committee Meeting.

Motioned by: Pete Cabrera

Seconded by: Elaina Arratia

Motion Carried Unanimously

4. Committee

a. Number of Members

MOTION

To finalize the number of committee members for the Landscaping Committee to five members.

Motioned by: Pete Cabrera

Seconded by: Frank Perez

Motion Carried Unanimously

Hammocks Community Association Inc.

b. Finalize Members

MOTION

To finalize the members of the Landscaping Committee to the follow members:

- *Pete Cabrera*
- *Frank Perez*
- *Eliana Arratia*
- *Ricardo Rodriguez*
- *Julieta Romano*

Motioned by: Pete Cabrera

Seconded by: Frank Perez

Motion Carried Unanimously

5. Old Business

A. Discuss Turf Tree Trimming Presentation

- **Frank Perez** – Turf is very cooperative and has done a lot on their own. Fernando seems to have a schedule in mind. I don't know if FSR has been advised on what areas he has done or not. I received a phone call that he would be starting on the trees on the lakeside by the end of the week. They have not been done in 7 years and they were done minimally when they were done. The work done has made them lopsided. As far as the price is concerned, I find their price to be adequate and is something that could be worked with. My only drawback is determining if he has sufficient experience to plan. Does he have a big picture of what needs to be done in the community? I think that he should be telling us what he is planning to do vs. us telling him what needs to be done.
- **Elaina Arratia** – Fernando scheduled everything and now we need to tell him what to do.
- **Pete Cabrera** – let the records show Ricardo Rodriguez just showed up. Pete recapped what had been done so far.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – I don't have a problem with them, I think they do a lot of good regarding landscaping.
- **Pete Cabrera** – I am ok with either of them if we are in control. I don't like how Turf is guiding themselves. I am not sure how FirstService is handling all that, but they seem to do what they want and give us the bill.

B. Discuss Green Wise Group Tree Trimming Presentation

- **Frank Perez** – I did some research on Green Wise and spoke to the vendor that we have at our local community. He had a lot of positive things to say about Green Wise. He knows some of the staff members that work for him, and he knows that Gene is very respected for all his years of experience throughout Miami-Dade County. I like the idea of Green Wise with the plan that they put in place. I think he has a plan in place which would take a lot of burden off us and FirstService Residential. We would just be responsible for confirming what was done and the billing. Turf has done a lot in the past year. I am concerned about the cost of Green Wise with what has already had been done. In other words, Turf did some of the work and do we really need them to be here for 225 days? He does the landscaping for the University of Miami, and it looks great.
- **Elain Arratia** – I wasn't at the meeting with Green Wise.

Hammocks Community Association Inc.

- **Roberto Rodriguez**— I have the same feelings as Frank that some of the work in the proposal is a duplicate. The catalog from Green Wise is a good benefit for us to know what is in the community. The contract also includes root pruning and stump removal, which is great. Green wise will be more thorough and will be able to be held accountable for what they have done.
- **Noemi Rubalcava – Adagio** – I was here for both presentations and Green Wise seemed more professional, he never seemed to be out of words. I think Turf is good for cutting grass. Green wise just sounded more knowledgeable. The representative from Turf management seemed unsure in his answers. I remember the guy from Turf said something about 104th street and the trees they were going to cut and how they would take a lot of time. I did not hear anything such as that from Green Wise. I heard you say something about paying for work that has already been done by Turf. Can you talk to Green Wise about that?
- **Lilian Bernal – Heron** - I believe Green Wise was the vendor for the last board and that is a strike against them. I have spoken to Turf about the tree trimming and they were directed by the management company. They said that the Advisory Board of Directors and the management company told them what to do. Did anyone on this committee ask them to provide a detailed schedule or to take a trip as Pete did with Green Wise? If you give one vendor the opportunity, you have to give it to the other. The tree trimming contract is where the money is. I think Turf has been good to The Hammocks community and I think they deserve both contracts.

