

**City of Hemet
Park Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 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 Taryn Hoehne
Commissioner Janet Neales
Commissioner Joe Rojas

Members Absent: Commissioner Joel Silva
City Council Liaison Roger Meadows

Motion to excuse Commissioner Silva was made by Commissioner Craig, seconded by Commissioner Neales, and carried 4-0.

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

1. **Approval of Minutes of:**
March 29th Park Commission Meeting.
Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to approve the Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hoehne and carried 4-0.

2. **Park Use Requests:**
- A. Maria Gonzalez - Family Picnic
Mary Henley Park [Covered area] - May 1st - 3:00 PM
 - B. Coni Stone - Birthday Party
Mary Henley Park [Covered area] - May 1st - 11:00 AM til 3:00 PM
 - C. April Trujillo - Trujillo Family - Baby Shower
Gibbel Park [Gazebo] - May 2nd - 11:00 AM til closing
 - D. Ed Owens - Hemet Senior Softball League - Picnic
Gibbel Park [Gazebo] [Electricity] - May 4th - 7:30 AM til 3:00 PM
 - E. Nancy Patton - Valle Vista Assembly of God Church - National Day of Prayer
Gibbel Park [Electricity] - May 6th - 12:00 Noon til 1:00 PM
 - F. Doug or Debbie Gray - Birthday Party
Mary Henley Park [Large Gazebo] - May 8th - 12:00 til 5:00 PM

- G. Harry Sloan - Sloan Family Picnic
Simpson Park [Group Picnic Area] - May 9th - 9:00 AM til 3:00 PM
- H. Cathy Priem - Former Idyllwild Residents Picnic
Simpson Park [Gazebo] - May 18th - 11:00 AM til 3:00 PM
- I. Betty Hendershott - Philippi Family Reunion
Mary Henley Park [Large Gazebo] - May 22nd - 10:00 AM til 3:00 PM
- J. John Seley - SGI USA Picnic
Mary Henley Park [Large Canopy Area] - May 23rd - 11:00 AM til 6:00 PM
- K. Donna Garcia - Baby Shower
Gibbel Park [Large Gazebo with tables] - June 5th - 3:30 PM
- L. Tamra Campbell/AI Ferenades - Hemet High School ASB Class of 2004 BBQ
Mary Henley [Whole Park] [Slip-n-slide] [Jumper]-June 7th-7:00 AM til 4:30 PM
- M. Renee Taylor - Graduation BBQ
Mary Henley Park [Large Covered Patio Area and Surrounding Lawn]
June 12th - 10:00 AM til 6:00 PM
- N. Dallas and Ann Dengate - Rumfelt Family Reunion
Gibbel Park [Covered Picnic Area] - June 12th - 10:00 AM til 6:00 PM
- O. Jack Montgomery/Mike McCarthy - Computer Connection Club - Picnic
Gibbel Park [Large Gazebo] - September 18th - 8:00 AM til 2:00 PM

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to approve Park Use Requests A-0, and on Item L, place the usual notation about jumpers and the notice, "Do Not drive your vehicles onto the park." Motion was seconded by Commissioner Craig, and carried 4-0.

3. Tree Removal and Other Requests from the Public:

- A. Tree Removal Request - 521 Palmer Drive.
(Bill House and Kim Turrill - Hemet)

Mimosa tree is infested with termites and needs to be removed.

Mr. Cortz reported that the tree is very old, has dry rot and is diseased, and has had limbs broken off in storms. The homeowner is very happy to have a replacement tree.

Motion was made by Commissioner Craig to follow staff recommendation to remove the tree and replace it with a City-approved species, seconded by Commissioner Hoehne, and carried 4-0.

- B. Tree Removal Request - 520 Palmer Drive
(Rose King - Hemet)

Mimosa tree is infested with termites and needs to be removed.

Mr. Cortz reported that the tree is very old, has dry rot and is diseased, and has had limbs broken off in storms. The homeowner is very happy to have a replacement tree.

Motion was made by Commissioner Craig to follow staff recommendation to remove the tree and replace it with a City-approved species, seconded by Commissioner Hoehne, and carried 4-0.

4. **Commission Comments, Reports, and Oral Communications:**

A. April 13th Council Action on Park Commission Recommendations heard March 29th - Approved.

B. National Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony - tree planting scheduled for Friday, April 30th, 4:00 PM, Gibbel Park near the horseshoe pits.

C. Tentative Tract Map No. 30560 (KB Home Coastal)
(Maureen Losey - Planning Department)

East side of Cawston Avenue between Fruitvale and Eaton Avenues.

Request for review of a six-acre park for vesting Tentative Tract Map #30560.

Mike Freeman and Tim Lokkesmoe, KB Home Coastal, 26201 Ynez Rd., Temecula, and Kim Takaki, Landscape Architect, presented the project and answered questions. Mr. Freeman stated this 6-acre park is on an MWD easement and will have limited amenities. MWD is allowing no permanent structures and no trees above 25 feet height. Picnic tables, tot lots, turf, shrubbery, and shade trees will be included pursuant to MWD requirements. Shrubby will be directly over the pipe zone, and amenities must be 20 foot minimum outside the pipe zone.

Commissioner Rojas inquired whether MWD might approve the use of concrete slabs for each of the picnic table areas and Alumawood shelters to provide shade, which do not require deep footings. Mr. Freeman stated the Ordinance will be checked for clarification. Commissioner Craig asked who is putting in the sidewalk. Mr. Freeman stated that KB is building the sidewalk and all hard scape in the park. He stated KB wants to get this item on the Planning Commission agenda and asked the Park Commission for approval, with the condition of the shade structure. Commissioner Rojas suggested adding one additional picnic shade structure with concrete pad on the northeast end of the park. Ms. Takaki stated that the type of material suggested for the picnic benches is recycled milk jugs. Graffiti cleanup is easily accomplished by sanding, as the color is consistent throughout the material. Mr. Cortz reported that people have set recycled materials on fire. She said fire tests have been done on that specific material and there is no concern about fire damage.

