



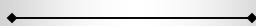
SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

ODD FELLOWS —LONG BARN, CALIFORNIA, USA

OCTOBER 2008

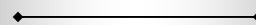
2008-2009

- President ➤ Jesse Worsham
- Vice Pres. ➤ Steve Wallace
- Secretary ➤ Andrea Miller
- Treasurer ➤ Paul Emery
- Gate ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Safety ➤ Mike Rainwater
- Recreation ➤ Sue Collie
- Water ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Timber ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Timber ➤ Jesse Worsham
- Roads ➤ Steve Wallace
- Equipment ➤ Alan Orth
- Buildings ➤ Mike Ford
- Member ➤ Mike Rainwater



◀ Rebekah's Corner ▶

Nothing to report at this time. We'll keep you posted!

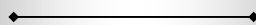


◀ Coming Events ▶

- Annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 13th @ 6:00 pm.



The Compiled Financial Statement for the Association for the just ended fiscal year may be reviewed on the Park's web site, www.varvayanis.com/sp.



The 2007 Water System Consumer Confidence Report is now available on the website at www.varvayanis.com/sp/water.htm. If you do not have access to the web and would like a copy mailed to you, please contact us.



Park Information

- Phone: (209) 586-3098
- Email: sierrapark@sierrapark.org
- Website: www.varvayanis.com/sp

Notes From The Board

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas Dinner: Saturday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m.



Winter is in the air. Excitement for the upcoming Holiday Season abounds. The Board can feel it too as we move toward the Annual Christmas Dinner to which all Park dwellers are welcomed.

As has been previously mentioned, this year we are asking each family to bring a gift from "Santa" for their own child that they know is a gift the child will enjoy. Our Santa will be handing out bags of candy to all children present and will also deliver your special Christmas present to your child! We will also have an auction to help raise money for next year's Fishing Derby, which is always a favorite activity for Park residents.

Preparations are already underway. We have arranged for sufficient freshly baked turkey, and will provide the trimmings as well – mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing and drinks, along with plates and utensils.



Each attending family are also requested to bring a side dish or dessert to contribute to the feast. If you want to be a part of the ongoing planning and the dinner itself, or if you have a special item to offer for the auction, please contact **Sue Collie** at (209) 404-5551.



Please mark your calendars and join your Park neighbors for an evening of fun, food, laughter and fellowship. Get out your winter clothing – red and green to be emphasized – grab your jingle bells and get on down to the Lodge on December 13th! See you there.

**** For those of you who would like to receive your Newsletters more promptly and directly, and to save the money we are now spending on reproduction and postage, please provide an e-mail address to the Sierra Park email address listed to the left. Remember, every Newsletter that we have to mail costs the Association \$.42 in postage and between \$22 and \$36 in reproduction costs, depending on how many pages the newsletter is. With over 250 lot owners who do not receive it by e-mail we spend between \$125 and \$140 each month to be sure you are kept informed—that's over \$1,600 per year!. Your help in reducing this cost would be greatly appreciated.*

BOARD MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 2008

Odd Fellows Sierra Homeowners' Association ~ Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by President Jesse Worsham. The invocation was delivered by Alan Orth. Members Andrea Miller and Mike Rainwater were absent and excused. Motion by Sue Collie and seconded by Sue Collins to approve the minutes from the August Board Meeting. Passed unanimously.

Homeowners Present: Jeanne Knapp.

Correspondence:

- ◆ *John and Ekie Hinkley* expressed their concerns about the assessment.
- ◆ *Christopher and Marjorie* raised their concerns regarding dropping trees on their property.
- ◆ *Lorie Ingram and Grace Silva* notified the Board of their changed addresses.
- ◆ *Mary Wallace* reported that her Modesto Bee newspapers are being stolen. We urge everyone to respect the rights of others.
- ◆ *Ray Brown* wished to check the status of his payments.
- ◆ *Miller Kern* wrote about assessments.
- ◆ *Leo Siegel* followed up on previous correspondence regarding a property issue.

Committee Reports:

Water — Charles Varvayanis: Water consumption for last month was 781,100 gallons. The Well 5 water line needs heat tape before the freeze sets in. Mr. Varvayanis reported that he researched a high water bill recently received and verified that it was correctly billed.

