

**The Hills Park and Nature Trail Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**In Attendance:** Rick Zehrer, Ron Dodd, Josh Avigael, Bruce Warmuth, Dwyce Ratliff, Kelly Terry, Diane Thompson, Scott Feil, and Mary Ann Grimes.

Meeting commenced at 1pm with Rick Zehrer presiding as president and Mary Ann Grimes taking minutes.

**March Minutes approved and signed.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Dwyce and Rick reporting; Alma paid the bill for water, sewer, and garbage for the months of Feb./March., totaling \$849.64\*. This is the largest bill that The Park has had to date; however, we did have a water leak. The bills so far have been \$369, \$387, and \$457 for this fiscal year. \*Note (Rick notified Committee via email that he spoke with Chris at the MUD office and was able to get the bill reduced and to reflect a credit of \$250 towards the next bill due to the broken pipe.)

After paying \$420 towards the repair for irrigation and the dog bag dispenser, we have a total of \$24.53 in the Miscellaneous Fund. There is \$1000 remaining for plumbing repairs.

**Old Business**

- **Budget Refinement:** This is a work in progress. A new budget must be submitted by August for approval in September's meeting. We need to know what we are looking at for next year's budget by July.
- **Rock Climbing Wall:** The rope has been tightened. Scott volunteered to take photos of the project today to begin a record tracking the erosion on the hill. Kelly has suggested that we soften the landscaping and add a large rock for sitting on as well as adding Nandina, soil, and Mexican feather grass on either side of the slide. We would need about 15-20 plants. Diane reported that it would cost \$11.12 per plant for Mexican Feather Grass installed and \$7 per plant without installation. No soil is included in this quote and would be extra. It was decided to get a quote for adding plants to the upper left corner of the slide where the soil is bare and down the left side of the slide, as well as add some more soil to encourage growth of the grass already in place. In regards to the rope and posts; moving the posts and rope to a different location would be \$670. Cutting posts down would cost \$575. Decision was made to leave posts and rope for now and track erosion over time. Also, Scott volunteered to dig up accumulated soil at the bottom of the

slide and rake existing gravel into the area for safety reasons. It was noted that Tether Ball needs a new rope and ball.

- **Mulch:** Scott will check into getting free mulch delivered for areas around the tether ball and playscape areas.
- **Downed Tree:** Scott will check into having the brush removed.
- **Rules RE:** mandate for more than one bid for services or equipment. It was decided that it be required to get at least two bids on items or services totaling more that \$1000.

**New Business:** Rick plans to submit idea and agenda items to Angie for The Hills Newsletter which will include info about Friends of The Park, the Ice Cream Social, rock climbing wall/slide, tetherball, butterfly garden, and doggie bag dispenser. Since we are spending more time and money on maintenance we will focus on fundraising in our next meeting.

Dwyce reported that we need another larger grill at the pavilion. Josh volunteered to look at the cost of getting another grill.

Diane suggested that we remove the Salt Cedar growing around the park since it is a “trash tree.” She will get a quote from Brad Uffelman.

The idea of adding a “field” will be a focus for the next fiscal year.

Kelly reported three items that were in need of repair around the playscape; Perimeter boarders need nailing, there is a missing monkey/chin up bar, and step on smaller playscape needs nailing. Scott will nail wooden items. Rick will spray weed killer on the holly growing in the gravel around the playscape.

Diane recorded for our record all of the different types of tree that are growing around The Park which are: Live Oak, Retama, Chinese Tallow, China Berry(Mountain Laurel), Agarita (Holly.) Diane will look for signage to mark the various species of trees. Also, it was suggested that we put decorative rocks around the butterfly garden.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm

Next meeting will be June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 1pm

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

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Mary Ann Grimes, Secretary

