

**The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 13, 2009**

In Attendance: Rick Zehrer, Bruce Warmuth, Diane Thompson, Dwyce Ratliff, Ron Dodd, Robert Smith, Mary Ann Grimes, Josh Avigael, and Jane Hines

Meeting commenced at 1:00 with Rick Zehrer presiding as President and Jane Hines taking minutes.

December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved with the following exception: It was stated that Ron Dodd would continue as our liaison with the Board of Aldermen until June. As clarification, the city election is in May and those elected are sworn in at the June meeting. At that time, the treasurer, secretary and liaisons for Park and POA are elected.

Treasurer's Report

Dwyce reported that we have \$22,105 in our budget for the remainder of the year. She provided members with copies of the Village of the Hills Budget for 10-1-07 to 9-30-08, Village of the Hills Budget for 10-1-08 to 12-31-08, Park Maintenance Expenditures for 10-1-08 to 11-30-08 and Park Maintenance Expenditures for 12-1-08 to 1-9-09.

Comments from Ron Dodd

The Board of Aldermen, the POA and Hurst Creek Mud all work from the same building, allowing for good communication among the groups.

The Park was conveyed to the city because it limited the Park's liabilities and eliminated property tax.

All donations to the Park are tax deductible.

The Park and Nature Trail should maintain a usage balance to appeal to the maximum number of residents.

We presently have 1000 houses and approx. 2500 residents. We are experiencing some foreclosures.

Old Business

1. There is a missing bridge post that needs to be replaced and stained. Scott will take care of it.
  
2. The tree planted by the Boy Scouts between the restrooms and the pavilion has been uprooted. It was very small and difficult to grow. It was decided that we remove the planter box and tree remnants for the time being.
  
3. Rock Climbing Wall: Kelly has provided e-mails to chart the progress of this project. The original estimate of \$4,785.00 was for the rock climbing wall with two

levels and a platform in between. Rick and Kelly met with Hector from Intex at the site and, while there, noticed erosion at the posts holding up the slide. It was suggested that the upper platform at top of the berm be extended the entire width of the rock climbing wall and then pass the entrance into the slide and several extra feet to the other side of the slide. It also requires 11-15 more holes to concrete the beams into the ground requiring additional material and labor costs. The actual platform will be larger as one piece.

In Addition:

- a) It would be significantly cheaper if we created a rope “handrail” tied off of two 2X6 beams with knots positioned for better grip. (250.00)
- b) Install 3 erosion “stopper” landscape timbers between the climbing wall and slide (125.00)
- c) Upgrade the hardware on wall to stainless steel to resist rust. (20.00)
- d) Hector was also asked about doing the concrete work for the tether ball. (50.00)
- e) The original bid was \$4785. With the above changes, the revised bid would be \$5450-a difference of \$665.

#### Friends of the Park

Board members are encouraged to submit names of those that may be interested in helping out with special projects. Five or ten people would be great. Bruce will also bring this up at The Hills meeting on Thursday night.

#### New Business

Tree Care: Per Robert, we previously budgeted \$900 annually for tree maintenance and suggested we contact Brad Uffelman at Best Tree Care for an estimate. Brad has also donated mulch to us. For THIS year, we budgeted \$1000. Rick obtained a bid from Brad for \$2300. As Rick had to leave town, Scott contacted Brad to get more specific as to exactly what that covered. By eliminating the “top work” in the canopies of the trees around the playscape and limiting the job to ground work, the bid could be reduced to \$1400. This would include removing all dead wood over 2”, clearing the suckers, and trim, lift and balance canopies. It was agreed by electronic vote to accept the \$1400 bid.

Erosion of Entry Drive: Especially the left side of the driveway and both sides of the culvert are crushed down, blocking the culvert and looking shoddy. Scott will contact Brent to get a bid. Scott obtained a bid for \$350. Brent will relocate pipe, build up another course of stones at the edges to provide more barrier and mound more granite at culvert crossing to add strength. The job should take ½ day, It was agreed by electronic vote to accept this bid.

Positions Needed: Two positions need to be filled on the Board. Scott will stay on as maintenance chair but a co-chair is needed. We also need an events chairperson which is an extremely important position. We do anticipate having the ice cream social again this year but no other events or fund raisers are planned at this time.

Goals For 2009-2010

1. Nature Trail
  - a. Par Course- per Robert, a few years back, Jim Ryan volunteered to donate a par course. Robert will contact him to see if he is still interested.
  - b. Vegetation Signage
2. Tetherball and Volleyball
  - a. Hector will do the concrete work for tetherball for \$50.
  - b. Both courts will be located on the south side of the pavilion
  - c. The sand will blend into the grass-it needs to be determined how much sand must be brought in.
3. Emphasis on Park AND Nature Trail
  - a. We should strive to focus on each project before starting a new one

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 10, 2009.