

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
April 25th, 2017

New Business

ITEM 10a

Proposed Landscape Improvements

Retrofit all landscape light fixture bulbs – approx. \$5300

The current LS lighting system is low-voltage but the bulbs are 35 watt halogens that burn hot and use a lot of electricity. The bulbs tend to burn out much too soon and maintenance is continually having to go through and change out bulbs every week.

Our landscape maintenance contractor has explained that because the halogen bulbs require so much power and because the system is run through only six transformer stations, the lights tend to burn out prematurely due to the overloading power draw.

One solution would be to go through and change out all 80 light fixtures to the new low-voltage LED lights, specifically engineered to run with LED bulbs and are the most energy efficient. One bid was quoted at about \$54,000 for this work.

A much less costly but still energy efficient option would be to simply go through and remove ALL the existing low-voltage halogen bulbs (remember 35 watts ea.) and install new low-voltage LED bulbs that only use 5 watts each. We achieve a cost savings on the energy used plus the existing six-transformer system would not be overloaded and the bulbs would not burn out prematurely. I have one outside quote at \$5300 and am working on a second inside quote from our landscape contractor, Western, which is expected to be more competitive. The bulbs run about \$44 each but are guaranteed for 10 years.

Replacement of struggling plant varieties in all areas – approx. \$5600

There are struggling half-dead plants everywhere that have not survived the drought of the past several years. The grounds around the entrance are in bad shape and in need of improvement. A proposal from our landscape maintenance contractor, Western, comes in at about \$5600 for the following (beginning at the tall lava column with the flame bowl on top):

- add more phormium to the raised lava planter bed, dig out the dead Xanadu plants and replace with agapanthus
- along the sidewalk and down to the wood bench, dig out the dead Xanadu plants and the ice plant and replace with agapanthus in front and some pygmy date palms in the back
- around the drinking fountain/dolphin statue - dig out the dead Xanadu and replace with agapanthus
- in the center divider between the driveways – dig out the dead Xanadu and replace with agapanthus
- in the small isolated triangular planter island behind the guard shack – clean up and add agapanthus
- planter directly behind the guard shack – eradicate the gophers, clean out all the existing old plants and replace with agapanthus and Japanese aralias
- at the 11 parking area divider islands – clean up the old remains of the kangaroo paws and plant with New Zealand flax or a close cousin of same.