

**Dear HMDAC Members - Sent Via email to HMDAC and HPOA Board on 7/3/2014**

**Subject: Update on HMD in Lieu of Meeting**

Right now I have no meeting scheduled for HMDAC. Sort of busy with HPOA President stuff.

The plants selection committee is meeting July 14th at 10 am, in front of my house to plan for the new plants going into the Bennington Park. This will be Marcelline, Jane, Kathy and me. Marcelline will be continuing to meet monthly with Coast and perhaps and Marcelline and Jane will do some pre-inspections. We just get more maintenance when we give them lists. Marcelline is doing a great job of keeping the lists up to date.

Coast finally removed the dead plants in the Reflections Park and it looks much cleaner. They also did some work and removed dead plants at the corner of Olivewood and Overlook with some (not new plants going in this fall.) They completed removing the dead plants in median and replaced with Bark. If funds allow we would like to continue to clean the median but may not bark because if we rehab the area we don't want to pay again to remove the bark.

Paul Norberg is continuing his research about the City Overhead. If he gets to point that there is something for our committee to discuss, we will set the next meeting.

The Irrigation Contract with Coast seems to be working well. They keep adjusting sprinklers or replacing them. They will probably be adding a couple by my house and in the Bennington Park to eliminate brown spots and then reduce the overall watering. They said something about having reduced the water 20% on the parkway...so we need to stay alert for plants needing more water. There was a broken pipe at the waterfall which created the brown lawn. It was fixed.

The Golf Course has cleaned up the Masters Monument and St. Andrews. St. Andrews does need a few more plants. Will work on a way to get them replaced.

Pear Trees in Hiddenbrooke have a blight. It makes the ends of the branches turn brown and die. So far HMD only has 11 pear trees on Waterfall and Rushcreek which have the disease. HMDAC may be asked to have them replaced. There doesn't seem to be any permanent solution. The golf course has several pear trees and Zack gave me the following information:

*During spring and summer, prune out infected branches 8 inches below the damage. Avoid pruning when the plants are wet. Dip pruning tools in 70 percent isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) or 10 percent bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water solution) between each cut. Wash and oil shears when you are finished. These practices avoid spreading the pathogen.*

*Avoid heavy nitrogen fertilization, especially in summer, when succulent growth is most susceptible to fireblight infection. Avoid splashing water. Chemical control is not always effective and needs to be applied preventively. Therefore, in years when warm, humid, wet weather coincides with flowering and leaf emergence, spray plants with a fungicide containing basic copper sulfate (Kocide) or an antibiotic (Agrimycin) to reduce infection. Applications of Agrimycin need to begin at the start of blooming and continue every 3-4 days*

*during the bloom period. Application of Kocide should begin at bloom and continue every 7 days during bloom. Re-application following rain may be needed.*

The pears trees could cost as much as \$450 a piece to remove but if they grow, the cost could go up. So 11 trees to remove could cost \$5,000 and replacements \$150 to \$200 each. This might be done over two years. Depends on price break to remove all the trees at once. I believe the cost to maintain as above and also remove the dead branches is too costly in the long term. If this comes before the committee, I would abstain from voting. Please let me know if you see other Pear Trees on HMD land so they can be added to the problem. Trees on Blue Sky have had the disease for at least a year.

That is all for now. Let me know if there is a reason to hold another meeting. Otherwise, I think the next meeting could be Sept. or later. I will be gone the last two weeks of August.

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