

Sierra Recreation Association

October 2003

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Dec. 13th is set for Holiday Dinner.

11/19 Odd Fellows Potluck theme is "Harvest Time"
 Turkey time (Colemans are the hosts)

Calendar of Meetings

BOARD MEETING: 8:30 a.m. Sat. November 15, 2003

Sierra Park Lodge #376

Lodge meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M.

Potluck on – 11/19 6:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING October 18, 2003

Attendance:

President: Fred Coleman	Present	Vice Pres. Robert Snell	Present
Secretary: Norrine Coyle	Present	Treasurer: Richard Bonner	Present
Ed Smith	Excused	Sean Kasper	Excused
Roger Townsend	Present	Neil Selman	Present
		Greg Brown	Excused

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Pres. Fred Coleman

Invocation by Richard Bonner

By motion (Snell / Selman, unan.) the minutes of the September 20, 2003, meeting were approved as mailed.

MEMBERS BEFORE THE BOARD: John Bordes again asked for a copy of the agreement between the Board and Wallace's. After discussion he will handle the request again through his attorney, as he needs to know how the settlement affects his family property. Fred advised when and if Park attorney advises us we will do what is legally required.

Correspondence: 1. Outgoing letter by President to parents of a teenager who drove around a gate and then drove across the stream. 2. CRWA survey 3. Course information booklet from CSU Sac. for small water systems & wells.

Park workers' report- Gary reported that people had put a TV and ammunition into the dumpster. These are considered hazardous waste and cost the Park extra for disposal. The President will have some signs put up about what is considered hazardous waste and cannot be put into the dumpster. The detailed workers' report is on file with the original minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water - Selman: 865,800 gallons were used since the last report. There were no breaks. We had one problem with a sample, but follow-up tests showed that the problem was not in our water system but from the location where and how the sample was taken. Neil accepted responsibility for the sampling error and reported all subsequent testing indicates clean water. Gary is taking a state test today to qualify for his permanent water license and he has taken over the water testing.

Roads – Snell: The cost of roadwork was \$49,830. Robert will verify the work before approval to pay the bill.

Buildings - (Smith, excused) Neil reported that Ed talked to the plumber and materials to do the work in the restrooms have been ordered. As soon as the materials are received, he will start the work. Roger and Ruth Townsend were thanked for getting the sink installed in the kitchen. Roger had to do a lot of retrofitting to get it installed. Ruth and Ann Coleman did a lot of cleaning work in the kitchen. It appears that the lumber purchased to fix the office upstairs is not going to work. Sean, Gary and Mike will work with Ed on some plans for the office.

Timber – Coleman: We have received \$30,000 for the logging this season, plus \$3,016.95 that was the balance from what was held out to pay taxes and other costs. Randy Gray, logger, will be coming in on a Saturday to clean up and prepare for slash burns after rains. The Forest Service needs to cleanup flammable materials on their property that is adjacent to Park property.

Health & Safety – Kasper: (absent) It was brought up that Sean needs to file the forms with State in order to continue getting water for the lake.

Equipment – Brown: (absent) The caretakers will be reminded to start winterizing equipment.

Recreation – Townsend: The annual Holiday Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 13. Roger displayed a beautiful handmade vest donated by Vickie & Roger Smith to be raffled at the Holiday Dinner to help raise funds for the kids fishing derby. All other donations will be gratefully received. A big "thanks" to the Smiths for their donation.

Finance – Bonner: Bills for budgeted items amounted to \$9,049.93 and expenses from the Timber Fund were &960. By motion (Selman/Townsend, unan) the bills were approved for payment. Mike delivered a bill from Ambrosia to the meeting. It was \$89 for cleaning the chimney in the Caretaker's cabin. By motion (Selman/Coleman, unan) it was approved for payment. After Robert Snell has checked the paving job by George Reed and finds that it is O.K., he will tell Richard Bonner that the bill can be paid. By motion (Townsend/Selman, unan) the bills was approved for payment if the Robert says the job was done properly. It was agreed that the timber tax expense is to be split between the Timber and Road Funds, since it was originally set up to split the timber income between the two funds. The books for the last six years will be audited as discussed at the May annual meeting. Cost will be approx. \$6000. There are nine assessments still to come in. These will soon be taken to small claims court.

OLD BUSINESS: Two homeowners dumped some materials at the extension of West Jordan. They were contacted and one homeowner has removed the materials he dumped. By motion (Townsend/Snell, unan.) the Park's lawyer will be asked to send a letter to the other property owner.

