

# Parkside Landscape Committee Report

---

August 2012- Sept 2012 (August meeting cancelled)

Subject: Landscape Committee Recommendations for HOA August/September

Members: Ricki Kleist, Martha P.

## Introduction:

At the 7/24/2012 HOA meeting the BOB approved \$800 to procure the services of several professional Landscape professionals to develop a Landscape Master Site Plan for Parkside. Because of the size and scope of the project, and after speaking with several Landscape companies (US Lawns, Rockledge Nursery) it was suggested that the correct professional this project would be a "Landscape Architect." Recommended was Susan Hall, ASLA and found on the Internet was Edward J. Haek, ASLA.

Edward J. Haek provided 2 proposals (attached) and Susan Hall walked the property with me and then submitted the attached proposal.

## Susan Hall Walk-thru Summary

1. Patrick entrance: Susan's idea is to use some of the plantings that exist when possible to reduce cost. Some need to be removed. Great area for improvement – some questions about drainage.
2. In row 101 – 111: some very nice landscaping especially the small palms, however, Palm frond ends are turning brown because they need Palm fertilizer.
3. Using "berms" such as the one at the Patrick entrance (behind 301-305) can create an "undulating" flow. Some of our berms/garden areas can be extended and rounded out
4. Fertilizer: some home owners are making a great effort to keep landscaping nice, however, fertilizer to close to a tree trunk can cause many problems
5. Bird of Paradise in Pool entrance needs to be removed
6. Many of our bushes need rounded shaping vs the current top buzz cut
7. Cull de sac corners can and should be consistent – corner of 1602 is a good model (estimated cost as little as \$1800)
8. Eau Gallie entrance bushes should not be trimmed – shortens their life. Inexpensive fix is to fill in empty spaces
9. From Eau Gallie entrance: corners of 2402, 2202, 2107 should be more "showcase"
10. First corner from Eau Gallie entrance remove invasive schefflera
11. Home owner efforts to improve Common Area are understandable and appreciated; however, with all due respect, we are not following the Common Area Community rules. Homeowners need to be reminded that any plantings outside their Limited Common area must be approved by the BOD. The Master plan will provide approved choices for plantings.
12. Some locations can benefit from inexpensive privacy plantings

## Summary

1. The proposed project **does not** increase monthly dues
2. Parkside has not had a major Landscape review or update for over 20 years. The Landscape Committee proposes that we "do it right," and keep Parkside special.
3. In addition to a master plan, a Landscape Architect can provide important maintenance information and vendor selection support, i.e., what is the life of a planting, when should it be fertilized, how and when should it be pruned. They can assist in taking vendor bids and reviewing their work.

### Recommendations:

1. Both Landscape Architects appear to be qualified and have submitted professional proposals. My recommendation to the BOD would be to select Susan Hall for several reasons: First and foremost, at no cost, she started with “walking” the property before providing any proposal. She spent several hours walking Parkside with me to familiarize herself with the community. In addition, her proposal includes “solicitation of bids.” I believe she can provide us with valuable guidance on how to proceed once the master plan is completed.
2. Are there available funds from other budgeted items that can be applied to Landscaping? If so, I would recommend the BOD sign a contract with Susan Hall for \$4,350 and let her begin work.
3. Landscape Committee will draft a letter for the BOD to send to all home owners. The purpose of the letter is to 1. Remind them of HOA rules (if they have planted in common area they need to submit a request for approval), 2. Notify a solution to owners who have a tree stump damaging their driveway or sidewalk 3. Update them on landscape activities, 4. Start our “donation of funds” campaign.

*“Any Landscape is a condition of the Spirit”* ..... Henri Frederic Amiel