

**City of Hemet
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 31, 2005**

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

The regular meeting of the City of Hemet Park Commission was called to order at 4:01 PM by Commissioner Neales, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Commissioner Bob Craig
Commissioner Taryn Hoehne
Commissioner Janet Neales
Commissioner Joel Silva

Members Absent: Chairperson Joe Rojas
Mayor Roger Meadows
*Commissioner Silva moved to excuse Chairperson Rojas and Mayor Meadows.
Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoehne, and carried 4-0.*

Also Present: Mike Gow, Deputy Public Works Director
Kristen Cannon, Acting Management Assistant

1. **Approval of Minutes of December 27, 2004, Park Commission Meeting.**
Commissioner Silva moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hoehne, and carried 4-0.

2. **Park Use Requests:**

A. Park Use Request Form - Application Revision

Gow reported that language on the form had been revised in order to better align with current City ordinances, as well as provide specific information to Code Enforcement for weekend enforcement of reservations.

Commissioner Craig moved to accept the revised Park Use Request Form. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried 4-0.

B. Park Use Requests -

1. **Kari Weathersby - Birthday Party - February 1st 12:00PM - 5:00PM
Mary Henley [Gazebo]**
2. **United States Youth Volleyball League (USYVL) - Practice and Games
April 3rd thru June 11th on Wednesdays 5:30-7:30PM and Saturdays
9:00AM-12:00PM
Mary Henley multipurpose field/flat grass area**
3. **August Van Goethen -First Baptist Church - Picnic
April 23rd , 9AM - Dusk
Simpson Park [BBQ pits]**

Commissioner Neales commented on Item 2 and inquired as to the policy for requesting park reservations for multiple month usage. Discussion ensued regarding permitting reservation for more than one month at a time and possible insurance requirements for the applicant of Item 2.

Mayor Roger Meadows arrived at 4:09PM.

Mayor Meadows inquired as to why the applicant in Item 2 was not they requesting Gibbel Park. Staff explained that the applicant had not specified a park on the application.

Discussion ensued regarding the nature of the program, volume of participants, and potential needs of the applicant. The Commission requested that staff contact the applicant to get more details. Gow suggested that installation methods for their equipment also be addressed in the contact.

Chairperson Rojas arrived 4:10PM.

Chairperson Rojas was informed of the Item under discussion. He suggested that if the applicant needed indoor facilities, they should contact Valley Wide Parks and Recreation. He further commented that the needs of the applicant and details of the request should be researched further and returned to the February agenda.

Chairperson Rojas moved to approved Item B1 and Item B3, and that Item B2 be researched and returned to the February agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoehne, and carried 5-0.

Commissioner Craig stated that the City needs to make a specific effort to accommodate youth programs in the valley.

3. *Tree Removal and Other Requests from the Public:*

**A. *Memorial Tree Donation at Mary Henley Park
(Frank and Sharon Puccio - 725 Pinehurst Dr.)***

Commissioner Neales passed control of the floor to Chairperson Rojas.

Chairperson Rojas opened the floor for discussion on this item. Discussion ensued regarding the proximity of the applicants home to Mary Henley Park.

Commissioner Neales motioned to approve the request and accept donation for a memorial tree to be planted at Mary Henley Park. Motion seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried 5-0.

**B. *Stetson Landscaping Along Storm Channel
(Marge Tandy - 1885 Flametree Way)***

Chairperson Rojas reported that he drove this section of Stetson and some of the Crape Myrtles have withered and failed to spread.

Gow reported that the initial intent of the vines was to screen the storm channel. Replacement of the vines from Palm Avenue to Sanderson would require approximately 400 new vines be purchased. Installation of vines to the west of Sanderson would also require installing irrigation.

Mayor Meadows commented that there was a possibility of development for the northwest corner of Sanderson/Stetson in the near future and, if that development were to happen, an underground storm drain box would be constructed.

Chairperson Rojas suggested that staff research other cities to discover if there are more low cost and successful alternatives to consider. He further requested that this item be move to a future agenda to allow time to research alternatives.

