

EARC Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2011

Present: Mel Church, Mickey Cook, Karl Freed, Larry Harris, Joe Hawver, Dusty Rop

Absent: none

Guest: Eleanor Pinkham (Lake Villa West)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse library.

The committee last met in November 2010. Minutes for the meeting were approved via e-mail shortly after the meeting.

Actions noted for the record

Business for December through March was handled electronically. Committee actions during this time included:

1. Dave Walker, 3814 Old Field Place, provided a copy of the building permit for his deck project and the project was given final EARC approval.
2. Burke residence, 3801 Songbird Lane - EARC approved the removal of a 20" Hickory. Tree lost a major limb in the ice storm leading to damage to the core of the tree.
3. Suzanne Armour residence, 3907 Cricket Lane - EARC approved the removal of a 12" and 18" double-stemmed Black Locust. Although healthy, the tree's roots are causing damage to the sidewalk and foundation of the house.

Tree removal requests

Pines Association - 10" Cedar

The tree is located in the rear between units 3218 and 3212 of the Lower Pines. The top of the tree snapped off during the recent ice storm. One committee member was able to view the tree and take pictures. Before other members could visit the tree, the tree was removed. Based on the pictures, the tree was approved for removal, with a replacement required. The Secretary will review the proper procedure for tree removals in the EARC response letter.

Pines Association - 8" to 10" White Pine

The tree is located in the front of the building between units 3312 and 3318 Pine Bluff Lane. The tree is dead, with several surrounding trees. Approved for removal with no replacement required.

Cook residence, 3912 Cricket Lane - 10" Blue Spruce

The tree is located in the rear yard and lost 1/3 of its top during the ice storm. Approved for removal with replacement.

Old Field Association - 8" Austrian Pine

The tree is located in the rear yard between units 3812 and 3814 in a stand of five trees. Tree is infected with advanced Diplodia Tip Blight. Approved for removal without replacement.

Lake Villa West - 6 trees

The EARC approved the removal of 6 trees as outlined on the "Lake Villa West Major Landscape Project 2011" plan submitted by the Lake Villa landscape committee. These trees included:

- Two Blue Spruce (16" and 20") at the east end of the building - both trees are failing.
- Two Blue Spruce (20" and 24") by the front drive, west side - both have lost limbs on the northwest side and are the second phase of the plan, started last year, to replace trees along the drive.
- One 12" Crab Apple east of the front entry - showing a severe wound, caused by a trunk breaking off, which will cause the tree to decline
- One 16" Blue Spruce in the rear of the building, on the north edge of the mowed area - tree is 4/5 dead.

The plan also calls for the planting of 3 large Spruce (probably White), and a replacement for the Crab. A replacement for a Crab removed in 2010 is also included.

Lake Buffer Zone

In response to the Board's feedback regarding the Lake Buffer Zone proposal, two points were clarified:

- Mel Church has agreed to organize interested residents and Chair a Lake Buffer Zone committee for one year. The Board should officially establish such a committee, using the proposal as a guideline for the committee's work. The EARC can work with the committee if the Board wants, but will not assume oversight responsibility for the committee. This is consistent with all other previous committees (ex. Trail, Prairie Garden, etc.).
- Regarding including tree maintenance in the scope of the project, EARC members felt the project should be limited to non-tree vegetation within the specified zone. While a tree maintenance policy may be desirable at some time, it should probably encompass the entire shoreline to be effective and consistent. EARC members also had concerns about the aesthetics of extensive tree trimming to reduce leaf fall around the lake. Failure to include trees in the buffer proposal does not restrict the Board who, together with the management company, currently has the authority to trim trees within the common area.

Abraham construction

It was noted that construction has started on the Abraham porch/deck project prior to the EARC committee receiving a copy of the building permit, as requested in October. Mickey will send a reminder to Ms. Abraham asking that a copy of the permit be submitted as soon as possible.

Questions from the Board

Joe brought up two questions from the Board. The following feedback was provided:

- Debris at the beach area - the EARC has not previously been involved in maintenance of the beach area, which has been handled by the Board/management company. The EARC was involved in trying to protect a turtle nesting site by the lake, but protection and fencing of the area was done by the management company.
- City tree plantings - Karl and Gary Niemeck worked out a tree removal and replacement plan with the City in 2010. Karl will contact Todd Pryor, the city arborist, and work with him on the planting plan.

Conclusion:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, May 25, 3:00 pm, Clubhouse library

Mickey Cook, EARC Secretary