

WOULD YOU FIX SOMETHING ON COMMON AREA?

by Rana Goodman on Tue Mar 09, 2010 4:38 pm

Does anyone remember when our board of directors fined a homeowner \$6,800 for the removal of a tree that he had pruned without permission. The board claimed that our maintenance/landscaping people (or whoever) stated that the tree was dead due to his pruning efforts and needed to be replaced. Of course, spring had not arrived before the tree was removed so we will never know if that was true or not. Many of my trees looked dead until one week ago and suddenly they are sprouting buds and blossoms.

Well, the subject of my story today is reminiscent in a way of that unfortunate resident. If he decided to take the matter to a higher authority than our board of directors, I am hoping he has not already done so. What follows might just help his case.

Recently Norman McCullough sent a photograph to all board members showing approximately six feet of exposed irrigation line sticking up with the drip connectors attached. This is on association common area in front of 2624 Peoria Ave.

Villas owners pay an additional fee to have the exterior of their property and landscape maintained by the association. This problem in question is on COMMON AREA as was the tree incident referenced in paragraph one.

Mr. McCullough pointed out to the board that he feared this is an accident waiting to happen. He stated that the condition had existed since December 22, 2009 when a repair was made to a blocked sewer line that lies below the ground that serves a Villa home. Now surely since the lawns are mowed on a regular basis, the landscaping crews have seen the problem. Why was it never repaired?

Finally, today a reply came to Mr. McCullough from director Ann Small which said:

"I assume someone will answer this. If that were on my property, I would already have been out there with a shovel. I guess that comes with people who descended from pioneers"

So is director Small now saying it is permissible for a resident to venture onto common area to correct a problem? This is exactly what the man who pruned the tree thought he was doing.

The address on Peoria Avenue is owned by a lady who is 100 years old. Were one of us to go to her aid and fix this problem for her, and perhaps inadvertently cause a problem to the irrigation system, we would most likely be fined for the replacement of that system. It wouldn't matter that Ms. Small had in fact practically suggested taking the matter into our own hands.

It makes more sense to have our board issue instructions to our CAM to make the right people do their jobs before someone trips, breaks a leg, hip or worse and sues.

I'd love to know why the owners of the villas, who pay the highest fees in SCA are treated like second class citizens? Making the rub even more sore was a personal snub just this past weekend by the three Unity candidates. A coffee was thrown by a Villa owner for his neighbors to meet ALL of the candidates. You see, many of the villa owners are aging seniors who will mail in their ballots. The only candidates that did not respond and did not attend were the Unity candidates. Perhaps they are so sure of their victory they don't need the vote of the residents in the Villas.

Rana