

Park Meeting notes 7/16/2009

Bill called the meeting to order around 7:00 p.m.

There were approx. 20 attendees. Among them, Bill DeMatte, Skip and Dee Mellinger.

Bill had an agenda of:

- I. Park equipment discussion
- II. Park mowing schedule
- III. Park weeding

A sign in sheet for those present to indicate their attendance was distributed and collected.

I. Bill reviewed that over the past year old equipment has been removed, paths and basketball court have been paved and now a decision needs to be made as to how to move forward. Do we simply replace what was removed? Do we purchase better and more equipment? Bill announced there had been an anonymous donor and the amount of the donation.

Attendees wanted to let the donor of the funds for the equipment to know that it is much appreciated.

There are concerns about the terms of the insurance which covers the park and liability if there were volunteer workers who install the equipment vs. having it professionally installed. This is the first issue that needs to be addressed and information determined. If it MUST be professionally installed in order for insurance to cover any liability, then that may affect the selection of equipment. Approximately 30% of the equipment costs are for professional installation. If volunteer hours are used, 'guesstimated' approx. 200 man-hours.

Age-appropriate equipment needs were discussed. Suggestions were made to have the broadest range of kids' needs be met by whatever decision is made. Bill had a pamphlet and fliers with various equipment options to share and review. Also made it clear that more research needed to be done.

Suggestion that a task force be formed to do research and come up with suggestions. Go and review existing play areas for what they have and how effective it is working and come back with a report. Bill distributed and collected a sign up sheet. Several people signed up for the task force.

There was a question raised about budget appropriation for expenses. Bill stated there are no funds appropriated in the budget, aside from the donation and normal maintenance costs (which, as noted, have been minimal due to volunteers).

Question raised about the noise factor for adjacent homes after installation of equipment. Bill stated that there has been discussion with residents and it was stated that it would not be any different than previous noise levels.

II. Bill reviewed the means by which expenses for park maintenance have been kept at a minimum. Volunteer hours and resident equipment are now being used to mow and maintain

the grounds. One person mentioned the need for weed whacking an area. Another offered their weed whacker..Bill mentioned he has a lawn mower he could 'donate' toward for the use of the maintenance of the grounds. Appreciation was expressed for those who have been doing the mowing and maintenance.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers to help mow the area was distributed and collected.

III. Short discussion on the weeding problem. Concerns about using herbicides were cited due to affecting children and pets. Not sure there is a resolution here. Still open for more discussion and resolution.

Short discussion occurred on recent robbery and shooting of Jim Schaffner's dog by pellet gun in the back yard. Bill reminded attendees to be vigilant and keep their eyes open.

Meeting adjourned around 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Dee Mellinger for Kathy McBride