

May 2017 Tree, Brush, Noxious Weeds and Vegetation Committee Meeting

Call to Order: May 19, 2017 @ 1:05 pm Surfside HOA Business Office

Present: Committee members Pam Harris, Valerie Harrison, Annette deLeest, Larry Raymer, Karen Pachman, Peggy Olds, Chair (via phone); Laura Frasier, Business Manager; and Chris Hanson (guest)

Introductions and Welcome: Karen Pachman introduced all members and guest Chris Hanson.

Old Business:

- **Minutes.** The March 2017 committee minutes were reviewed by the committee. Peggy will submit the March, 2017 minutes to Kimber for the April Board meeting packets by April 7.
- **Surf Insider article.** Peggy Olds submitted an article, as requested by Business Manager Laura Frasier, for the summer edition of the Surf Insider. Laura reported that the CRC Committee reviewed the article and no editing was needed. The publication will be sent to all Surfside property owners in early June.

New Business:

Tree Report and Discussion. Laura Frasier reported that 15 new complaints were added to the previous 15 complaints and 7 complaints were closed. There are currently 23 outstanding tree complaints

Laura re-iterated the revised complaint process as approved by the Board, for noxious weeds, like gorse, as asked to do so by Valerie Harrison. The Surfside Board took recent action to change the policy approach to fining members for inaction on noxious weed complaints. When a noxious weed complaint comes to the office, the committee will investigate. If noxious weeds are present, Surfside HOA will not assess fines, but instead will refer the complaint to Pacific County, while continuing to work with landowners to resolve the problem. Landowners will still be asked to remove the noxious weeds, such as gorse. Pacific County has resources available to help landowners with appropriate chemical treatment and a fine process for inaction.

Peggy Olds reported on a discussion she had with Karen (Pacific County Public Works, South Bend), regarding tree maintenance in the County right of way. Per Karen, a property owner may cut trees in the County right of way as long as they first contact the County. County personnel do a drive-by of the property to confirm that the trees are not marketable. Karen will confirm this process with Tom Gradt, Operations Manager, Public Works, Long Beach. Peggy requested written confirmation regarding this process. Laura Frasier said she has routinely used this process in the past and has worked with Tom Gradt. Peggy expects a follow up note from Karen by next month's meeting.

Complaint #4719. Owner of property asked that someone from the tree committee meet him on his property to discuss and confirm complaint. Karen Pachman, Larry Raymer, Annette deLeest and Valerie Harrison will meet landowner after this meeting.

Complaint #4799 was closed out.

Peggy reported she has received offers of help from three Surfside residents who will be available on an as-requested basis to help landowners who received valid complaints but were unable or could not

afford maintenance to resolve the complaints. These residents will provide tree trimming assistance as long as the landowner provides written permission to access the property and holds them harmless for any inadvertent damage that may occur as trees are trimmed or removed.

- **Complaint Review/Process.** A flow chart was previewed by Annette deLeest and Peggy Olds, outlining the entire process of a complaint from start to finish. Recommended changes were suggested. The chart can be used to explain the process to members or added to the CRC's new member bag, as well as assure consistency in information shared by members and the business office. The committee agreed to review the document for consistency with existing covenants, policy and procedures. The chart will be finalized at next month's meeting.
- **Community Outreach.** Peggy Olds would like everyone to think of various tree, noxious weed, vegetation-related topics that can be published in various Surfside publications or websites. The committee members agreed to prepare recommendations for next month's meeting.
- **Member Request** Laura received a request from a member concerning the difficulty in finding the various tree height limitations of lots in each division. The member thought it was very confusing and did not understand why there were variations in height limitations. Members discussed the covenant restrictions, use of the new GIS mapping of tree height limitations and ways the committee could clarify this information. Valerie Harrison and Larry Raymer explained the history of similar requests to the Board. All noted this information can be difficult to find in the covenants as well as understand, especially for new Surfside members. The committee did not believe it warranted a change in the covenants or referral of the request to the Surfside board of trustees.

Peggy Olds recommended she would contact the member and explain the history and covenant basis for the current tree height limitations, as well as offer to work with the member to develop a one-page handout explaining where to find tree height limits for any property in Surfside. The committee unanimously agreed to the recommendation.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 pm

Note: Next Committee Meeting: June 16, 2017, 1PM HOA Office

kjp/po

