

City of Hemet
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 29, 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 Taryn Hoehne
Commissioner Janet Neales
Commissioner Joe Rojas
Commissioner Joel Silva
City Council Liaison Roger Meadows

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Mike Gow, Deputy Public Works Director
Gerri Engelhart, Management Assistant
Marilyn Hampton, Park Commission Secretary

1. **Approval of Minutes of:**
February 23rd Park Commission Meeting.
Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to approve the minutes; seconded by Commissioner Craig and carried 5-0.

2. **Park Use Requests:**

- A. Adrienne & Michael Goodman - Birthday Party
Gibbel Park [BBQ Area & Gazebo] - 1:00 PM - April 3rd
- B. Sarah Smith - Baptism Party
Mary Henley Park [Small Gazebo] - 12:00-5:00 PM - April 3rd
- C. Karen Van Dien - BSA Pack 600 - Easter Picnic
Mary Henley Park [Large Gazebo] - 12:00-4:00 PM - April 3rd
- D. Christina Richart - Birthday Party
Mary Henley Park [Gazebo] - 1:00-5:00 PM - April 4th
- E. Pastor Manfred or Cynthia Monroe - Picnic
Towers of Faith Christian Center
Gibbel Park [Gazebo Area in Front - Tables, Electricity, Small Lawn Area]
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM - April 10th
- F. Noemi V. Pulido
Mary Henley Park [Gazebo] - 1:00-5:00 PM - April 10th
- G. John Owens - House of Grace Church - Sunrise Service

- Simpson Park [Shelter Area] [Open gate early] - 5:30-8:00 AM - April 11th**
- H. The Stewart Family - Easter gathering
Simpson Park - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM - April 11th**
 - I. Leonor Suárez - Birthday Party
Gibbel Park [Main Big Area] - 1:00-5:00 or 6:00 PM - April 17th**
 - J. Celia Cabanillas - Birthday Party
Mary Henley Park [Large Gazebo] - 1:00-4:30 PM - April 17th**
 - K. Rose King - Red Hat Society (Red Hot Retirees) - Picnic
Gibbel Park [Gazebo] - 1:00-5:00 PM - May 12th**
 - L. Nicole or Lloyd Patterson - Birthday Party
Mary Henley Park [Under Canopy] - 8:00 AM - May 15th**
 - M. Joan Jacobs - Pilgrim Congregational Church - Worship Service/Picnic
Simpson Park [Shade Shelter] - 10:00 AM to Close - May 16th**
 - N. Bobbie Miller - Hemet Numismatists
Gibbel Park [Gazebo - Electricity] - 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM - May 19th**
 - O. Delmer Henninger - Family Reunion
Gibbel Park [Covered Area] - 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM - May 30th**
 - P. Paul Bailey - West Valley High School - Annual Senior Picnic
Gibbel Park [Pavilion and Surrounding Basketball Court/Lawn] -
10:00 AM-2:00 PM - June 7th**
 - Q. Nina or Jay Fisher - Bridge Family Reunion
Gibbel Park [Covered Picnic Area] - 2:00 PM - June 19th**
 - R. Pastor Neil Krause, Robin Krause
Calvary Chapel, Hemet - Vacation Bible School
Brubaker Park [Grass East of Playground & Basketball Court]
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM daily - Week of June 21st -25th**

Commissioner Rojas stated that on Item H, the Stewart Family information needs to be provided before permission is granted.

Motion was made by Commissioner Craig to approve Park Use Requests A through R; seconded by Commissioner Silva and carried 5-0.

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

A. Tree Removal Request - 2102 Avenida Olivas.
(Joann J. Taylor - Hemet)

Liquidambar tree is very large and messy; planted too close to the water meter; has buckled the sidewalk twice and broken the water pipes next to the meter.

Staff recommends removal, replacement with an appropriate species farther away from the water meter, and replacement of the sidewalk.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to accept staff recommendation to remove the tree, replace with an appropriate species farther away from the water meter, and schedule repair to the sidewalk; seconded by Commissioner Hoehne and carried 5-0.

B. Tree (2) Removal Request - 1273 Basswood Way.
(Laura J. Martin - Hemet)

According to the resident, the Camphor trees are very messy, and fruit and twig drop poses a safety problem for the elderly homeowner; trees have raised the sidewalk several times.

Council Member Meadows stated he was asked by the homeowner to request the Commission to reconsider this item, in that she has fallen several times due to the messy trees and is unable to water a replacement tree. Elderly neighbors are also affected by the debris. Few Camphor trees remain on this street, and Commissioner Silva stated that the trees were a poor choice and, at some point, will have to be removed due to their size and location. The Commission felt that removing the tree nearest the driveway and trimming the other would be beneficial.

Motion was made by Commissioner Craig to amend staff recommendation to remove the Camphor tree nearest the driveway without replacement; trim the other tree; root prune; and repair rockscape damaged by tree removal. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoehne and carried 5-0.

