

Saddle Creek Community Services District

Special Meeting of September 14, 2017

AGENDA SUPPORTING DATA

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion and action to establish general Board direction on the **short term** landscape project expectations and action, for work to be completed during fall 2017.

Recommended Motion

I move to approve the short term landscape restoration project as described in this staff report [and/or as amended at this meeting] with funding available as detailed in the 2017/18 fiscal year budget.

Background

Staff seeks direction from the Board on the level of improvements and associated financial investment desired to quickly improve the aesthetics of the dead turf areas, while evaluating options for the future of the community landscaping. We are not looking to the Board on where to install plants, rocks, turf, or trees. This issue is being returned to the Board for discussion in conjunction with discussion of the long term landscape project feasibility evaluation process, as well as definition of the role of the Landscape Ad Hoc Committee. The replacement of drought damaged turf has become a very expensive process, with another \$80,000 in funding allocated in the 2017/18 fiscal year budget.

Staff is uncomfortable with performing expensive irrigation renovations and reestablishment of turf only to “green up” the community when some of this work will be removed if a long term drought tolerant landscape restoration project proceeds. Trying to save money by installing topsoil and grass seed has returned less than optimal results and will require substantial effort to improve. Installation of sod will make for an immediately beautiful end result, but will require a very substantial investment to complete.

Staff recommends a two step project approach, both completed under the counsel of a landscape architect hired by the CSD and design completed with input from the Landscape Ad Hoc Committee. The Short Term Landscape Restoration Project gets us by while planning the feasibility of the Long Term Landscape Restoration Project, and will be completed this fall with 2017/18 fiscal year budget dollars.

The Short-Term Project is defined as the work to restore the drought damaged areas of the community landscaping to a condition of aesthetic acceptability, completed with minimal capital investment during fall 2017; while the longer term option of a larger scale drought tolerant landscape conversion can be identified, its feasibility determined, planned and implemented. The overall goal of the Short Term Project is to increase aesthetics while minimizing investments in work that may be removed.

In a collaborative effort with the landscape Ad Hoc Committee the Short Term Project is as follows:

1. **Aesthetics** - From the community entrance along and within the Saddle Creek Road right of way to Oak Creek Drive, in order of time and priority:
 - o Contract and seek advice and guidance from a landscape architect hired by the District for the completion of the short term project

- Contract for removal of dead turf as needed. No additional turf is to be reinstalled.
 - Purchase and install landscape bark in dirt areas where turf was removed; either by force account or contracted
 - Install and/or contract for minimal “fill in” hardscape in areas initially identified as suitable for permanent hardscape items as determined appropriate, within funding available and under advisement of the landscape architect
2. **Planning** - Contract with a landscape architect to work with staff and the Committee to identify the scope, cost, benefits and potential schedule of the Long Term Landscape Project. The level of design will be adequate to accurately estimate cost and determine water cost savings; and to allow the CSD to determine the level of public support for proceeding with the work.

The budget for the Short Term project is up to \$100,000, with the initial allocation of \$20,000 for planning increased since the construction work cost will decrease if turf is not reinstalled.