

The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 11th 2010

In Attendance: Betty Ann Courtney, Josh Avigael, Rick Zehrer, Bruce Warmuth, Suzy Aubert, Dave Anderson, Jennifer Paul, Peter Gomes ,and Mary Ann Grimes

Meeting commenced at 1pm with Vice- Chair, Betty Ann Courtney, sitting in for Scott Feil and Mary Ann Grimes taking minutes.

December minutes approved.

Welcome: Jennifer Paul and Peter Gomes were welcomed by the Park Commission members. Jennifer is now an official commission member. Peter, a nominee, will have official approval at the next BOA meeting to be held Thursday, Jan. 13th.

Motion to vote for park officers: Betty Ann made a motion to vote on newly nominated positions to the Park Commission. Rick second the motion. All members voted unanimously for the following: Chair--- Scott Feil

Vice-Chair—Betty Ann Courtney

Secretary—Mary Ann Grimes

Treasurer—Josh Avigael

Treasurer's Report: Josh reported that all utilities have been paid. There was a bill for \$370 paid for plumbing work with \$500 remaining in this fiscal year's budget. There was discussion pertaining to turning off the water supply at the restroom building for the upcoming freeze expected this week. It is possible that we will need to have a plumber come out to drain the water from the fountains and cut off water to the water supply temporarily to prevent damage to these units as occurred last year's deep freeze. Rick and Josh will check on the water valve at the park and speak with Dan at the MUD about the fountains.

Old Business

- **Changing Table:** Betty Ann presented finding from her research on diaper changing tables proposed for the ladies restroom at the park. She found two different brands of tables ranging from \$273 to \$174 from KaTom Restaurant Supply. After some discussion, the commission voted to approve the purchase of the Rubbermaid brand changing table for \$174. Betty Ann will make the purchase. Suzy suggested that we could add a hand sanitizer unit on the wall alongside the changing table. Betty Ann offered to place one the several large bottles of hand sanitizer that were left over from the Hills Fest in the restroom for now. An evaluation will be made depending on its usage whether or not we need a permanent dispenser.

- **Canopy over smaller playscape:** Suzy presented her finding on research she had done regarding the canopy. She confirmed what Josh found as well that because the canopy would need to be custom made and installed according to strict rules and guideline, this project would cost somewhere between \$8,000 to \$9,000. Due to expense, the commission decided to table this project for now.
- **Leveling the playing field:** Rick reported that he and Scott discussed this project prior to the meeting. They agreed, due to cost, that it would be best to make this a research project for the current fiscal year. It was agreed that the commission should consult with several construction people to get an idea of the possible expense. Dan with at the MUD has offered to help in whatever capacity that they can.
- **Tether Ball:** Rick to pursue this project. Installation of ball TBD.
- **Maintenance Projects:**
 1. The rock climbing wall need the “rocks” tightened periodically. Members were asked to check on these once in a while so that it is properly maintained.
 2. Road and Path gravel replacement is due. Josh has budgeted \$4,350 for this project. This amount is expected to be enough to do one area and part of the other but not enough to do both completely.
 3. Staining Playscape is a future project TBD.
 4. The riverbed and salt cedars needs maintenance/pruning. Jennifer was asked to provide a recommendation as to what needs to be done here for the next meeting.
 5. General maintenance and safety check of park equipment needs to be scheduled twice per year. We need a group to volunteer to do this.

New Business

- **This year’s Hills Fest:** Betty Ann discussed several points to enhance this year’s Hills Fest. Since this was the first year to hold this event, she had several suggestions to improve the event. She suggested that the pavilion be blocked off from any other events on that particular weekend because of the clean-up involved. Also, we should power wash the pavilion and tables and benches a few days beforehand. This is something that needs to be done periodically anyway and before the Hills Fest is a good time to do so. Also, the BBQ grills need to be cleaned prior to the event. Costs saving ideas that she had were:
 1. only cover the tables that were to have food items reducing the need for more covers.
 2. have water donated (7-8 cases needed)
 3. Get individual bags of chips as opposed to large bags
 4. Reduce the amount of food purchased, we had lots of leftovers
 5. purchase fewer this year, suggesting 20 12 pks instead of the 24 bought this year
 6. Eliminate table decorations
 7. Have pumpkin painting which was a success but buy ½ of the amount (100 small pumpkins suggested) Keep location at the entrance.
 8. No band, just a boom box for music

9. Cut out prizes and games and add more from Games2U. This would eliminate the need for so many volunteers since G2U is manned. Add a kiddie train that goes around the park trail for rides.

Also, many more volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up. Should start earlier recruiting volunteers. This year's HF date TBD. First we must check to see what is already scheduled in the community such as game days, school homecoming dances, and carnivals. It was also mentioned that we do not need the parking at Serene Elementary.

- **Friends of The Park:** This list needs to be revised and we need to add more "friends." Please ask your friends and neighbors if they are interested in becoming a friend.

Other Business: Rick will be giving his Park Commission status report at the annual BOA meeting on Thursday, January 20th. He will discuss all that we have done over the past year and our plans for this year.

Next meeting will be February 8th, 1PM

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM

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

Mary Ann Grimes, Secretary