C. Compare the companies' presentations.

- a. **Pete Cabrera** – Whoever we pick, we are going to ride around with them to see what they have done and what needs to be done and give suggestions. We want to weed out the redundancies by doing so. There was a trimming done by Turf along Hammocks Blvd. near Vizcaya that looks terrible. My ride around with Gene was to learn and see how we can fix the neighborhood. I sent each of you a document and in it, it shows what Turf has done and what they are charging. When I look at it, I see a situation where we can call the shots with Turf and Green Wise. The next document is the projected cost if we were to hire them by the day. Whichever one we pick we can tell them how many days we would like them to be on-site for that price. Of course, we will have to consult the Judge about whatever we choose. One of the things we must look at is planting. As far as choosing a company and the cost of doing the trees are concerned, it will be a new project and will not be redundant. As far as the company and presentation I like Green Wise a lot better. I think Fernando did a lot of good work, but I like Green Wise better as they have a plan and will work with FirstService and us to ensure that we are getting what we want.
- b. **Frank Perez** - The proposal from Green Wise and their daily price does not only include tree trimming, but it also includes stump grinding, root pruning, and even repacking the asphalt.
- c. **Pete Cabrera** – Green Wise would include all of that what they are leaving out is if things are too big to fit into the chipper. I think if we went to Turf, they would bend over backwards to help us. I don't like how they self-directed themselves and charged us whatever price they wanted. Do you know what they were doing Jean Carlos?
- d. **Jean Carlos** – As far as the criteria for cutting the tree is concerned, they are the “expert” in tree trimming and that part is up to them as they have more experience as arborists than we do.

Hammocks Community Association Inc.

- e. **Pete Cabrera** – Moving forward this committee will be hands on completely whether it is Turf or Green Wise. We are making a recommendation to the receiver and the decision will ultimately be his. My next call or email will go to him.
- f. **Frank Perez** – When we make that decision today, would it have to include the number of days per year that we would like?
- g. **Pete Cabrera** – My thought is 175 days.
- h. **Ricardo Rodriguez** – That is right down the middle and is fair. I think cost drives our decision a lot. I think we should be thinking about what we are getting for that price. I think the catalog would serve us astronomically. It will allow us to move forward knowing what to do with our trees. If we chose someone else after having Green Wise, we would walk away with our catalog and have something to show for it. What is our current budget for tree trimming?
- i. **Pete Cabrera** – \$139,000 so that's something to talk to the Judge about because we have collected money from settlements.

6. New Business

A. Select a company to recommend to the Receiver.

MOTION

To accept Turf as our tree trimming company for the 2024 year.

Motioned By: Pete Cabrera

No second

Motion does not carry.

MOTION

To accept Green Wise Group as our tree trimming company for the 2024 year.

Motioned By: Pete Cabrera

Seconded By: Frank Perez

All in favor – Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION

To accept Green Wise Group's proposal for 175 days for the year at \$1,600 which equals \$280,000 for the 2024 year.

Motioned By: Pete Cabrera

Seconded By: Frank Perez

All in favor – Motion passes unanimously.

B. Report on County Tree Grant.

- **Pete Cabrera** – Noemi gave us an idea. The county is looking to improve the canopy in Miami-Dade, and we had a meeting with the county.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – We spoke to someone from the parks and recreation department for the parks that serve a public function. She was not sure if we would qualify because we are a residential community. We spoke mostly on the tree adoption program. If we chose to sponsor a adopt a tree for tree adoption, we could collect those trees and plant them in the community.
- **Pete Cabrera** – They emailed me to set up a meeting as a follow up with Frank and I.
- **Frank Perez** – The bottom line is that they are willing to provide the trees that we need and leave the number of trees we need to be determined by us. Pete asked if 300 is too much, they said for logistics it might be too much and maybe in phases they could provide

Hammocks Community Association Inc.

150 trees at a time. They would provide them free of cost and our obligation would be to plant them. What needs to be done now would be to get a bid to plant them. She mentioned we would be responsible for planting the tree and watering the trees. We would not have to worry about fertilization because they are already in 15-gallon buckets, and they have enough fertilization to last one year. She suggested to get going so we can get the benefits of rainy season. They also suggested some kind of staking around the tree to protect it from the weed eater which was optional.

- **Pete Cabrera** – Gabriela Lopez is Nicki Anderson’s manager. They would provide 15-gallon trees. It would be our responsibility to water them, stake them, and plant them. They have a landscape architect. The landscaping architect, this committee, and FirstService Residential would meet and they would provide the number that the person is able to provide in a day. They will not give us 300 at one time because they don’t want them sitting around. What the county is waiting for is to decide who the tree trimmer is and then start this process. It will be a lesser cost because the trees are free.
- **Ricardo Rodriguez** – I think it is amazing and I am happy to hear that. I don’t know if there is a way to loop in the greater community and maybe the community will take more pride and ownership if they are part of it. Maybe have a “tree day” to involve anyone that would want to be involved so that we can get back a sense of community. Maybe if Turf stays on as the landscaper, we can get them in on it.
- **Pete Cabrera** – I spoke with the Judge about planting, and he is really into planting the trees into a “grove” situation.

7. Owner Comments

- **Noemi Rubalcava – Adagio** – Gene said that he would water the plants with his own water when he planted the trees so we can talk to him about having them watered.

8. Adjournment -

Motioned By: Pete Cabrera

Seconded By: Frank Perez

The meeting of the Landscaping Committee was adjourned at 7:56PM.