

**THE HILLS PARK AND NATURE TRAIL COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 10, 2009**

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

Meeting commenced at 1:00 pm

February Meeting Minutes Approved.

**Treasure's Report:** Dwyce Ratliff reported that there are funds of \$17,188.93 remaining through the end of February. Hector has been paid for one half of the total amount due for his work. A bill of second half totaling \$2,386.91 was submitted and signed by Dwyce for approval. Rick reported that there are no other outstanding bills at this time and that we have spent a little over half of our funds.

**Old Business:** Diane mentioned that four of the sprinkler heads have been replaced. Rick checked on the sprinklers recently and all look okay. Kelly reported that Hector has completed his work. She also reported that although the rope is very well liked by the children, there is soil erosion next to the rock climbing wall where the rope is located. It was questioned how to deal with this and should we move the rope to the other side or work around the issue. Josh asked "How we have dealt with soil erosions in the past?" Kelly showed a picture that showed tiered landscaping that could be used as an idea to prevent future erosion and be visually enhancing. Rick said that we don't yet have an answer to this question and asked that 2-3 people have a fact finding mission into soil erosion and how to handle this problem. Josh, Kelly, and Diane agreed to do so. Also, the rope is stretched from use and Hector plans to tighten the rope. Josh asked if we had someone who we have used in the past who has done masonry work. Diane replied that we did but they are no longer here. Robert thought we should move the rope to the other side of the slide. Josh felt that it would not make a difference. Diane suggested that we use asphalt to solve the problem where the rope is placed. Kelly suggested that we put some sort of grass on either side of the rope. Josh thought we should continue to look into the idea of landscaping. Diane mentioned that the landscaping, not the rock wall side but the other side, include a combination of Mexican feather grass and Nandina be planted, snaking the feather grass down the slope with the Nandina planted in the open spaces. Both will grow 12"-15" tall and there are no problems with blooms, thorns or seeds. Mexican feather grass is very soft and won't have to be trimmed often. Rick asked if we could get irrigation there. Kelly asked if we could get some higher type grass plant to keep the soil from eroding. A vote was called and was approved. Diane will get a quote.

**Par Course:** Robert remarked that funding is tight and that Jim Ryan will not be donating the par course. Rick commented that there are some perfect, natural inserts for exercise equipment and that we need a person who does this type of work. Robert said that he would investigate and take pictures and measurements of existing pieces. Rick

said that most exercise pieces like this are made of wood and would fit into a natural setting. Rick and Robert will work on this together. Also, they will look for volunteers to help assemble the equipment.

Rick signs that label the natural foliage are still needed. Diane will look into this as the trees start to bloom this spring.

Report that only one of the two fire pits has been used.

Rick reported that the trash cans are full and need to be emptied more often because of dog poop. Josh said that he will move cans further away from the covered pavilion.

**Changes:** Rick said that the Commission does not make policy. However, there is now new wording in regards to the booking of the park. “Residents and non-residents may not be able to book more than two consecutive days in a row and the park may not be reserved for commercial activity.”

**Ant control:** Rick said that Alma contacts the landscaper who is being paid as part of the contract to take care of and control ants in The Park.

**New Business:** Rick and Kelly report that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of rocks at the top of the platform need repositioning and where do we want them? It was suggested possibly at the backside of the playscape. Also, there is a rubber mat there now and it needs to be moved into the shed.

**Coordinator for the Ice Cream Social:** The annual Ice Cream Social will be sometime this October. Shannon Brimmer who coordinated this event last year wants to continue as a “Friend of The Park.” Josh added that Suzy Aubert would like to be one also. Shannon left a detailed report and we need a volunteer to replace her. Mary Ann Grimes volunteered to be the new coordinator and Jane Hines volunteered to be co-coordinator. There is \$1000 dedicated to the budget for this event. Rick wants to dedicate a lot of time to discussing this event in the next meeting and will check into the actual date the event will be scheduled. Bruce suggested that we have a display of what was done in the park with before and after photos. It was suggested that we take photos of all our projects.

**Trash Can:** Submitted by Scott via email was a suggestion that we put a new trash can at the south end of the park. Diane moved for the new trash can and it was approved. Alma will order the new trash can and a doggie bag dispenser too. The doggie bag dispenser will be placed at the north end of The Park. Good news, people are using them! There was a vote to approve.

**Mulch:** Robert proposed that the person who does the trimming, Brad Uffelmann bring mulch. He has brought much in the past for free. We can spread it ourselves and use it in the playscape area flood zone and between the playscapes. Rick will contact Brad.

**Other Business:** Kelly reported that our current soccer goals look “trashy” and need to be replaced. Someone donated two of them. Our cost for replacement is \$25 per goal at Wal Mart. It was thought that there was monies set aside, about \$200, in a soccer goal fund four years ago. No one knows where that money is. Kelly volunteered to purchase two more goals and donate the two old ones to charity. There was a vote to approve.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM.

Next meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1PM

Minutes approved and signed Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

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Rick Zehrer, Chair for The Hills Park and Nature Trail

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Mary Ann Grimes, Secretary