

## **Grounds Minutes February 5, 2007 (final draft)**

Members Present: Terry Williams, Jeanne Oliver, Frank Lange, Jane Lange, Paul Antes, Jean Paulus, Gladys Poirier, Elaine Bowers, Bruce Gilleylen, Margo Bates, Meryl Sclater  
Absent: Bill Cowdright (W), Alan Breitwieser (W), Bill Bates, Kay Konicek, Marie-Paule Royle, Ken Konicek, Hal Sheridan.

### **I. Informational Meeting with Presentation by Aquatic Systems, Inc.**

Presenters: Jeff Whaley; Mike Wisdom, Service Manager

Topic: Ponds, Littoral Zones and Algae

Materials provided by the presenters:

Map of University Place: the 16 retention ponds (including six irrigation ponds for watering lawns); ten littoral areas; several wetland areas.

Article: *Ponds, Littoral Zones, & Algae*

Booklet from SWFWMD: *Storm Water Ponds: A Citizen's Guide to Southwest Florida.*

**Pond Health:** Whaley warned us that we should notify Aquatic if algae become significant in a pond. Only a small amount of algae (less than one foot from the shoreline) can be considered healthy. Care must be taken to ensure wetlands and waterways are not taken over by plants such as pepper, malalucca, or primrose. The causes of algae seem to come from low oxygen levels and at times excessive run off of fertilizers into the ponds. Aquatic recommends a barrier grass, if possible, to limit the run off.

**Pond History and Records:** Jeanne requested a profile/scale for each pond in order to begin a recorded history of each: its construction, purpose (irrigation, retention, flood control, etc.). Each profile will eventually include the particular needs/treatments, and long-term maintenance of each pond. The pond committee will begin to gather this information, hopefully with the assistance of Aquatic Systems.

Jeff Whaley from Aquatic Systems has offered to walk the ponds with the pond committee to answer questions and to help prepare a profile for each pond. An example of concern is that no pond at this time has been provided with aeration. (Should this be part of the engineering study?) Another concern is the value of the fountains in relation to aeration. While the fountains offer aesthetic value, and act as sound barriers, they do not provide sufficient aeration as compared to bubblers. Bubblers seem to be the correct choice. We are presently getting prices on the cost of aeration for the most vulnerable ponds. Jeanne asked about the value of eventually aerating all ponds and Aquatic suggests doing them on an as needed basis. At times the aerating of a few will transfer to the others; therefore, they do not recommend automatically aerating all the ponds; better to start with the most vulnerable.

Aquatic suggests that present and future laws will require the community to attend to the upkeep and certified inspections of each pond; at this time wetlands do not have specific guidelines other than restrictions concerning homeowners' invasive landscaping.

Littoral shelves are required to have plantings, and ours seem to be well planted at this time. Not all ponds have littoral shelves.

## **II. Committee Reports:**

**Pond Committee:** Paul Antes, and committee have begun a flyer for distribution throughout the community. A list of warning signs for pond health concerns, and a system for reporting problems was discussed. The committee is also preparing an article for the March News Letter discussing the ponds and soliciting residents to begin monitoring the ponds on their sites.

Terry reported that LNS has been ordered by Neal to check the intake inlet in Pond No. 14 and to locate the inlets in five other ponds. In Pond No.14 the depth of the intake is two feet lower than necessary. LNS will install a temporary dam, clean out the inlet, and then raise the inlet two feet. This will be done at Neal's expense. TLC will supply a diver to look for the inlets that have not been located. This work is expected to be completed by the end of February. (This info should be confirmed with Terry W for accuracy)

### **Landscaping:**

Kay and Marie-Paule have been researching the landscaping plans prepared by TLC to find appropriate plants and prices. They are working with John DeGrasse. Marie-Paul has prepared a written response to explain our responsibility for a long-term plan. TLC is to consider and incorporate the committee's suggestions in its (TLC) proposal to the Board.

Bruce inquired about the procedure for reporting weed problems outside the Maintenance Free areas. Jeanne explained that it should be reported to her; she will forward the info to Dominic. Compliance letters can then be issued if necessary.

### **General Grounds:**

Several signs in University Place need attention:

- Ashley Trace/Indigo Ridge: the sign is incorrectly placed.
- Neighborhood Watch sign at Honore: missing or down and needs to be replaced.
- Seven Oaks Pool: letters and emblem are peeling.

Meeting Adjourned 12:30 pm

Respectfully,  
Meryl Sclater