Regarding a lawsuit on property on Jordan, the President says we should not have been involved in any prescriptive right situation.

The President met with a representative of Grover Environmental Products concerning grinding pine needles and slash. A letter concerning this will be sent to the property owners with the newsletter.

By motion (Bonner/Selman, unan.) Ann Coleman and Doris Selman will be given \$50 to put on a dinner for those who volunteer their time to work in the Park.

NEW BUSINESS: The President sent a letter stopping the building of a driveway on East Jordan which had rocks on Park property supporting it. The contractor is going to tell the property owner he needs to put in a block wall and meet codes.

The policy on contractors using the gate will be changed. Caretaker Gary will take over responsibility of working with the Village Printing and Mail to track the contractors using the cards. He will also issue new cards for homeowners on specific days and times. DO NOT call Richard Bonner for gate cards. CALL Gary at the Park office, 586-3098. Leave your request for cards or clickers on the message machine. He will call you back.

On Jordan East, someone cut a drainage ditch across Park property. He will be required to correct it. Property owners should also be sure to turn off their water, drain the pipes, and put antifreeze in drains when they are leaving because of the colder weather.

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 10:40 a.m., returned to open session at 11:43 a.m. and immediately adjourned. The next Board meeting will be held on November 15, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Norrine Coyle, Secretary

Please read the letters included with this newsletter. One is to help you avoid problems when improving your property and the action impacts Park property.

The second letter is a plan to resolve (hopefully) the problem with burning needles and small slash. This plan would avoid smoke in the Park. The reasonable expense would be less than one trip to dump a load of needles in Standard.

We would appreciate your comments on the "No Burn" plan.

Quick Notes

Be Wise and Winterize your homes. Broken pipes mean loss and expense to you and everyone. Your pipes break, water damage occurs, water loss and electricity expense for pumping the water occurs. Just leaving your water running at a slow rate also leaves the Park with the water loss and electricity cost. Winterize properly and everyone wins.

Drive safely for Winter conditions. Slow your speed, black ice is not visible. We want everyone to enjoy our winter wonderland.

Now, Let's talk Trash. Please read the restrictions that are placed on us by the garbage company. Some of our neighbors do not seem to care if it will cost more for everyone if they put unauthorized "stuff" in the dumpster. The bin is for garbage, paper and non-toxic household waste, NOT everything you clean out of your home. Check the list at the dumpster if you have questions. The Park is billed extra for improper trash. If you know someone "just doesn't care" because it is more convenient for them, Report the offenders to a caretaker or board member.

CHECKS DISBURSED OCTOBER 2003				
DATE	NUMBER	NAME	MEMO/ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
10/3/03	302	Michael W. Caropreso	payroll	683.38
10/3/03	303	Gary A. Scarborough	payroll	871.64
10/3/03	10908	State Farm Bank	Payroll deductions (Mike)	100.00
10/3/03	10909	Valley Door & Equip	Gate expense	100.00
10/3/03	10910	Twain Harte Lumber	Roads	115.04
10/10/03	10911	USBank	Payroll Taxes	583.60
10/10/03	10912	Employment Develop	Taxes Payroll	56.05
10/10/03	10913	State Compensation	Insurance	326.37
10/17/03	304	Michael W. Caropreso	Payroll	683.39
10/17/03	305	Gary A. Scarborough	Payroll	871.62
10/18/03	10914	Fred Coleman	Mileage, mail	69.94
10/18/03	10915	Michael W. Caropreso	Office supplies, petty cash	34.74
10/18/03	10916	Employment Develop	Taxes Payroll	65.43
10/18/03	10917	Angels Pest Control	Maintain Buildings	120.00
10/18/03	10918	Mike's Mowers	Shop supplies	12.88
10/18/03	10919	Gary A. Scarborough	petty cash, mileage	142.83
10/18/03	10920	Waste Management	Garbage	1,423.40
10/18/03	10921	J. S. West Propane	Propane	38.59
10/18/03	10922	Duane St. Clair Trkg	Roads	153.00
10/18/03	10923	Roger A. Brown	Prof. Services	347.88
10/18/03	10924	PG&E	Utilities	688.44
10/18/03	10925	Eric A Carlson	Accounting	315.00
10/18/03	10926	George Reed, Inc	Maintain Roads	152.12
10/18/03	10927	SBC	Telephone	72.84
10/18/03	10928	A & A Portables	Health & Safety	71.68
10/18/03	10929	Village Mail & Printing	Member Communications	53.09
10/18/03	10930	AquaLab	Water Testing	226.00
10/18/03	10931	Richard Bonner	mileage, postage	39.37
10/18/03	10932	M. Carrepreso	Empl. Bene. Medical	33.47
10/18/03	10933	Roger Townsend	Mileage & rec. supplies	466.60
10/18/03	10934	Robert Snell	Mileage	54.75
10/18/03	10935	Norrine Coyle	Mileage	52.56
10/18/03	10936	Neil Selman	Maintain Water- training	23.60
10/18/03	10937	Ambrosia's Chimney	Maintain caretaker cabin	89.00
10/18/03	10938 *	California Reforestation	Timber Expense	960.00
			TOTAL	9,138.30
		* Timber Fund Reimbursement		