C. Mountain Valley RV Park - 235 S. Lyon Avenue.
(Grant Stoaks - Member/Manager - Hemet)

Debris fell from palm trees on the Lyon Ave. perimeter, striking two pedestrians walking on the sidewalk. Requests removal of all palm trees and removal and disposing of all ground cover.

Mr. Gow stated the request is to remove all of the palm trees and the ground cover. There is a question of who maintains the groundcover, and the Finance Department reports the RV park pays L&LMD fees for tree trimming only. Wm. Crozier, Manager of the resort, appeared in place of Mr. Stoaks. He referred to a photo of the competitor's property down the street and said that his RV park wants to look the same way. He stated that debris falls from the palms daily, covering the walks with debris and limbs. Trash is being thrown into the shrubs, which the park is unable to keep clean. Mr. Crozier stated it would be easier for the park to keep the ground clear without the shrubs. Commissioner Rojas was not in favor of taking out beautiful, healthy palm trees, but felt the trees could be trimmed of their excess fronds. Mr. Gow stated the shrubs were planted by the original developer. Mr. Crozier stated that the RV park waters the shrubs,

but cannot even find the irrigation. Mr. Gow stated an option is that the streetscapes be included in the Landscape Maintenance District. He stated that currently only the tree trimming is included, and it would cost a small amount more for the RV park to have the shrubs included and maintained by the City. Mr. Crozier stated that on Lyon the shrubs are fairly thick and the irrigation cannot be located, but on Acacia, shrubs are sparse with unsightly bald spots where the shrubs have died out. Mr. Gow stated the area is within the City right-of-way, but the City is not collecting fees to maintain the landscaping there and the RV park is maintaining it. Mr. Crozier stated the RV park requests that all the old overgrown landscaping be removed, and the RV park will replant and maintain new landscaping. Commissioner Silva stated this is a highly visible area and should look good.

Motion was made by Commissioner Silva to request the RV park to return to the Commission with a plan for new landscaping which the RV park will provide at their expense. Contingent upon approval of the new landscaping plan, the Commission would recommend that the City remove the old shrubs, and the RV park will plant, maintain, and water new shrubs. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hoehne and carried 5-0.

D. Tree Removal Request - 707 Via Linda
(Linda Graves - Orange)

According to the homeowner, the Camphor tree is very messy; roots are raising the grass and lifting the sidewalk. The tree was illegally topped by the last homeowner.

Staff recommends denial of the removal request, approval of trimming and root pruning. Commissioner Silva felt that the tree will fill out again after trimming.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to approve staff recommendation to deny the removal request; schedule tree for trim and root pruning; seconded by Commissioner Silva and carried 5-0.

E. Tree Removal Request - 1897 Calle Diablo
(Carolyn Kutzke - Property Owner) (Removal requested previously by tenant)
Oak tree is reportedly infected with bark beetle; is very messy; blocks the street light; is breaking up the sidewalk; interferes with street sweeping, mail delivery, and trash collection.

Staff reports that the tree appears to be healthy without evidence of bark beetle; roots have raised the concrete. Staff recommends trimming and root pruning the tree.

Motion was made by Commissioner Craig to follow staff recommendation to deny the removal request, trim and root prune the tree; seconded by Commissioner Neales and carried 5-0.

F. Request for "Please Pick Up After Your Dogs" signs on west side of Lyon along Eastlake Mobile Home Park.
(Jackie Worden - Hemet)

Mr. Gow stated that staff recommends not placing the signs. He said he would not object to allowing the park to stencil the wording on the sidewalk through an encroachment permit. He stated pedestrians can see the wording when they walk their dogs.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to allow the mobile home park to stencil and maintain the wording on the sidewalk at their expense; seconded by Commissioner Hoehne and carried 5-0.

**G. Parking at Mary Henley Park.
(Edward Fazekas - San Jacinto)**

Edward Fazekas, 1507 Chateau Court, San Jacinto, stated that he owns the home in which his son lives, which faces the north side of the park. Traffic congestion on Cypress, especially on weekends, prompted him to write to the Commission with suggestions for solutions. People using the park take up the residential parking spaces, causing visitors to have to park a block away. The amenities are on the north side of park. A parking area with about 60 spaces is on the south side of the park, but people park on the north side, because they do not want to walk. He suggested that traffic congestion could be alleviated by putting off-street parking on the north side where there is plenty of room. He said cars come off Kirby fairly rapidly around the corner, creating a dangerous situation to people and children. People leave all sorts of trash on the residential property. Mr. Fazekas also recommended installing more covered picnic facilities on the south end of the park. He suggested moving the childrens' playground to the south side of the park near the existing parking lot and replacing the basketball court to the south side of the park. He stated that, if there were off-street parking on the north side, those things would not need to be moved.

