

**The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**In Attendance:** Scott Feil, Betty Ann Courtney, Bruce Warmuth, Jennifer Paul, Suzy Aubert, Josh Avigael, Dave Anderson (via cell phone), and Mary Ann Grimes

Meeting commenced at 1pm at The MUD Conference room with Scott Feil presiding and Mary Ann Grimes taking minutes.

**Welcome:** Scott welcomed the commission members.

**Motion to approve July minutes was made and they were approved unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Josh reported that the usual expenses were paid this month. Upcoming expenses will be \$150 for the removal of the cedar tree which will come out of the landscaping line item of which there is \$800 remaining. The mowing expense is \$350 for this month and is half as much as normal since we have no grass to mow due to the extreme drought. Currently, we have spent approximately 2/3rds of our budget and have \$7,000 remaining with 2 more months left in the fiscal year. We should end up in the black.

**Old Business**

- **For Discussion/Update**
  - **Treasurer's estimate of remaining funds through the end of the fiscal year September 30, 2011:** Approximately \$7,000.
- **For Decision (if made) by the BOA on funding for FY 12**
  - **Adjustment to FY 12 budget if required:** Scott presented a request for \$31,805 to the BOA. We haven't heard any feedback so far and the BOA meeting is to be held this week on Thursday. Hopefully, we will get this amount.
  - **Line item discussion:** All remaining funds must be used before the end of the fiscal year. We should have the funds to do the crushed granite next year. Budget still to be determined.
  - **Removal of the dead cedar at the entrance:** Cedar removed by Florentino for \$150.
  - **Drought effects and mitigation steps:**
  - **Update on research projects**
    - **Nature Trail Signs:** Jennifer presented her research and passed around photos from an internet company, Cylexsigns.com, and felt after speaking with the owner of the company that this was the best choice. The company is based in Arizona and ships for free. They make a simulated molded rock. Jennifer suggested that we add a few more signs to the 8 that we originally had in order to identify

additional plants. The approximate cost would be around \$1,000. A motion was made to move forward with this project contingent upon available funds at the end of the year. It was also suggested that we have another “Friends of the Park Day” to solicit help installing the new signs ourselves.

#### **Playscape borders**

- **Contact with other contractors:** We are still in need of a few more bids which may require a special meeting.
- **Range of estimates, if any:** N/A
- **Review of change to Park reservation system to include the caution about electric loads:** Scott will speak with Linda at the MUD office about adding a clause in the contract about limited electrical power available for events held at the park.
- **Ice Cream Social Update:** Betty Ann Courtney passed out a detailed agenda for the upcoming event. She reported that she was able to find a cute train to give rides to the children with a business called Train Express. It will cost approximately \$250 and we will need someone to volunteer to man the line and pass out tickets. Suzy said that she could provide the tickets. G2U has been booked and will provide laser tag, gaga ball, gyroscope and hamster ball all for \$600. They are giving us a discount. There will be no bounce house this year. A suggestion was made to continue to call the event “Hills Fest” and to use the old signage having to change only the date. Everyone seemed to agree to this idea. Josh will take care of signage. Suzy will handle the pumpkin painting table. It was suggested that we enlist the help of the security men to pick up the pumpkins and deliver them to the Park. Jennifer will pick up drinks and coolers. Gretchen will handle the ice cream. Scott will insure that the grounds are mowed prior to the event. Also, Betty Ann suggested using oil cloth for table cloths on the serving tables. That way they could be used every year.

#### **New Business**

- **For Discussion:**
  - **Ideas for fund raising for leveling the playing field:**
    - Golf Tournament
    - Friends of the Park event of some kind:
    - Youth ideas/drive (car wash, etc.):
    - Pancake breakfast
    - Casino night with silent auction
    - Event at the Club
    - Sell raffle tickets for a golf cart
    - Enlist local businesses to donate time/services
    - Concert at The Park

- **For Decision:** We need to figure out approximately how much money we need to raise, \$25,000?
  - **Decide to solicit bids for maintenance contract (Florentino contract is up for renewal):** A motion was approved to solicit bids for other lawn companies. Please send in your suggestions.
  - **Determine a volunteer inspection schedule for the next 4-6 weeks to evaluate the cleaning team (Monday pm inspections):**
    - August 15<sup>th</sup>-Suzy
    - August 22<sup>nd</sup> Dave
    - August 29<sup>th</sup> Scott
    - September 1<sup>st</sup> Dave
- **Public Forum, Comment, and Other business to come before the Commission:** Suzy was concerned about liability coverage at The Park. Scott replied that The Park is a “Village asset” and is covered under this insurance. Volunteers are also covered under this policy.

Next meeting will be **September 13, 2011 2:18PM**

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM

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Scott Feil, Chair for The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission

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Mary Ann Grimes, Secretary