Roads — Steve Wallace: Mr. Wallace presented a detailed report on the roads project. All work has been completed at a cost of \$176,850.56 for the services of George Reed, Inc. There were ancillary expenses incurred of \$20,167.78. The grand total for the entire project was \$197,018.34 which was discharged with \$10,320.71 from the building fund, \$66,250.00 from the assessment fund, \$100,000 from the timber loan fund, and \$22,859.00 from the road reserve account. This left \$2,681.37 in the road reserve account.

This huge project has added 18,149 square feet of new paving, added new parking lots within the Park, built six new snow storage areas and several turn arounds to assist in snow removal activities, built a parking area in front of Well 6, and built a new pad in front of the shop.

We still need 60 snow markers, 10 "No Parking," and 20 "No Parking During Snow Removal" signs. It is expected that the caretaker will do crack sealing periodically as needed to save future expenditures.

Mr. Wallace also provided an overview of the Board's 5 year plan for roads. He received the thanks of the entire board for overseeing this project and bringing it to fruition. Job well done, Mr. Wallace!

Buildings — Mike Ford: Work on new porch at the Lodge continues. The Board thanked Mr. Ford for all of his work and he, in turn, thanks all of the volunteers on the project.

The Rebekahs have agreed to paint the newly installed railings and Mr. Emery will see to acquisition of the supplies needed for that project. The Board expresses its advance appreciation to the Rebekahs both for volunteering to complete this project and for their donation of \$100 to help with its financing.

A discussion was held regarding ways to save energy in the Park. Mr. Worsham will purchase 2 motion sensors for the fire house and the light at the back of the Lodge will be turned off. It was also noted that the roof of the Lodge needs to be checked as loose screws have been found inside the building.

Timber — Charles Varvayanis: Will the Forester will attend a Board meeting in the next few months to address past clean-up issues and upcoming grant opportunities. There is a tree on Rebekah that needs to be dropped at an estimated cost of \$600.00. Motion to hire Ace Tree to remove this dangerous tree by Mr. Varvayanis; second by Mr. Orth. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation — Sue Collie: Bill and Doris Kilgore donated button-making equipment and supplies. Thanks to them for this gift! Ms. Collie has contacted the company that provided the playground equipment regarding the two slides that are beginning to warp and buckle. She has emailed the photographs of the equipment and will continue to press them for repair/replacement.

The plans for the Christmas Dinner continue to progress. See the special Christmas Dinner article on page 1 for more details.

Mr. Worsham sent out thank-you letters for fishing derby contributions.

BOARD MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 2008

A desire to have more community activities was discussed. The Board will consider celebrations on July 4th, Easter, and Labor Day. A Barb-B-Que will be held after the next Annual Meeting. All agreed that providing opportunities for owners to get to know their neighbors better is a good goal. Any homeowners interested in being involved in the planning process or who have ideas for any events are invited to contact Sue Collie.

Health & Safety — Steve Wallace: The Board was informed that a coyote attacked an unleashed dog near the edge of the Meadow on October 12. There were people near-by but that did not deter the attack. The Board is looking at means to control the growing coyote population inside the Park. In the meantime we must all exercise great care! Homeowners and Park visitors are strongly encouraged to watch all pets and small children closely to avoid further attacks.

The caretaker will be instructed to repair the screen by the beach.

Equipment — Al Orth. The tractor has been moved to the Valley for repairs and maintenance. It is has not had regular 1,000 hour services and now stands at 5,000 hours. It is likely that the cost of these repairs will use much if not all of the equipment reserve account, without considering the cost of repairing the bucket. The boom must be locked or damage will ensue as has happened in the past. The backhoe should no longer be used for small jobs; we need a trailer for these small jobs.

Extra effort needs to be put into increasing the tool inventory. Mr. Orth presented a fuel log that will be used to keep track of any fuel used by the caretaker and any other worker taking fuel.

Repairs to the snow plow/ dump truck have been completed at a cost of \$8,000.00, which includes a rebuild of the front end. The sander needs service and repair; Messrs. Orth and Steve will undertake this project. We discussed the need to pay greater attention to our equipment and how it is used.

Mr. Orth has located two graders to be assessed to determine if they will meet our needs.

