

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Jones, Cathy Dwertman, John Marshall, Kalyn Humble, Jack Groat **Excused:** John Howard **Absent:** Rowland Seymour

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Conley

Mr. Jones welcomed Jack Groat to the Parks & Recreation Commission. He was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Debbie Groat, who resigned last year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the meeting on January 15, 2008 were approved as distributed.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION: No report.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS & RECREATION: Mr. Conley reported that the water line is currently being installed along the trail. The raw water line will be coming from the reservoir. The work should be done before soccer season. None of the fields have been affected in Mill Valley south.

Mill Valley Central Park, which dead ends at the end of Millwood Blvd., will be closed this summer. The soccer fields and the outfields are going to be a staging area for the pump house and the portable dam that will be installed at that location. All associations who utilize the facilities have been notified and are aware that the ball fields will be closed. The play areas and restrooms will remain open. The trail will not be open and 2/3 of the parking lot will be used for office trailers.

Mr. Conley is working on preparing the bid documents for the baby pool renovation, which is included in this year's budget.

Mill Valley Central restroom shelter/concession area. The restroom and shelter portion of that is completed and will open for the upcoming season. The concession area is going to be completed by City crews. The ball field in this area is going to be utilized more than it ever has, because the ball field in the central area is not going to be available. He has instructed the associations to make sure that age appropriate levels play there, keeping in mind the houses there.

Mr. Conley is currently working on scheduling park concerts and also working on the newsletter, which is due to go out in May.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL PARKS: Commissioners reported that all parks are fine.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tree Memorials

Clerk Patterson researched the Tree Memorial Program in Sydney, Ohio. Mr. Jones said Sydney has nothing in writing as far as a policy. Information given verbally to the Clerk is as follows:

- This program was not put in place with legislation.
- Three quotes are obtained from nurseries
- City has a list of approved trees to make sure the proper type of tree is planted in the right area.
- City orders the ground plaque, and resident is billed directly.
- They offer a one-year guarantee (in the growing season).

Mr. Conley asked what size (caliper) tree Sydney plants. That information was not provided to the Clerk. Mr. Conley said 2 to 2-1/2" would be about the size of tree the City would put in the Mill Valley south area. Park-grade trees are not straight and pretty like one you would plant in your yard. They are a good and healthy tree, however. They tend to be more cost effective. They sell for about \$100, whereas a nicer tree would sell for \$175/\$200. That would include a one-year guarantee. Cost would be reduced if you don't get a guarantee.

Regarding the plaque, Mr. Conley would prefer the City did not have the responsibility for getting the plaque or for the upkeep of the plaque. He personally does not want the Parks Department to have to spend any money on the program, except for the manual labor by the City crews to plant the trees.

Ms. Dwertman asked who offers the one-year guarantee. Mr. Conley said the nursery would offer the guarantee. She asked what happens if the tree dies in three years. Mr.

Conley said he assumes the City would remove the dead tree, leave the plaque there and contemplate putting in a smaller replacement tree.

Ms. Dwertman asked about giving people the option of which park they would want to plant the tree in. Mr. Conley feels that would be a good idea. He and Mr. Stillings would accompany the person to the park where they want the tree planted to make sure it was a suitable location.

Mr. Conley said Jim Simmons Trail was originally proposed for planting these trees. Ms. Dwertman had a concern at the last meeting about not wanting a tree planted along the trail behind her house for fear of obstructing the view. Mr. Conley does not consider the trail behind Ms. Dwertman's house to be Jim Simmon's Trail. There is not much need for trees in the area behind Ms. Dwertman's house and neighboring homes because trees are already there.

Once the pump house is installed, there will be a trail access off of Creekview Drive. City will landscape that lot and put a few trees in that area.

Mr. Marshall feels the person who is buying the tree, should have the option of buying whatever caliper tree they wish to purchase. The City will oversee where the tree is planted.

Mr. Conley feels all exchange of money should be directly with the nursery and the plaque company instead of being run through the Parks budget.

Ms. Dwertman asked who would be responsible for vandalism to the plaques. Mr. Conley said the City would. He has not experienced vandalism with existing species plaques. Mr. Conley encouraged placing the benches in public view, close to the ball or soccer fields, where people can see them.

Mr. Conley said the program concept is great and doable. He feels the City needs to come up with a written policy or guidelines for the program in order to assure consistency. It would not need to go through City Council as legislation.

Mr. Conley would like to announce this program in his newsletter if the program can be finalized by then.

Ms. Dwertman asked if only one company would be utilized in this program or can people purchase the tree from the nursery of their choice. Mr. Conley doesn't feel people should be told where to purchase their tree. Criteria for the trees need to be set up.

Same criteria should be set for the plaque.

Mr. Jones moved to accept the concept of the program, seconded by Ms. Dwertman and the question put, stood:

Ms. Dwertman YES Ms. Humble YES Mr. Marshall YES Mr. Groat YES Mr. Jones YES

Motion passed.

Mr. Conley will draft the guidelines and present at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMENTS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS: No comments

COMMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Parks & Recreation, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.