

THE HILLS PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING – April 15, 2014

The April meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, Tuesday April 15 by Chairman Dave Anderson.

In attendance: Linda Water Nelson ,Jennifer Paul, Eric Ovlen, Anne Hewgley, Dave Anderson, Gail Oberta, Ron Dodd (substituting for Robert Smith)

Minutes:

The minutes from the February and March meetings were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Jennifer reviewed the current budget statement. She noted a correction to the expense for HillsFest, with the actual expense being \$1,800, not \$2,000.

She noted that current expenses for plumbing repairs to the bathrooms and water fountains are exceeding amounts initially budgeted due to the unusually cold weather causing plumbing problems. She indicated that this overage should be absorbed to achieve budget by the end of the year. The current expenses do not reflect additional plumbing problems with water fountains and toilets, again due to freezing temperatures. These will be reflected in the next treasurer's report.

The Park signage has been repaired and the expense exceeding the amount initially budgeted. This will also be absorbed to remain on budget.

Old Business:

1. The Commission noted that freezing temperature may be anticipated in the new budget year. Linda proposed increasing utility expenses for the 2015 budget. Ron encouraged the Commission to insure that expenses would be appropriately tracked and reported by category at year's end to assist with the BOA review and approval of the budget. He also noted that the budget development process should begin in June.
2. Dog Park: Eric reported on his findings from reviewing (in person) the Lakeway Dog Park and others. He developed several questions and areas for consideration, including whether we need two separate areas for large and small dogs, do we have enough space for a functioning park, do we need recreational water areas for dogs (such as the wading pools at Lakeway). The members determined that it would be helpful to review surveys used by other developers to see what type of additional questions we need to address. Gail volunteered to research material from Friends of Bee Cave Dog Park mailings for their review discussions. The members determined that the optimum area for locating the dog park would not be sufficient for extensive "running" and formal exercise and that we needed to be careful in choosing language when referring to this project as a dog "park" to avoid unrealistic expectations. The members further discussed whether there were opportunities to raise funds through sponsorships and activities. Ron indicated that this process was available to us. The members additionally discussed liability issues, and Ron proposed contacting Don Roark to gain further insights. Additional information regarding liability issues and other groups' experiences and concerns in developing a dog park will be researched for the next meeting.

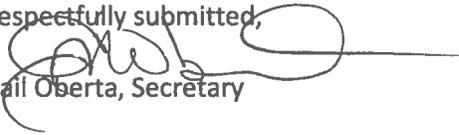
New Business:

1. HillsFest: Dave reminded us that it would soon be time to select a date for the event. In order to avoid major conflicts with other fall community events, Dave will research activities that are already scheduled in the community and report back at the next meeting. The group determined that fall was optimum due to weather considerations and the popularity of the pumpkin painting activity, and the group tentatively proposed Sunday, October 19th.
2. Ron reported that the M.U.D. will be drilling up to three wells at the park area to determine if additional water supplies for the community might be available. Drilling will commence on April 21st.

Adjournment:

Gail made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jennifer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Gail Osberta, Secretary

