



**CITY OF HEMET
PARK COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2004**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL
EXCUSE ABSENT COMMISSIONERS**

The regular meeting of the City of Hemet Park Commission was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairperson Rojas, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Commissioner Bob Craig
Commissioner Joe Rojas
Commissioner Joel Silva
City Council Liaison Roger Meadows

Members Absent: Commissioners Hoehne and Neales were absent.
Motion was made by Commissioner Craig to excuse them, seconded by Commissioner Silva and carried 3-0.
(Commissioner Neales arrived at 4:02 PM.)

Also Present: Mike Gow, Deputy Public Works Director
Ross Cortz, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Marilyn Hampton, Park Commission Secretary

I. Approval of Minutes of:
December 29th Park Commission Meeting.
Motion was made by Commissioner Silva to approve the Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Craig and carried 3-0.

II. Park Use Requests:

- A. John McDonald III - Birthday Party
Mary Henley Park [Big covered patio] - Jan. 31st - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- B. Teresa Ramirez - Birthday Party
Gibbel Park [Large covered picnic area] [Electricity] [Small private jumper]
February 21st - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- C. Anita Olson - Birthday Party
Mary Henley [Gazebo #2] [Balloon jumper] - March 6th - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- D. Teresa Ramirez - Birthday Party
Gibbel Park [Large covered picnic area] [Electricity] [Small private jumper]
March 13th - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Motion was made by Commissioner Silva, seconded by Commissioner Neales, and

carried 4-0 to approve the Park Use Requests, with the stipulation on B, C, and D that they be notified that jumpers may be staked no deeper than 6" into the ground.

III. Tree Removal and Other Requests from the Public:

**A. Camphor Tree - 2952 Cindy Lane
(Richard Digby - Hemet)**

Major root system is tearing up the front yard; sidewalk replacement was done in December 2003; roots have invaded the water main; tree is in close proximity to the water meter.

Ross Cortz stated that concrete work was done in the past, again in December 2003, and the concrete has already raised again. Staff recommends removal of the tree and replacement with a City-Approved species in a different area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to approve staff recommendation to remove the tree and replace it with a City-Approved species in a different area, seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried 4-0.

**B. Magnolia Tree - 1250 Carlotta Dr.
(Daniel R. Dorchuck - Hemet)**

Mr. Cortz reported that the huge tree is covering the street light and breaking up the concrete block. Staff recommends removal of the tree and replacement with a smaller City-Approved species in front of the house.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to approve staff recommendation to remove the tree and replace it with another City-approved species in front of the house, seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried 4-0.

**C. Oak Tree - 2098 Rosemary Court
(Jim Irvin - Hemet)**

Tree is raising the sidewalk and is in close proximity to the driveway.

Mr. Cortz stated that staff recommends following City policy to remove the tree and replace it with a City-Approved tree, not a Queen Palm as requested by the home owner. Commissioner Rojas stated that across the street to the west is the same type of tree with significant structural damage to the sidewalk. Mr. Cortz will notify the appropriate supervisor.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to remove the tree and replace it with a City-Approved species, seconded by Commissioner Craig, and carried 4-0.

IV. Commission Comments, Reports, and Oral Communications:

A. January 13th Council Action on Park Commission Recommendations heard December 29th.

Mike Gow reported that Council approved all recommendations. He stated that Council has decided to leave the two Deodoras at Weston Park in place for the time being.

B. Landscaping/New Trees for Mary Henley Well Site.

Mr. Gow stated that a water well was recently installed at Mary Henley Park and a block wall constructed around it. Staff recommends planting appropriate evergreen trees along Johnston to obscure its view from the two-story homes nearby. The adjacent deciduous trees have lost their leaves. The Water Department put together the initial plans for planting shrubs around all sides of the block wall. Landscaping types were discussed. Verbena Spring Bouquet was felt to be a poor choice because it becomes woody and dies out. India Hawthorne Majestic Beauty shrubs were felt to be a better choice and would stay green year round. Bluepoint Junipers trees do not require trimming and were felt to be appropriate at the four corners of the block wall, with shrubs in the center 3-4 feet apart. Commissioner Silva stated that African Sumac trees are appropriate for the parkway. It was felt that ground cover plants could be eliminated and wood chips placed instead.