Commissioner Silva inquired on the costs to saw-cut and remove concrete for additional planting

along the fence line. Gow commented that it would still be somewhat costly, requiring additional concrete removal and installation of new sprinkler lines. He suggested that a project of this scope be contracted out.

Chairperson Rojas requested that a letter be drafted to Mrs. Tandy thanking her for her concern and letting her know the Commission would further address it at the February meeting. Gow to cost out alternatives.

Commissioner Silva suggested avoiding placement of more vines due to their required maintenance and propensity to die out in large sections.

Discussion ensued regarding possibility of establishing a hedge line along the channel. Mayor Meadows reported on drought tolerant plant display in Palm Desert and suggested consideration of this type of foliage along the fence.

Chairperson Rojas addressed Susan Davis, a representative from Valley Beautiful, who was in the audience. Mrs. Davis provided photos of drought tolerant plants and written information on them.

4. Commission Comments, Reports, and Oral Communications:

A. January 11th Council Action on:

1. Commission Recommendations from December 27th

Gow reported that all were approved by Council.

2. Replant Auto Mall Trees

Gow stated that the Commission had reviewed this item over a year ago. The item had now been approved with a change to use 36" boxes instead of 24" boxes. Discussion ensued regarding guard placement on the trees, mulching, and soil enhancement.

B. Mary Henley Park

1. Update on Perimeter Barrier

Gow reported that the Council did not approve forward movement on this project.

2. Update on Sycamore Tree Replacement

Gow reported that Council approved the replacement of 12 Sycamore trees with 12 Tipuana trees.

C. Brubaker Park

1. Remaining Property Usage- (Chairperson Rojas)

Chairperson Rojas commented on the amount of land still available at the park and mentioned sand volleyball courts and croquet courts as possible activity areas.

Mayor Meadows suggested a dog park area.

Chairman Rojas commented on additional baseball fields to be developed and stated that if the remaining land was developed thoughtfully, the park would be a plus for generations to come. Drought tolerant shrubbery could be utilized and hiking trails maintained on the hill. Mayor Meadows commented on limiting access to the hill.

Chairperson Rojas suggested that the next Commission meeting be held at Brubaker Park in the Hemet Youth Baseball Conference Room.

2. Access Gate

Gow reported that Brubaker Park is fenced with the exception of the driveway into the parking lot. Staff would like to install a gate that would look like and be operated like the one currently installed at Gibbel Park. Installation of an access gate would deter vehicle access during times when the park is closed.

Commissioner Neales moved to recommend installation of an access gate at the parking lot entrance to Brubaker Park. Motion seconded by Commissioner Silva, and carried 5-0.

3. Gazebo Locations

Gow presented a photo to show the locations where gazebos will be installed. One will be placed in the five acre developed park, and the other would be placed in between baseball fields for the baseball league.

D. Action Items List

No Discussion

Gow requested that the Commission add item of War Memorial to agenda to discuss the specific location.

Commissioner Neales moved to add item E "War Memorial" to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoehne, and carried 5-0.

E. War Memorial

Gow reported that the memorial will be 17ft tall. He reported meeting with Mayor Meadows and Vice Mayor Lowe at Gibbel Park to discuss the location and design features that will be part of the memorial. The memorial would face due west and would be carved into the hillside, with a retaining wall. Gow further explained the placement, alignment, and visibility of the memorial from various directions. The Committee reportedly was please with the arrangment. The planting of two oak trees in the vicinity of the memorial was also mentioned.

Mayor Meadows commented that the Assistant City Manager is working on a packet to distribute to local businesses. The packet will contain a letter that describes what the memorial is about, and a form that businesses can use if they would like to contribute towards the memorial. He reported that the Elks Club had already shown interest and were working with their people for financial assistance. Discussion ensued regarding other potential contributors.

Gow reported that Public Works is working on the design for the foundation, and that survey work has been ordered. Construction is anticipated to start in May. Mayor Meadows commented on the illumination of the memorial.

5. Communications from the Public:

No Comments

6. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

The next regularly-scheduled Park Commission meeting will be held Monday, February 28, 2005 at 4:00 PM at the Snack Bar Conference Room at Brubaker Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Kris Cannon
Commission Secretary**