Finance — Paul Emery. Income was \$1,943.05; expenses were \$163,681.49, including the bills for the road work discussed above.

Old Business: Retention of Corporate counsel: The Committee appointed to locate a corporate attorney, Mrs. Collie and Messrs. Worsham and Varvayanis, will meet before the next Board meeting to work toward consensus on this issue.

Mr. Varvayanis has located a website for the Park at the very reasonable cost of \$25.00 per month. He is willing to serve as system manager. Motion by Mr. Varvayanis to move our web site to a private company at a cost not to exceed \$25.00 per month was seconded by Mr. Orth. The motion was carried unanimously. The Board sincerely thanked Mr. Varvanyis for all of his time and work and donations in providing us a site for our newsletter to this point. The new website will be denoted sierrapark.org and will have the capacity to receive emails from Board constituents.

There is a lock box at the gate with an entrance card in it that can be used by realtors to access the Park. Homeowners should not need to provide realtors with a personal card or clicker but should refer them to the lock box.

The institution of a card or clicker system to permit homeowners access to the Long Barn/Sugar Pine road through our gate was investigated. Mr. Varvayanis reported that it would cost \$2,395.00 to install such a system. This project cannot be started during this budget year but will be read-dressed when the new budget goes into effect.

The issue of the need for a caretaker's job list and an overview or monthly report of progress which was in place in the past was discussed. Further it was recognized that the caretaker has not been given a written annual performance review. Mr. Worsham will work on both tasks.

New Business — Steve Wallace resigned from the Board effective immediately. The Board members present expressed their great appreciation for all Steve has done for the Park. There is no other single person who has contributed more to the betterment of our Community. Thank you for your service, Steve.

Closed Session — 11:30 to 12:00 to discuss property line issue and replacement of resigning Board Member. Jeanne Knapp who received the next greatest number of votes at the Annual Meeting was invited to join the Board and accepted the position. She will begin her tenure at the November meeting.

Mr. Worsham adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m. **Next meeting will be November 15, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.**

