

Tree Brush, Vegetation and Noxious Weed Committee Minutes April 20, 2018

Call to Order: 1:02PM

Present: Peggy Olds (Chair), Annette deLeest (Trustee), Karen Pachman (Secretary), Laura Frazier (Compliance Officer/Business Manager). Guests: Gil Gonzales, David Tollefson, Gary Williams (HOA Board President), Mark Scott (Trustee)

Introduction and Welcome: Peggy welcomed all committee members and guests.

Old Business:

- **March 2018 Committee Minutes:** Draft of March 2018 minutes have been circulated by e-mail for corrections. Unanimous approval of the revised minutes; they will be submitted to the Board.
- **Committee Charter and Policy Review:** Laura sent the proposed language to the Surfside attorney for review and comment. She is waiting to hear from him before scheduling the policy for adoption by the Board. If significant comments come back, the Tree committee will review and revise the policy as necessary.
- **Other Old Business:** Peggy provided background information from last month on Larry's concerns regarding Surfside chipper site activities. Since last meeting, she followed up with both Chief Brundage, of Fire District #1 and Surfside's Firewise Committee regarding the large piles of brush on the chipper site last year. Chief Brundage knew about Surfside's Firewise activities and was supportive of our efforts. He offered several suggestions including improved access to the site and siting the brush piles closer to the canal. She also followed up with the Firewise Committee chairs, who appreciated the input. They will modify access to the site when the fencing is installed, look at locating the brush closer to the canal, and will explore alternatives to reduce the brush piles, including more frequently chipping. She will report their findings at our next meeting.

New Business:

- **Tree Report/Discussion:** Laura presented her report for April 2018. Two (2) new complaints were added to the existing twenty-one (21) complaints and three (3) were closed. At the end of March 2018, we have twenty (20) outstanding complaints. See attached report from Laura.
- **Member Weed Issue:** Kimber received a call from a member who said that last year the chipping lot was full of sand spurs/burrs, they stuck in his tires which spread to his yard. He asked if the burrs could be removed prior to opening the site this year. Although sand spurs are not a noxious weed they are invasive. Gill stated that Eradipest does spray all of Surfside paths for the burrs but this area was not included in this year's budget. Gill also walked the chipper site and noted that the burrs were primarily along the south property line, near the trail. Burrs were not located in the area where chips had been spread. Eradipest quoted \$400.00 to spray the area in need at the chipper site. After discussion, it was decided to try and smother the burrs with chips as a first step. This is a low cost, environmentally friendly option. If this does not work spraying would be the next option, and the cost would be submitted to the Board for inclusion in next year's budget. Laura said she would contact the member about the review of the complaint and the result of the committee's action.
- **New Equipment Training:** Committee members received training in the use of our new laser and equipment.

- **Other New business:** Mark Scott mentioned vast amounts of Gorse are flowering throughout Surfside. He was very concerned as Gorse spreads and now is the time Gorse is starting to seed. He thought this may be a good time to flag the plants on properties of concern. Since we are complaint driven and will not trespass on member property, Mark was invited to submit complaints on these properties either through the Surfside process or by directly working with the county. Alternatively, the Committee has worked to provide more information and education as our primary method for informing members of how to rid their properties of Gorse.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM

Next Meeting: May 18, 2018 at 1:00 Surfside Board Room, HOA office

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