

**The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**In Attendance:** Bruce Warmuth, Jennifer Paul, Gretchen Pachlhofer, Peter Gomes, Betty Ann Courtney, Suzy Aubert, Dave Anderson, and Mary Ann Grimes

Meeting commenced at 1pm at The MUD Conference room with Betty Ann Courtney presiding and Mary Ann Grimes taking minutes.

**Welcome:** Betty Ann welcomed the commission members.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Josh provided his report prior to the meeting via email and Betty Ann went over the details. We had to re-allocate about ½ of the funds scheduled for the parking lot/nature trail maintenance to pay for the fountain. We have \$2,218.29 remaining in this line item. Total available funds include:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Parking lot/Nature Trail | \$2,218.29      |
| • Landscaping              | -800.00         |
| • Irrigation repair        | 696.42          |
| • Masonry/Electrical       | 384.11          |
| • Vandalism                | <u>1,000.00</u> |
| Total                      | \$5,098.82      |

\$4,350.00 is required for granite replacement to parking lot/nature trail. Josh advises that we leave the vandalism account in tack. Also, he says that we probably won't need irrigation or masonry money. He asked that we discuss re-allocating \$800 for landscaping to go to granite work and get the work done at the end of the summer or consider paying for repairs the playscape first and ask for funding for next year's budget to go toward the granite. Commission members discussed what item was more pressing and decided that the repair to the playscape was the item needing attention most.

A motion to approve the report was made and approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

- **For Discussion/Update**
  - **Update on Park maintenance**
    - **Rocks-** A new pile of rocks has been placed next to the berm along Serene Hills fence.
    - **Dry Pond and Old buried carpet-**These were cleared and taken away.
    - **Doggie Bags-** Ordered and will be installed once delivered.
    - **Irrigation-** Need to be adjusted per MUD directions. Scott is overseeing this.

- **Review of those commission members completing Open Meeting training and certification:** All members have completed the training
- **For Decision :** None

### **New Business**

- **For Discussion:**
  - **Verbal estimates from GTL on playscape repairs, leveling of playing field and removal of dead cedar tree:** The playscape borders around the 2 playscapes need replacing. Scot met with Ryan from Greater Texas Landscaping. Ryan suggested that we use a synthetic material in natural colors to replace borders. The benefits of using synthetic material are that there is no deterioration, all of the anchors are hidden, and is non-hazardous since it gives a little on impact. The verbal estimate to replace is \$3000. Scott estimates that we have about 108' of a perimeter on the small playscape and is 14" from the highest point to the ground and on the large playscape there is approximately 205' of perimeter and 24" from the highest point to the ground. We will budget the amount of material needed based on these measurement plus the a few extra feet as needed.
  - **Dead Cedar:** Removal cost quote is \$600 without stump removal. This quote does include chipping for mulch. Jennifer suggested that we obtain another quote. Josh suggested that we wait until the end of the fiscal year to see if we have the money in the budget
  - **Playing Field:** The estimate for this project is \$15,000. Ryan from GTL met with Scott and they discussed that the field can be safely scraped about 2" after evaluation of irrigation and electrical lines. The dirt would be moved around to level the field and fill dirt would be brought in to "pitch" the field so that it is higher in the center to allow for appropriate drainage. Head valves will have to be raised. Seeding would happen in October and would need about 6-8 weeks before it would be ready for use. Rocks dug would be removed to pile on Serene Hills side. (Eventually, these would have to be removed) Scott estimates the field is 16,000 square feet. A drawing of the field was emailed to the commission members. Ryan will do measurements using Google Map to make sure our measurements are correct. The total package for all work is \$20,000. If, at the end of the year, we have funds, we can remove cedar. Discussion was to request this amount for next year's fiscal budget and the let the BOA know of our plans. Bruce suggested that we may have to do a fund raiser for this project.
- **Plan for preparation of new fiscal year budget**
  - Circulate current budget to members for comment/edits: Comments were made that Josh is doing an excellent job with

the budget. Josh however was not able to attend the meeting but sent the budget via email to all commission members.

- Timeline for budget development and submission: The time line for the budget is the middle of next week. Josh will submit by that time.
  - Discuss any major additional items known at this time: none
- **Review of ICS general plan**
    - Date (October, de-conflict with schools, holiday, and football): The date chosen for the next ICS is October 16, 2011. As far as we know this does not conflict with any other events at Lakeway Elementary, Emmaus or Homecoming
    - Time to run event (two rather than three hours): It was decided to return to the original 2 hour time frame 3-5pm
  - Review of the bids for new plant signs for the Nature Trail: Jennifer brought examples of the signs from the park which were in poor condition. Of the 8 signs, only 4 remain. Stokes bid to re-make the signs that we have now is \$96.25. This is for only 3 signs. Stokes suggested that we redo all of the signs so they look consistent. Jennifer suggested that the signs may not really be necessary for a neighborhood park. Both Jennifer and Gretchen are looking into alternate ideas so that any future signs can be permanently installed in concrete or etched into stone.
- **For Decision**
    - Nomination and election/selection of ICS chairperson: Our hero, Betty Ann, volunteered to head the ICS! Her appointment to this position was unanimously approved. She will of course, have plenty of help from the commission members. We will plan for a set-up day on the Saturday before, and clean-up immediately after. Volunteers will be needed for both days as well as scooping ice cream. It was decided that we would hire Games 2 U who man the events so that volunteers would not be needed and to do away with the kiddie games.
    - Approve/disapprove expenditures for new plant signs for Nature Trail: tabled for now until we can get other ideas and quotes for new signs.
  - **Public Forum, Comment, and Other business to come before the Commission:**
    - Suzy mentioned that the security light above the bathroom is broken. Also, the soccer net is broken. She will email Scott about this.
    - Jennifer mentioned that she saw two young boys in army fatigues doing reconnaissance activities using paint ball. Is this okay for the park?
    - Gretchen asked about reserving the park from people who are not residents and whether it was a good idea because of liability issues. She suggested that we clarify if we are a private park or a public park and that we should be careful letting non-resident members use the park because of liability.

- Betty Ann mentioned that Florentino is asking for an extra \$25 fee per visit. We are now paying \$350/visit. Jennifer suggested getting some other bids for the job.

Next meeting will be **July 12, 2011 1:00PM**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

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

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Mary Ann Grimes, Secretary