Minutes humbly submitted, *Sue Collie*, Stand-in Secretary ~ October 18, 2008

CHECKS DISBURSED FROM 9/22—10/22

TYPE	DATE	#	PAYEE	DETAIL	AMT	BAL
						9,848.75
Paycheck	10/03/2008	839	Caropreso, Michael W.	-SPLIT-	-1,214.42	8,634.33
Liability Check	10/03/2008	840	State- Farm Bank	185 · Payroll Deductions IRA	-50.00	8,584.33
Liability Check	10/03/2008	841	EDD	-SPLIT-	-76.91	8,507.42
Liability Check	10/03/2008	842	Oak Valley Bank	-SPLIT-	-874.76	7,632.66
Check	10/14/2008	1054	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn.	133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	8,000.00	15,632.66
Check	10/14/2008	845	J & H Mobile Truck Repair, Inc.	773 · Maintain Equipment	-7,682.17	7,950.49
Paycheck	10/17/2008	843	Caropreso, Michael W.	-SPLIT-	-1,058.62	6,891.87
Liability Check	10/17/2008	844	State- Farm Bank	185 · Payroll Deductions IRA	-50.00	6,841.87
Check	10/21/2008	846	A & A Portables Inc.	740 · Health & Safety	-79.68	6,762.19
Check	10/21/2008	847	AT&T	-SPLIT-	-101.39	6,660.80
Check	10/21/2008	848	A-Snap	773 · Maintain Equipment	-1,098.20	5,562.60
Check	10/21/2008	849	Ambrosia's Chimney Sweep	772 · Maintain Buildings	-110.00	5,452.60
Check	10/21/2008	850	AquaLab	794 · Water Testing & Fees	-290.00	5,162.60
Check	10/21/2008	851	Blue Shield Of California	728 · Employee Benefits	-516.00	4,646.60
Check	10/21/2008	852	California Department of Public Health	794 · Water Testing & Fees	-521.00	4,125.60
Check	10/21/2008	853	California Department of Public Health	794 · Water Testing & Fees	-22.21	4,103.39
Check	10/21/2008	854	Caropreso, Mike	745 · Employee Health Ins. Reimburse	-53.99	4,049.40
Check	10/21/2008	855	Dept. of Motor Vehicles	786 · Taxes and Licenses	-950.00	3,099.40
Check	10/21/2008	856	Eric A. Carlson Accounting Corp.	756 · Accounting Services	-2,398.68	700.72
Check	10/21/2008	857	Ford, Mike	-SPLIT-	-113.93	586.79
Check	10/21/2008	858	George Reed, Inc.	-SPLIT-	-137,450.56	-136,863.77
Check	10/21/2008	859	J. S. West	792 · Utilities	-42.05	-136,905.82
Check	10/21/2008	860	J. S. West Lumber & Hardware	772 · Maintain Buildings	-1,001.49	-137,907.31
Check	10/21/2008	861	L. K. Lehman Trucking, Inc.	772 · Maintain Buildings	-1,018.88	-138,926.19
Check	10/21/2008	862	Orth, Alan	779 · Maintain Equip - Capital Expens	-254.96	-139,181.15
Check	10/21/2008	863	PG&E	792 · Utilities	-678.29	-139,859.44
Check	10/21/2008	864	Secretary of State	786 · Taxes and Licenses	-25.00	-139,884.44
Check	10/21/2008	865	Secretary of State	786 · Taxes and Licenses	-20.00	-139,904.44
Check	10/21/2008	866	Sierra Rock Products, Inc.	774 · Maintain Roads	-3,040.56	-142,945.00
Check	10/21/2008	867	Sonora Rentals & Sales	772 · Maintain Buildings	-195.00	-143,140.00
Check	10/21/2008	868	Twain Harte Lumber & Hardware	772 · Maintain Buildings	-501.23	-143,641.23
Check	10/21/2008	869	Charles P. Varvayanis	737 · Gate Expense	-130.37	-143,771.60
Check	10/21/2008	870	W.H. Breshears, Inc.	735 · Fuel	-2,785.88	-146,557.48
Check	10/21/2008	871	Alan Wallace	775 · Maintain Water Systems	-20.00	-146,577.48
Check	10/21/2008	872	Wallace, Steve	775 · Maintain Water Systems	-106.57	-146,684.05
Check	10/21/2008	873	Waste Management of Cal Sierra Corp.	736 · Garbage	-22.89	-146,706.94
Check	10/21/2008	874	Worsham, Jesse R.	737 · Gate Expense	-151.00	-146,857.94
Check	10/21/2008	1055	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn.	133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	160,000.00	13,142.06
TOTALS					3,293.31	13,142.06



Coyotes, and Nature, and Danger, Oh My!



While far from domesticated, coyotes show little fear of humans and have become comfortable living in close proximity to our communities. Although they tend to do most of their hunting after dusk, the so-called 'prairie wolf' can be active at any time. Under normal circumstance, a coyote is not a danger to humans. They are, however, territorial and will respond aggressively if they or their family are threatened. It is also worth noting that it is hard for a coyote to pass up a free meal or, as the case may be, a defenseless pet. This applies even if it requires leaping fences (as high as 6 feet) or overcoming other obstacles for the opportunity. Caution is always warranted. With that in mind, experts recommend the following steps:

- ◆ Fence pet and animal enclosures completely, if possible include a top.
- ◆ Keep cats and small dogs indoors. When walking small dogs, always keep them on a leash.
- ◆ Coyotes are most active dusk to dawn. Avoid walking pets after dark.
- ◆ Bring along pepper spray or a stick in case a coyote gets aggressive. Screaming or yelling and waving arms sometimes won't work on coyotes that have lost their fear of humans.
- ◆ Any pet smaller than 45 pounds should never be left outside past 4 p.m.
- ◆ Feed pets indoors. Eliminate potential food and water sources such as fallen fruit or vegetables and standing water.
- ◆ Store trash in covered, heavy-duty containers.
- ◆ Keep yards free of potential hiding places. Remove thick brush and weeds. Enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- ◆ If you encounter a coyote that behaves aggressively, you have probably gotten too close to its prey or its family. Try to scare the coyote by yelling and waving your arms. Throw rocks, sticks or other objects. Do not turn away and run.
- ◆ Do not feed coyotes. Doing so can make them less afraid of humans and potentially more dangerous.