

August 10, 2009

Mr. Edward Exner
Operations and Maintenance
6700 Clark Road
Sarasota, Florida 34241

Re: Maintenance of the Venetian Waterway Park in Venice

Dear Mr. Exner,

Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) has used volunteers for the past dozen years to help maintain the Venetian Waterway Park (VWP) in Venice. In light of the fact that our maintenance volunteers – the Pepper Patrol-- are getting older, VABI members have decided to dedicate their energies toward other community projects and will be reducing our maintenance of the VWP. VABI will continue to assist with the Adopt-A-Park program and specific clean-up projects along the VWP.

In 2002 we had the modes of maintenance, in 2006 we had the Levels of Service for Maintenance and, due to the recent change from Parks to O&M, we are not sure what the new standards are now. We have always appreciated the assistance VABI and the Venice Community has received from the County's maintenance staff and look forward to a continued relationship for this community asset. Below we have identified a few areas where we think the County will need to supply staff and materials for VWP maintenance.

Grass is cut once every 10 working days during the rain season. The area along Golf Drive is irrigated but the rest of the VWP is not irrigated or aerated. Reseeding or resodding is done only when major bare spots appear. Weed control measures are normally used when 50 percent of small areas are weed infested or general turf quality low in 15 percent or more of the surface area. Edging is completed to keep vegetation off the walkway surface for safety and to reduce liability risks. Please have the mowing contractor pick up the downed limbs and trash before mowing the area. Fertilizer should be applied only when turf vigor seems to be low.

Litter controls consist of a minimum service weekly, although trash must be removed as noticed along the VWP. County staff has been doing a great job in removing trash from the trash cans.

Pruning of trees and plants is required for safety and for health (of plant and VWP participant) or reasonable appearance.

Disease and insect control is done only on epidemic or serious complaint basis. Spraying equipment, surface and worker must be evaluated along with weather conditions before treatment is applied. For safety reasons, ants should not be tolerated along the VWP.

Weeds in walkway cracks and tall weeds just outside the mowed area should be eliminated.

Concrete and boardwalk repairs should be done whenever safety or function is in question. Surfaces need to be kept clean due to the nature of trail activities, for safety and for appearance.

Inspection by a staff member should be done at least once a day when regular staff is scheduled. If the wood expansion joints are creating a hazard, they should be trimmed back to concrete level.

Again, thank you for your assistance in this community project. If you need more information, please contact me at 207-VABI.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jean Trammell
President, Venice Area Beautification, Inc.

Cc: Mr. Ed Wolfenbarger, Park Naturalist