Commissioner Rojas stated that Mary Henley is the city's most-utilized park, serving more people than all of the other parks. He stated that the City will be installing two additional gazebos on the south side of the park closer to the parking lot. He felt this will alleviate some of the traffic congestion. Mr. Rojas stated he opposes losing more grassy area to asphalt. He stated that he lives on Cypress and is cautious of children present. Mr. Fazekas inquired whether "No Parking For Park Use" signs could be placed to notify people utilizing the park to park on the side where the parking lot is to avoid interfering with residences. The Commissioners felt this would be unenforceable. Commissioner Rojas felt that some of the problem will be alleviated with the new gazebos, which are hoped to draw people to the parking lot and away from Cypress. He also felt that the expansion of Gibbel Park with a large, grassy area for practices will attract people.

Council Member Meadows stated that the park was originally constructed as a retention basin, and a previous Council voted to create a park in the retention basin. He stated that State law controls what is placed on the property. *He suggested to watch and see, and if the additional gazebos at Mary Henley Park and the expansion of Gibbel Park do not correct the situation, to bring the item back to the Commission again.*

**H. Gibbel Park Improvement Project - Memorial Donation of two Park Benches.
(Joshua Levy - Sherman Oaks)**

Mr. Gow stated that Mr. Levy would like to donate two standard concrete benches to Gibbel Park near the horseshoe pits in the newly-expanded portion of the park. A commemorative plaque is to be embedded into the benches in honor of a family member.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to approve the donation of two standard concrete park benches with an embedded plaque in each; seconded by Commissioner Silva and carried 5-0.

4. Commission Comments, Reports, and Oral Communications:

- A. March 9th Council Action on Park Commission Recommendations heard February 23rd.**

Mr. Gow reported that Council agreed with the Commission's recommendations.

- B. Recognition as Tree City USA for 2003 - select tree for planting, park location, and date for tree planting.**

After discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Silva to plant an African Sumac tree near the horseshoe pits at Gibbel Park on Friday, April 30th, at 4:00 PM in honor of National Arbor Day; seconded by Commissioner Hoehne and carried 5-0.

- C. Followup on Permanent Memorial for Veterans: Report on Military Killed in Action or Missing in Action from World War I to present - Gerri Engelhart.**

Management Assistant Gerri Engelhart reported on her assignment to find names of MIA's and KIA's from WWI to the present time who listed their home town as Hemet. She stated the Pentagon is doing the search. She has been on line with the National Archives. The California Department of Veterans Affairs was contacted. Local military groups have found no records. Council Member Meadows stated the memorial is for military personnel who were Killed in Action, not Missing in Action. He stated that the Pearl Harbor Survivors should be contacted and told what the City is attempting to do with the memorial. He felt a design should provide areas where World War I and II names could be added. Commissioner Rojas inquired about the status of the Korean War and Vietnam, and stated that we should also plan for the future. Ms. Engelhart stated the Pearl Harbor Survivors' records are very limited, ranging in scope from World War I to present. She stated the National Archives line supplied one name for the Korean War and 5 for Vietnam, but did not know if that count was complete. She spoke with Bruce Ekland of the VFW, who found no records. It was suggested that she contact the Press-Enterprise newspaper. Press releases could be sent to both newspapers requesting citizens to submit the names of KIA's by a certain date. Council Member Meadows stated any other names verified by the DOD can be added to the memorial upon request. He stated Council has already discussed the memorial, and he wants to go forward with design plans and bring back concepts.

- D. Preliminary Plan and Cost Estimate for Dog Park.**

Mr. Gow requested a continuance.

- E. Preliminary Report on Vacant Radio Station and Construction of New Block Building for Community Meetings.**

Mr. Gow requested a continuance.

- F. Weston Park Update.**

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Mr. Gow reported that the City is out to bid for park renovation, including irrigation, new grass, and new trees. Council met with staff last Tuesday to make further improvements. The arbor structure will have stamped concrete beneath it. A sprinkler head will be added for each new tree to ensure a good water supply. This item is going to Council in April. It is hoped that construction will take place over the summer and that the park will re-open in late September or early fall.

G. Gibbel Park Update.

Mr. Gow stated that he expects that the grass will have grown in three months after which the park can be opened for public use. Commissioner Rojas inquired about a gazebo which was planned for the park. Mr. Gow stated that three were planned at one time, but with the revamping of design, they were deleted. Two gazebos are being added to Mary Henley Park. Commissioner Rojas asked that a request be made to Council to place the remaining one gazebo at Gibbel Park to diminish some of the existing traffic at Mary Henley Park. An expanded parking lot will be present on the east side of the park.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to ask Council to consider placement of a gazebo in the west section of the Gibbel Park expansion; seconded by Commissioner Hoehne and carried 5-0.

H. Action Items List.

Informational item.

5. Communications from the Public:

None.

6. Adjournment:

At 5:04 PM, Commissioner Rojas adjourned the meeting.

The next regularly-scheduled Park Commission meeting will be held on Monday, April 26th at 4:00 PM in City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Hampton, Commission Secretary