HICKORY CLUSTER ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 19, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

**QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

* Directors Jenny Rekas, Silvia Merrill, Doug Pew, Audrey Rogerson, and Margo Wolcott, formed a quorum at 7:35 p.m.

**MEMBER FORUM**

* Block 1 - 11508 Maple Ridge - Carol Laird – Asked about curb painting status
  + Board comment: HCA is doing concrete first
* Block 1 – 11515 Maple Ridge - Pete Sohn - Concern about new plantings watering – member did it themselves.
  + Board comment: Any plants that die will be replaced – members do not have to water themselves, but the effort was appreciated.

**APPROVED PREVIOUS MONTH’S MEETING MINUTES**

**FINANCIAL REPORT REVIEW**

* + Specific aspects discussed during business discussions as needed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* ACTION: Rekas - Ask TWC if HOA have paid for Rose Gallery A/V TV services for board meetings. HOA will be refunded for it failing to work. Otherwise, a fee needs to be paid.
* **Neighborhood trash service:**
  + Republic trash contract expires in 60 days from October 6, 2022.
  + Republic fees for 2X week is $36.72K, additional $15K from current year (current year is ~$21K)
  + Republic fees 1X week is $27K
  + This trend is being seen across the Reston neighborhoods – other clusters have reported similar increases, such that neighborhoods decided to reduce to 1X a week.
  + Other contractor alternative (Patriot) is 3X a week – 2 for trash, 1 for recycle, $20.56K + 7.5% variable fuel surcharge.
  + To continue 2X a week, HOA fees would have to be noticeably increased.
  + Decision: Board voted to go to 1X a week, contingent on Mondays as the pickup day
  + ACTION: Merrill to notify TWC of decision.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Landscaping for Block 3 Island:**
  + Have proposal pending with HLS for Block 3 island landscaping. HLS rejuvenated Blocks 1 and 2.
  + Proposal was to remove some shrubbery (some holly, azaleas, nandinas) from island; Clean out middle area for walking, add path access, and add bench. Add inkberry, azalea, rhododendron, liriope; Includes watering.
  + Removals are for very old or troublesome landscaping that is inhibiting tree, and to make space for more cohesive planting scheme.
  + Discussion around budget tolerance for this fee in light of landscape budget.
  + Board plans additional landscaping efforts in 2023 with fresh budget.
  + DECISION: Board decided to approve the HLS plan without the bench, but hold on execution until Spring 2023 with new budget.
  + ACTION: Rogerson will notify HLS of decision.
* **Sidewalk Trip Hazard (Pew):**
  + Multiple proposals received – varying solutions. Using cost per square foot for comparison. Cost is looking around $6K for the aprons.
  + Options include replace or shaving of concrete. As part of this, need to address two member carriage house aprons that are uneven and trip hazards in Block 1. Shaving of apron may be preferred solution.
  + Any work is not expected to impact any RELAC services, but Miss Utility will be called.
  + Received on second proposal from Dominion, any action this year needs to be done before Christmas, before it gets too cold.
  + Discussion of removal of the sweet gum tree that is causing the apron problems, and would continue after an apron shaving (shaving is a short-term solution, problem would re-occur). There have been other concerns about the tree (gumballs, pruning). It is recognized that the tree removal would cause a different appearance.
  + DECISION: Hold on deciding solution/execution.
  + ACTION: Merrill - Email Amanda to see how long ago aprons were replaced, to get understanding of how often the aprons are affected. If the aprons were replaced not long ago (time TBD), tree will be removed and replace the concrete. Board to decide asynchronously before next board meeting (DONE).
* **Doors for Block 3:** 
  + Doors quoted by Lowe’s are the wrong size.
  + ACTION: Merrill to go to Lowe’s to clarify the size difference. Kevin Wolcott to collaborate with Merrill.
* **Grounds maintenance (lawn service, etc.):**
  + Stay with HLS vendor? HLS leadership intends to be responsive to HOA feedback (new foreman/staff have made for missed mowing, leaves in landscaping, etc.).
  + HOA to continue to provide feedback.
  + DECISION: Continue with HLS for another season. Approve/accept proposal. Merrill to notify TWC.
* **Snow Removal/Salt Contract:**
  + DECISION: Continue with HLS vendor for snow removal. Approve/accept proposal. Merrill to notify TWC.
* **Car Parking Hang Tags Spot Check:**
  + Jeep parked in Block ½ is in probate, cannot be moved currently.
  + ACTION: Board members to perform random tag checks and post yellow flyers in vehicles that do not have TWC blue hangtags.
* **HOA Letter to Reston DRB on Fellowship House construction:**
  + Member drafted detailed letter of concern to Reston DRB.
  + Sent to Reston DRB from HOA on October 17, 2022.
* **Invasive Bamboo Update (Rogerson):**
  + Rogerson reports: Bamboo removal proposal has been received – only cutting, not treating.
  + Seeking additional quotes for cut/remove AND treat.
  + Proposals are very expensive - $7K - $39K for various problem areas. Total is $60-70K. This activity is required by recent mandate for some situations.
  + Debating prioritization of areas to be addressed, perhaps stagger execution over time.
  + Titan vendor is strong (uses slower, staggered process), but may use combination of vendors for cost effectiveness: one for removal (Level Green), one for treating (Invasive Plant Control).
  + Seeking one more quote.
  + DECISION: Whichever vendor/approach is selected, have them come speak to the community about the process.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

* Wolcott – Working with DRB for flipbook update on sourcing of paint. Need to get in front of DRB with an application. HOA intends to grandfather in houses that have painted their panels with new source because Sherwin Williams vendor couldn’t provide the correct paint anymore.
* Rekas – Not getting all board emails, esp. from TWC. Merrill to send notice to TWC (DONE).
* Recent Open House issue – board is making recommendation for TWC to send formal notice that no individual non-board member is allowed to represent the board for enforcement of HOA policy.

Directors adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.