

Landscape and Facilities Management Committee Annual Report 2020/2021

Montclair is an aging community and needs to continue implementing upgrades to its facilities and landscaping, both to benefit current residents and to remain appealing to potential homeowners. The Landscape and Facilities Management Committee (LFMC) needs to carefully consider improvements to our Common Area and Facilities by planning to budget for these improvements.

One of the most time-consuming projects this past year was rewriting the landscape contract renewal, request for proposal. With the completion of this project, Brightview, the current landscaping contractor, was awarded the contract for an additional three years with a one-year extension option. Brightview mows 1 million square feet of grass on Montclair Common Area; therefore, it is imperative that mowing practices, fertilization, and pesticide applications follow Best Practices to protect water quality. The updated landscape contract not only reflects these Best Practices but also changes in horticultural practices; particularly pruning and mulching techniques which will improve the health and longevity of existing trees and shrubs. The LFMC has also increased the amount of “no mow” areas within the community which saves money and further protects the environment as these areas will naturally revegetate. In May 2020, the Board passed a Motion presented by the LFMC to approve measures to stop encroachment and environmental damage on to MPOA Common Area in the Hunter Run Resource Protection Area. These actions will greatly enhance our ability to protect the environment and water quality of Lake Montclair and Powell’s Creek.

One of the challenges facing MPOA is invasive plant species and disease. Bamboo is present in several locations in the community. One of the largest and most mature stands of bamboo is adjacent to Waterway Drive and Ridgecrest Drive. In March 2020, the Board approved a Motion presented by the LFMC for Long-Term treatment and Management for Bamboo. This plan will take several years to fully implement and takes into consideration the steep terrain and potential risk of erosion at the site.

Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) is caused by a virus and is present in Waterway Drive landscaping. Unfortunately, there is no treatment or cure and RRD will eventually cause the demise of all the roses in our landscape. One of the goals of the LFMC for 2021, is to develop a strategic plan to deal with empty shrub beds and replacement of diseased roses along Waterway median. The committee is mindful of an MPOA standing resolutions that states "Trees and Shrubs planted on MPOA common area and MPOA maintained medians will be species planted in accordance with Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Other invasive species such as English Ivy and Honeysuckle continue to plague the health of trees and shrubs throughout the community. Members of the LFMC, Board Liaison, Tracy Hansen and MPOA President, Fred Rash participated in removal of invasive plants and vines at Hockersmith Park in October 2020.

In October 2020, the LFMC hosted a Town Hall presentation to inform the community of the proposed Dog Park at Hockersmith Park. Following the Town Hall, the LFMC presented a Motion in November 2020 that was passed for a Dog Park at Hockersmith Park.

The Blue Star Memorial was installed in 2010 as a joint project between Montclair Garden Club and MPOA. Once completed, the maintenance of the memorial became MPOA responsibility. Unfortunately, the memorial has significantly deteriorated since that time. During 2020, the LFMC worked with The Kings Masons to create a plan to repair the memorial and update the landscaping. A Motion was presented to the Board of Directors in September 2020; however, no money had been allocated to this project. Therefore, a budget request for \$10,000 was submitted to the 2022 budget, to cover the cost of this project.

The fencing at Kids Dominion has become completely dilapidated and no longer serves its purpose. The LFMC has begun working to replace the fence, which will comply with all current playground regulations, be safe for all MPOA residents to enjoy and help reduce the vandalism that is occurring in the playground.

Fencing along Spillway Lane has been repaired and extended to prevent residents from crossing the steep slope and drainage areas into Dolphin Beach parking lot. The extended fence will also help prevent non-residents from avoiding the ID checkpoint at the entrance to the beach. A new guard shack is still needed at the

entrance to Dolphin Beach and will be possible once MPOA has secured ownership of the entrance.

Dolphin Beach improvement projects continue since completion of the spillway project. The open design of the spillway is leading to the buildup of blowing sand on the newly seeded grass in the spillway and storm water drain, recent installation of a sand fence seems to be helping. LFMC will continue to work with management to find solutions. In September 2020, new landscaping was installed below the playground and next to the amphitheater, utilizing the annual credit from BrightView. The new landscaping is designed using native plants to give year-round interest from colorful foliage, native grasses, and blooming flowers in summer.

West Beach has many facilities including a picnic area, playground facilities, boat launch, fishing dock and boat storage for Montclair residents and their guests to enjoy. Unfortunately, there are no permanent toilet facilities at West Beach, with only porta-potties available during beach season. Therefore, the LFMC will continue working towards presenting a budget proposal for fiscal year 2023 for a permanent bathroom at West Beach.

LFMC has accomplished much during 2020 and has set ambitious goals for 2021. We are committed to improving our community for its residents and making Montclair a desirable place to live.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Arvin

Chair, LFMC

Members: Eric Fagerholm, Andy Fallon, Valerie Huelsman, Rozlyn Giddens, Trevor MacGavin, Joyce Neuman, Sherry Rose, Sue Ryan, Bill Shelly, Terry Tallent and Justin Weiser

Board Liaison: Tracy Hansen

Staff Liaison: Adam Werle