

Landscaping Committee Report Annual Meeting – January 18, 2017

The Landscaping Committee was formed the beginning of last year. The year began with the members of the Landscaping Committee attending the University of Florida Extension Service Workshop for Associations to help us better understand the types of plants that would work best here at Pebble Shores. Throughout the year members have attended numerous workshops.

We made the hedge along Crown and Palm View Drives our focus when it was determined it was systemically infested with White Fly Disease. After many hours of researching to find a way to save the hedge, which would entail cutting it back to a 3 to 4 foot height and treating it at a cost of \$4,800.00 per year, three proposals were presented to the Board. They were: try to save the hedge, remove and replace the hedge with 3 gallon plants at \$10,700.00 or 5 gallon plants at \$21,000.00. The Board voted to replace the hedge with the 3 gallon plants, as the most fiscally responsible decision. A handout was produced, posted on bulletin boards, and included in our Spring Newsletter, which was mailed to all Owners. We then began researching plants that would grow well under the hardwoods, be somewhat drought resistant, and grow to a height of 6 to 8 feet without requiring as much trimming as our previous hedge. The hedge was replaced with Firebush and Clusia plants, which are both native to Florida.

All Palm trees were trimmed, and hardwoods were cut back two to three feet away from all buildings in December. Eight diseased palms were removed. In the next few weeks new mulch will be spread throughout the complex.

After attending a Native Florida Plants Workshop at Green Door Nursery, we hired the owner to consult with us on a plan for native plants in several areas. Once we are assured our irrigation is adequate in those areas, planting will begin at both entrances, next to the pool, and along the walkway between Buildings 174 and 180. We anticipate this will be completed by mid-February.

Latitude 26 became our new Landscaping Company at the beginning of January. They were highly recommended by several sources.

A January walkthrough with Master Gardeners from the University of Florida Extension Service will give us input to set short, mid, and long terms goals for our complex. Ongoing improvements to Pebble Shores will be done based on our budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Easlick and Clara Blackard
Co-Chairs
Landscaping Committee