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world. If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all. *You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.*

Happy Thanksgiving all year long.



Let's talk Trash! See information inside. Improve our communications.

For new or replacement gate cards or remotes: **Call Gary.**
586-3098 only.

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
P.O. Box 116
Long Barn, CA 95335

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. Postage Paid
Bulk Mail
Permit #2
Long Barn, CA 95335

Dear Member:

During the last few years there has been an increase in construction and improvement to private property in the Park. A problem keeps coming up concerning the Park property located in front of private property. In most cases, the Park owns anywhere from a few feet to as much as ten feet from the edge of the road to your property boundary. If you are going to put in a new drive or improve an existing one or install a new retaining wall or improve an existing one, you need to contact Mike or Gary in order to find out how to proceed. A policy was passed a few years ago by the Board to deal with the items described above. There are several reasons for the policy. One has to do with the water lines running along the edge of the road. A drive or wall could be installed in such a manner that the line encounters damage. The water line could also be covered by concrete or paving so that it becomes difficult or impossible to repair or replace. Another problem concerns driveways accessing one lot but crossing the strip owned by the Park but in front of the lot next door. This cuts down on the access available to the neighboring lot and is not fair, especially since the lots are so narrow. A third problem has to do with retaining walls constructed on Park property. If they are not constructed according to code and an accident occurs, the Park could be liable.

Mike and Gary must be informed of projects like those described above so that you can be apprised as to the procedure you need to follow before any work begins. They will also give you a copy of the Board policy. Failure to comply may result in your project being stopped, a charge filed with the County Building Department, and/or legal action.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Coleman
President
Board of Directors

Dear Member:

On October 2, 2003, I met with Jake Oosterman who is with Grover Environmental Products. Grover Environmental has a tub grinder that is used to grind needles and slash (tree limbs and branches). They also arrange for the removal of the ground material. Here is the break down on the cost for grinding our needles and slash for 2004 should we decide to grind instead of burn:

Equipment moved up and back = \$2000 (We might be able to save several hundred dollars if we coordinate our grinding with others in the area.)

One ten hour day of grinding = \$3500 (If we went into the next day the cost would be \$400 per hour.)

Trucking = \$70 per hour (One group near Cold Springs did 423 tons of material in 2003 and they were done in ten hours. They used five trucks with a cost of \$2500 for the hauling.)

Sale price for material hauled out = \$12 to \$15 per dry ton (If we had 350 dry ton of material and went with the low price of \$12 per dry ton, our income would be \$4200.)

If we went with the highest price on all of the costs involved in grinding, we would have \$8000 in expenses and an income of \$4200. The net cost would come to \$3800 for all of the material generated by homeowners cleaning their lots and also doing the general Park clean up for 2004.

There are some things to be aware of in grinding. If someone puts in a heavy piece of steel, such as a piece of rail from a railroad track found at one site, and the equipment is damaged, we would have to pay for repair. We would only allow needles and slash. To keep track of what goes into the pile, we would need someone on duty at all times when the dump area is open. In order to check the loads, the time to get in and dump would take longer.

There are some positive aspects of this process. We could keep the area open later - until at least June 15. Residents would not have to deal with the smoke. Our mess would be gone in one to two days. We would not have to worry about a burn permit, the air quality control office, a fire getting out of control, or when they were going to suspend burning for the year. I have been told by CDF that it will not be long before our burn area will be closed permanently.

This program would require an increase in the assessment of \$20 per lot. That would give us about \$7000 and would cover most of the cost. With this amount we would not have to worry about what we sold the product for. The fee of \$20 a lot is cheap compared to hauling down the hill.

The Board would like your opinion and comments concerning this program.

_____ In Favor of Trying It

_____ Not In Favor Of Trying It

Comments



Fred Coleman
President
Board of Directors
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