

**Facilities and Grounds Committee**  
**Minutes for May 2, 2013**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:02 PM

In attendance, Chair Jean Crawford, Fred Raznick, David Lovro, Lee Onstott and John Calzada. Excused absence Eddie Marshall. GM Bill Donohue, Board liaison Nolan Zisman, Board member Dag Ryen.

Members of the public attending: SuAnne Armstrong

**Approval of the minutes for the April 9, 2013 meeting:** Approved with corrections

**Public Comment:** SuAnne Armstrong reported that things are going extremely well with the landscaping. New plants were obtained and planted with more expected to be purchased in the near future. SuAnne was so pleased with what is being accomplished around the Community Center that she exclaimed Yee Haw! She wanted to specifically recognize the expertise and effort being made by one staff person in particular, Michael Johnson. SuAnne told the committee that although all of the ECIA staff has been doing a very good job with the landscaping work, Michael Johnson is an expert in drip irrigation and has been impressive in his work ethic.

**ECIA Board Representative Update:** Nolan told the committee that the Board approved a new Dog Policy that extends the leash requirement to all the ECIA common areas. It includes the green belts and the Stables common areas. Dogs may still be off leash in the preserve but must be under voice control. Voice control is when the dog responds to its master at the first call. The Board approved the New Procurement Policy as presented by the Finance Committee. The policy requires Board involvement in all contracts greater than \$25,000. Nolan reported that a survey was done by the Stable Committee for all barn owners. A meeting has been set for June 4th with the barn owners and the Board to review the survey. Nolan mentioned a complaint that was received by the Board at its last meeting having to do with speeding on the hike/bike paths. Nolan would like the committee to look into this matter and suggest possible solutions.

The Chair raised a concern that our website, outlining the top priorities for use of the \$100,000, has miss stated the top priority. Jean said that the website states our first priority is to "construct an asphalt trail with road loc binder". Nolan will review the website.

**General Managers Report & Project Discussions:** Bill told the committee that the tennis court project is set to begin on May 13th. Staff is getting the pool ready for its opening at the end of May. Its being filled with our well water. Some minor leaks have been detected at the pool house and those are being repaired. The pool holds 125,000 gallons of water and the kiddie pool holds 8,000 gallons. The cactus garden is coming along and is about 25% completed. Staff has been trained in how to drag the ball field and will be doing it on a regular basis. Bill said that he will need to order some dirt to fill in around home plate. Gopher control on the ball field is an ongoing process.

Mark now has his office in the Annex. According to Bill there are still some things left to do but Mark is operational. Mark and Bill have come up with a plan to start converting all the files to computer based files. Bill mentioned the possible purchase of a scanner that could do the job and perhaps giving Karen additional hours to assist in this effort. The plan would be to make all new files computer based, and over time convert the old files to computer base. Leeder has been called to remediate weeds growing through the trail on Vista Grande. Lee mentioned that with areas such as this, the trail needs to be dug up base course or weed barrier installed, and then it can be patched. John suggested that Lee should be consulted and participate in all future contracts that have to do with maintenance work on the trails. Using Lee's expertise, the contracts can be written to spell out specific fixes to be performed in areas where this type of

problem is occurring. Finally, Bill reported that the Boy Scouts had completed work on trail 301 in the preserve.

The Chair asked Bill if the annex might still be available as a meeting place and Bill told her that the outer room had space for a table and chairs, but would only be used by the Board. Jean asked about saving the old screens from the tennis court for future use and was told that they would be retained. Finally, the Chair mentioned that at the June meeting the committee would be taking up the issue of the new pathways to the tennis court.

#### **Committee Discussion:**

A short discussion was held on Memorial Benches and Trees. David passed around samples of three different benches for the committee to review. He asked that each member designate which bench they preferred. Once that was done it was determined that the "Victorian Bench" was the choice by the majority of committee members. David will work with Sue Anne to recommend a number of trees that would be designated for use as memorial trees. The next step is to determine where the benches and trees can be located around the Community Center property.

Fred told the committee that after some deliberation he had changed his mind and felt that the center portion of the Amistad monument needed to be removed for safety concerns. Lee echoed Fred's sentiment. Dag's concern was that removing the center portion of the monument would entice street side vendors to park there and the committee was not in favor of having the County erect signs in that location. Any future design for a new monument structure will include its present location, as well as, the possibility of moving it further away from US 285.

**Motion: Fred moved that we recommend to the Board that the center portion of the monument be demolished for safety reasons and that the wings be retained to be included in any future design for a new structure. Motion seconded by David and carried 4-0**

A long discussion was held on the options of putting grass/sod/ turf on the ball field. Nolan mentioned that in a community such as ours a grassy area that can be used for picnics and families is a legitimate expense. Fred mentioned the political concerns of watering a grass field in this time of drought and our poor track record of being able to keep a grass field alive. David said that ECIA should bank the money and eventually install a turf field. Lee said that the field must be safe and enticing to kids or it will not be used. The Chair mentioned that the ball field was way down on the amenities list, as it relates to priorities. Jean mentioned the possibility of leasing the field to the County for one dollar, with the possibility that they might deal with the new field, if we are trying to be the park district, or think about using a playground grade recycled tires mixed with sand for a ball field surface.

**Motion: David moved to recommend to the Board that the ball field be done in artificial turf, not to exceed 42,000 square feet. Lee seconded the motion and it was carried 4-0**

A short discussion was held on the Community Center Use Policy.

**Motion: Lee moved that our committee recommend to the Board that the current Community Center Use Policy be modified to extend the use of amplified music up until 9PM. David seconded the motion and it was carried 4-0**

**Date of Next Meeting: June 6th at 4PM (Thursday)**

**Adjournment**

**Respectfully Submitted by John Calzada**