

**THE HILLS PARK AND NATURE TRAIL COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 21, 2009**

**In Attendance:** Rick Zehrer, Bruce Warmuth, Diane Thompson, Dwyce Ratliff, Jane Hines, Josh Avigael, Robert Smith, and Adrienne Peters

Meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. with Rick Zehrer presiding as president and Adrienne Peters taking minutes on behalf of Mary Ann Grimes.

**June minutes approved and signed.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Village of the Hills Park Budget 2008-2009 was handed out by Dwyce. Report reflected current remaining funds for each specific category. Total remaining funds are \$8,256.94 from now through the remaining fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. Report attached.

**Old Business**

- **Tetherball:** Tetherball has been replaced.
- **Playscape Repair:** Chin-up bar on large Playscape has been repaired.
- **Landscaping:** Pile of brush has been removed. Commission noted that the granite path had been graveled 2 years ago and is in good shape, due to the lack of rain and erosion. There may be a need to fill in gravel at the front of the drive.
- **Irrigation System and Water Usage:** Irrigation had been set mistakenly for daily operation. The system is now set to irrigate twice weekly.
- **Rock Climbing Wall Landscaping:** The Commission agreed to table this matter and to take it up again in the fall.
- **Mulch:** Mulch has been delivered and will be spread as soon as the temperature drops to an acceptable level for outside labor.
- **Signs for Trees/Plants on Nature Trail:** Diane Thompson presented information concerning the costs of signs and posts to identify certain trees and plants on the Nature Trail. The Commission agreed that there are 8 trees/plants which should be identified. The costs are approximately \$37.50 per 6 inch x 12 inch wooden sign and \$2.50 per post. The signs could be halved. The Commission agreed that the signs should be in forest green with light colored lettering in order to be consistent with other signage in The Hills Park. Robert Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of the signs and posts and the motion was seconded. Diane Thompson will contact Stokes to purchase the signs and posts. The Commission also discussed using gift money for the signs and posts and identifying the donor on a separate sign, with the donor's permission. Rick Zehrer also noted that lettering was missing from a sign in The Hills Park and will take a picture of the sign. Diane Thompson will contact Stokes to discuss replacement of the missing letters.
- **Grill for Pavilion Area:** The Commission asked Josh Avigael to look into the options available for the purchase of a large grill with a lid for approximately

\$500.00 - \$700.00. The Commission also discussed possibly using gift funds for the grill and identifying the donor, with the donor's permission.

**New Business:**

**FY 10 Budget:**

**Appreciation:** Scott Fiel prepared a comprehensive spreadsheet. Rick Zehrer thanked Scott his hard work in putting together the spreadsheet, noting that the categories were carefully detailed and included formulas for the calculation of funds that made the spreadsheet very user friendly. Rick further thanked both Scott and Dwyce Ratliff for their work on the budget.

**Preliminary Conversations:** The Commission discussed each item of the FY 10 budget and the following suggestions were made.

**Cleaning Budget:** This may need to be increased and Rick Zehrer will discuss with Alma Wood the costs to be charged by the company who is currently contracted to do the work.

**Grounds Maintenance Budget:** Rick Zehrer will check with Alma Wood to see if there are any changes to the current monthly charge.

**Cost of Soccer Goal:** The Commission to hold further discussions on the amount budgeted for this item.

**Emergency Clean-up:** This item should be renamed to Emergency Clean-up and Repair in order to budget for items that may need repair throughout the year.

**Water:** This item should be increased by approximately 15 percent to allow for additional areas that now need watering (berm, butterfly garden).

**Ice Cream Social:** This amount should be increased to \$1500. The Commission discussed that many items had been donated in the past and that if donations decrease due to the current economy, the budget should include sufficient funds to purchase those items. The budget was increased to also reflect the costs of games and attendants for the bouncy equipment.

**Further Comments:** If members have additional comments, they should contact Rick Zehrer or Dwyce Ratliff prior to the next meeting.

**Submission to the Board of Alderman:** The Commission will finalize to finalize the budget prior to the August 20, 2009 meeting of the Board of Alderman.

**Other Business:**

**Fundraising:** If fundraising to be held in the upcoming fiscal year, residents of Flintrock Falls should be included in fundraising efforts.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be August 11, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

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Rick Zehrer, Chair for The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission

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Mary Ann Grimes, Secretary