Motion was made by Commissioner Silva to plant three African Sumac trees in the parkway - one on each side of the well site and one near the light standard to replace two deciduous trees; eight 15-gallon Bluepoint Junipers - one on each corner and one in the center on all sides of the block wall; 5-gallon India Hawthorne Majestic Beauty shrubs planted 3 feet apart between the trees; and no ground cover except wood chips. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craig, and carried 4-0.

C. Grant Money for Parks.

Mr. Gow reviewed available grant funds and invited the Commission's input on desired park improvements. Commissioner Rojas stated that there was past discussion of adding a hexagonal gazebo at Mary Henley Park at the southeast corner of Johnston and Kirby, closer to the parking area, which he felt had already been approved by Council. Mr. Gow will research this and report in February. The park has heavy weekend use and this is felt to be a worthy expenditure. The price for the gazebo, including the cement slab, is approximately \$40,000, Gow said, based on a recent bid for Gibbel Park.

Dog parks have been requested in the past, and Commissioners Rojas and Silva felt that Brubaker Park would be a suitable choice. Commissioner Rojas felt that a path to the dog park could be placed on the south side of the baseball diamonds. Commissioner Silva reported visiting several dog parks; they are set up as a fenced-in area similar to a lawn bowling space. Council Member Meadows suggested that perhaps a sponsor could be found to finance a dog park. Staff was requested to research what other cities are doing with dog parks and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Rojas stated the importance of having a Master Plan for Brubaker Park so that attention could be turned to its goals. Commissioner Silva brought up a skateboard park as a possibility. Commissioner Rojas felt that the hillside at Brubaker Park would provide small areas for trees, picnic tables, strolling paths, and could be nicely landscaped. He suggested doing small projects as funds are available. Mr. Gow stated that Hemet Youth Baseball is planning two small ballfields and cannot use the hillside for ballfields. Council Member Meadows stated that care should be taken with planting much grass - unless a developer does it and it is put under the care of a Homeowners' association - as it increases the cost of manpower and equipment for the City. He stated

that a big skateboard park in San Bernardino is being closed because of the high liability involved. Silva reported on a nice park in Whittier which has a tot lot and skateboard park for the kids.

Another suggestion is an exercise course with running stations. Mr. Gow stated that, at Brubaker Park, a parking lot and multi-use field have been discussed for the flat area and a grassy area for soccer practice. He did not believe that Hemet Youth has moved forward yet on their plans.

Commissioner Rojas suggested lighted tennis courts. Council Member Meadows stated that Valley Wide is building a new area that will include tennis courts. He mentioned that the poor lighting at Gibbel Park makes it very difficult to play tennis after dark. Mr. Gow stated that stronger bulbs may be needed. Commissioner Silva stated that more lighting is needed at Mary Henley Park and suggested putting in another solar light on Cypress facing the large gazebo and another on Kirby facing the rectangular gazebo.

Commissioner Rojas suggested installing a swing or slide for kids to use during the day in Spencer Park, located behind Fire Station #2. Council Member Meadows stated that a new development north of Commonwealth between Kirby and Lyon has a 1.5 acre park planned. It has been discussed to not put in the park, but take the money for it and improve other parks instead. Mr. Gow stated that on Cawston where MWD's aqueduct is located, a developer will have to take care of the area and develop it. MWD does not want kids playing on it because of the liability. No trees are to be planted over their pipelines.

Commissioner Rojas suggested taking another look at a park project behind Fire Station #3. Mr. Gow stated that grant money would take care of the installation, leaving maintenance costs.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to present to Council a proposal for a hexagonal gazebo at Mary Henley Park on the southeast corner of Johnston and Kirby, seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried 4-0.

D. Action Items List.

Mr. Gow stated that the Action Items List is a method of communicating the status of any item and tracking it from the Park Commission, to Council approval, all the way to construction. The list will be a regular part of the Park Commission packet.

V. Communications from the Public:
None.

VI. Adjournment:

At 4:56 PM, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Neales, seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried 4-0. The next regularly-scheduled Park Commission meeting will be held on Monday, February 23rd at 4:00 PM in City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Park Commission Meeting
January 26, 2004
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Marilyn Hampton, Commission Secretary