

**The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 10, 2012**  
**1:00PM**  
**MUD Conference Room**

**In Attendance:** Josh Avigael, Jennifer Paul, Lynn Miller, Peter Gomes, Suzy Aubert, Lynn Miller, Joy Hrobak, and Mary Ann Grimes

Meeting commenced at 1:00pm at The MUD Conference room with Josh Avigael presiding, and Mary Ann Grimes taking minutes.

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

**Motion to approve May minutes was made and approved unanimously.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Budget report submitted by Jennifer Paul was passed to all members for review. Bills for June came to \$962.70, and were for all standard monthly services. Since we are approaching the last few months of the fiscal year, Jennifer and Chris Redd have reviewed current sources of funding. We have \$5,737 in donations and a remaining in the regular budget is \$11,613.38. There was some question as to the accuracy of the amount in a second "Parks improvement fund", and to the accuracy of the amount in the "Donations" category. After some discussion, Josh speculated that all "Park improvement funds" are already in the budget and that the confusion may be in the two different ways that it is recorded between the BOA and The Park Commission. Chris stopped by briefly and said that she would check on the discrepancy. Treasure's report as written was approved by all. It was also noted following budget approval, that future expenses such as our cleaning contract and our grounds maintenance will remain the same for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

**Old Business**

○ **For Discussion/Update**

- **New Commission Members:** Josh noted that we are still in need of one more commission member. Please keep on the lookout for someone who would be interested in serving our community.
- **Ice Cream Social:** Suzy Aubert has volunteered to be our coordinating co-chair for this event. She plans on revising the name of the event to something that accurately reflects the tone of the event and will be used for all future Park Commission fall fests. She is currently doing research on costs for having Amy's Ice cream or JimJims to be served. There will not be a band. She will be ordering new signs from the last year's vendor, as they were significantly less expensive than Stokes. We will also be asking for donations during this event for future park improvements

- **Water Fountains:** Cooper's Plumbing has been scheduled to repair the fountains.

### **New Business**

- **Budget 2013:** Currently the 2012-2013 Park budget proposal is due for presentation before the BOA. As this request is due earlier than last year, and we had short notice, we will be basing our future budget requests on today's discussion, current park expenses, and possible park improvement projects. Both, the cleaning contract, and grounds maintenance contract will remain the same for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. No increase for that line item expected. Jennifer would like to make landscaping improvements including drought tolerant plants. Plantings would occur once the hot summer is over and pending budget approval. There was some discussion that July's water bill was rather high. This prompted discussion where the commission came to the conclusion that it would be more environmentally responsible to disallow any and all waterslide parties henceforth. Any changes to this ruling will be up to the Park Commission and the governing hills representatives. It was subsequently determined that the water bill line item for July was a *projected* amount, not actual.

The following is a list of improvement projects that the Park Commission has discussed doing in the next fiscal year: Level the Playing field, shades for the playscapes, re-surface the basketball court, remove "rubble" at the back perimeter of the park and add landscaping, line the walking path with borders, add a new "donor" plaque to include all donations from the past year. Since we have not has time to do research on all of these projects, we will be asking for \$20,000 to go toward any of these projects that we determine is most feasible. From past inquiries, we do know that leveling the playing field will be anywhere from \$15,000-\$30,000. There was discussion that we need to talk to some new people who specialize in grading land for new quotes before pursuing this project. We also know from past discussion, shades for the playscapes will be a fairly big expense. It was speculated that the cost of resurfacing the basketball court could be in the \$20,000 range as well. Choosing any one of these projects for the coming year will be determined at a later date. There is also a need for a "revolving emergency fund" specifically allocated for granite replacement going to the parking lot and walking trail. After any series of hard rains, we will need to replace quite a bit of granite due to erosion. Thus far, we have been able hold off on replacing the granite this year, and will only do so as needed. Josh will look into re-grade existing granite for now. Overall it was decided to keep next year's budget the same as this year, and to ask for \$20,000 in "yet to be named" capital improvements. Josh and Jennifer will arrange to meet with Ron Dodd to explain our budget requests. A motion to approve new budget was made and approved.

- **Grounds Maintenance:** Florentino's contract is up for review. A copy of the contract was passed to all members. It was suggested to add to the list of duties "remove leaves out of used areas" such in and around the playscapes,

dry "rock creek", and pavilion. A motion to approve the contract with the above addition was made and approved unanimously.

- **Public Forum, Comment, and Other business to come before the Commission: none**

Next meeting will be **August 14, 2012 1:00pm**

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM



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Josh Avigael, Chair for The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission



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Mary Ann Grimes, Secretary