Motion was made by Commissioner Craig to recommend that the Planning Commission approve the park with the addition of a third picnic table on a concrete pad in the northeast section, and conditioned upon MWD accepting Alumawood shade structures on all three picnic areas; and a notation on Item 1 that someone other than the City will build the sidewalk. Motion seconded by Commissioner Neales, and carried 4-0.

D. BBQ Facilities at Simpson Park.

Mr. Cortz described the potential fire hazard at the park, with individuals using the BBQ facilities for building fires. He proposes removing the facilities during the fire season. He felt that some people will bring their own gas BBQ's. Last year, the entire park was shut down for 1-1/2 months when fire was raging nearby. The suggestion of placing "Fires Prohibited" signs was raised.

Motion was made by Commissioner Neales to recommend to Council to remove the BBQ facilities at Simpson Park during the fire season and place "Fires Prohibited" signs, seconded by Commissioner Hoehne, and carried 4-0.

E. Permanent Memorial for Veterans from all Wars - Gibbel Park.

(Gerri Engelhart - Engineering Department)

Gerri Engelhart updated the Commission, indicating that her Pentagon contact is on vacation this week. A 211-page document found in the archives is being searched to locate names of KIA's during World War II. Photographs were presented of various monument styles, shapes, and materials of contrasting texture upon which to affix name plates or etch the names into the stone. Commissioner Rojas felt a dark, polished granite with V groove in it in which there is a continuous stream of recycled water, with the names on either side would be a good choice. A clear tubing could be used to run the water through so it does not discolor the granite and so people cannot put their hands into the water. Mr. Cortz stated there had been a small waterfall at Weston Park, and the homeless were using it to take baths. Commissioner Rojas stated the water could represent tears for the fallen soldiers. Gerri stated this type has been seen in malls and other public places where kids cannot get into the water and requires a recycling pump to recycle the water. She stated that prices need to be obtained. She invited the Commission to call her with other suggestions. She felt that she will have a fairly comprehensive list of names by the May meeting. By the end of June, a design can be settled upon which could be submitted to the Council. By September, a time line can be formulated. Mr. Gow stated the item is on Council Member Meadows' report to Council for discussion on April 27th.

**F. Next meeting date to be determined: May 31st is Memorial Day.
*The Commission agreed to meet on May 24th.***

G. Action Items List.

This is an informational item. Mr. Gow stated that the list contains a number of items that staff owes the Commission a report on, such as the dog park. Rather than placing the items on an agenda, they will be kept on the Action List and brought to the Commission when staff is ready to give a report. He stated that staff is always prioritizing items.

Mr. Gow stated a letter was received from Judy Riggi, Valle Hermosa. The item is present on the Action List and staff will revisit it. Ms. Riggi was invited to address the Commission during the Public Comment session.

5. Communications from the Public:

Judy Riggi, Valle Hermosa, 2385 Cristobal Ave., stated that she was present last October to discuss the problem of undesirable conduct occurring in the pocket park on Kirby. Staff removed some shrubbery; however, the problem is still ongoing. Vagrants continue to use the area as a bathroom, urinating through the fence onto homeowners' properties, throwing trash over the fences into private property, leaving grocery carts and trash which causes concern of fires to the residents. She reported lots of traffic at dark, and the surrounding property owners are very concerned. She said people are sleeping on the benches. In October, lighting the area was discussed, but no lighting has been put up. Commissioner Rojas stated he does not know if lighting would encourage or discourage the conduct. Mr. Gow stated staff is working on the item, but has no proposal developed to present to Council. He felt that the situation is more of a City Council problem, stating that they have a great deal more authority to address those concerns. He suggested that Ms. Riggi address the Council directly. Commissioner Rojas stated he believes the Park Commission has gone as far as it can go, with cleaning out the area and looking into lighting. He stated the problem of vagrants is beyond the authority of the Park Commission. Ms. Riggi stated that there was discussion in October about closing off the pocket park completely. Commissioner Rojas does not favor closing it. Ms. Riggi stated that, with the population growth, there are homeless people all over the city. She stated she will take the matter to Council.

Mr. Gow stated that the Police Department can be contacted in the event of public exposure, which is a serious offense. Commissioner Rojas felt that the Police could step up patrol in the area if Council so directed. Mr. Gow offered the phone number for grocery cart pickup, and Ms. Riggi stated she already has it. Mr. Gow recommended that he be called personally to contact the cart pickup person, if the problem with grocery carts still persists. She stated that Valle Hermosa has received permission to take care of graffiti in their neighborhood.

Nancy Austin, 2197 W. Fruitvale Ave., President of Valley Beautiful, requested a copy of the overall plan for Weston Park renovation. (Mr. Gow provided her with a drawing for the renovation, stating the item is going to Council tomorrow for award of the construction contract. Plans are to open the park in late September after 3 months has passed to give the grass time to grow and become well established.) She inquired if consideration had been given to funding more natural plantings at Brubaker Park, as was discussed in the past. Gow said the City's Simpson Park is a natural setting. Ms. Austin stated that grants are available for park improvements.

6. Adjournment:

At 4:48 PM, the meeting was adjourned. The next regularly-scheduled Park Commission meeting will be held on Monday, May 24th, at 4:00 PM in City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Hampton, Commission Secretary