

The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 10th, 2009

In Attendance: Rick Zehrer, Dwyce Ratliff, Ron Dodd, Diane Thompson, Bruce Warmuth, Josh Avigael, Kelly Terry, and Mary Ann Grimes

Meeting commenced at 1:00pm with Rick Zehrer presiding as President and Mary Ann Grimes taking minutes.

January meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dwyce reported that we have spent \$2,725 since January 9th, a 50% payment towards the rock climbing wall with a balance of \$19,380 remaining in the funds.

Old Business

Kelly Terry received an email from Hector in regards to a safety issue pertaining to the rock wall. Hector suggested that the plastic laminate platform that was originally planned as part of the rock wall be substituted for a wood alternative. There was also a safety concern in regards to the spacing of parts. Kelly, Rick and Hector elected to proceed with the wood alternative. The nails to be used in this project will be retraction resistant. The cost of staining the wood would be included in the price and would reduce the net cost of this project by \$450. Choosing to use wood will shorten the build time by three weeks. Staining will be required approximately every 5 years at about \$200 each time it is stained. It was suggested that we get a contract to stain all wooden structures every 4 to 5 years in the future. Hector was asked for a written estimate.

Rick brought up "Friends of the Park" business. Bruce mentioned that Commission members need to remember to mention to our friends that we still need people to volunteer as "friends." Dwyce said that Betty Ann Courtney and Barbara Risser want to be members of the Friends of the Park. Kelly Terry and Joy Hrobak also have volunteered as well. Barbara Risser mentioned playground equipment that she recommends.

Rick said the tree pruning “looks good.” It appears that the bases of the trees have been timed and cuts have been covered up. Brad with Best Trees who did the work may have not been paid for his work. Rick will call Brad Uffelmann to check on status of bill.

Par Course update: Robert Smith absent from meeting was to check on donation of equipment. Rick will check on status.

New Business

Two teachers from Serene Hills Elementary called to inquire about the use of The Hills Park to use as a summer camp for the month of July. Although school districting does not put the students of Serene Elementary in The Hills as residents, they are still eligible to use the park. There are currently no rules setting a precedent for this request. Josh brought up concern about booking The Park so long in advance as well as a concern about the trash, wear and tear, and liability. It was questioned where the teachers would store their equipment and how the teachers and students would get through the gates. It was suggested that we talk to the BOA about the fact that this is a business venue for the teachers and that we need to set general rules for such requests in the future. Dan Roark and Ron Dodd both feel that it would cost \$75/day per event as the rules are written now. Also, it was mentioned that residents would be booking The Park for their own parties and having The Park closed to residents would be a problem. It was suggested that the rules be that a non-resident not be able to book an event more than 30 days in advance and that a non-profit venue be allowed. We will wait till the BOA takes a look at this issue too.

Other Business

Rick: Sprinkler repair has been done.

Kelly got a bid about the volleyball court from Hector. The bid was about \$10,000 because of location and leveling issues which would require several loads of dirt and 12” of sand. Josh suggested that we get more bids and pick a different location.

Kelly was interested in getting a baseball backstop of “Little League” quality. It was mentioned that leveling the field and removing rocks would be difficult and that we need to have someone come and look at it. Josh suggested that we look at the cost of a backstop first and then have a separate discussion about the field.

Enhancement of the trail: Diane agreed to take a look at the trail and consider the par course and future plantings for the 2009 agenda.

Josh remarked that there were some trees with caution tape near the Serene gate and wondered why it was there and should it be taken down or was it put up by Best Care when they were pruning the trees.

It was suggested that we have a procedure for fire ants in the landscaping contract. Kelly suggested that we post a sign for park goers with instructions on whom to call for maintenance issues such as broken sprinklers, fire ants, wasp nests, etc. Also, Kelly remarked that as the park gets bigger and we have more maintenance, we need to address this in future budgeting of The Park. Ron reminded us that in order to keep within our tight budget we must get several bids on all projects.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th, 2009