



SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

ODD FELLOWS —LONG BARN, CALIFORNIA, USA

NOVEMBER 2008

2008-2009

- President ➤ Jesse Worsham
- Vice Pres. ➤ Jeanne Knapp
- 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 ➤ Jesse Worsham
- 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 @ 5:00 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 5:00 p.m.

*** Time changed from 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 note that we have very few raffle donations at this point – more would be very welcome!**



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 NOVEMBER 15, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by President Jesse Worsham. The invocation was delivered by Alan Orth. Members Andrea Miller and Sue Collie were absent and excused. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (with correction made reported "motion made by Sue Collie and seconded by Sue Collie") - motion made by Paul Emery and seconded by Mike Rainwater. Approved with correction

Homeowners Present: Mike Van Gundy

Correspondence:

- ◆ *Mr. Emery* wanted to thank Sue Collie for the zero bill received for Miracle Recreation Equipment (playground equipment).
- ◆ *Mr. Emery* gave Mr. Varvayanis a letter which had been returned from the post office.
- ◆ A letter was read from Ron Anderson of USDA regarding the coyote problem in the park. (See Newsletter segment below) A discussion followed regarding meadow habitat and related Williams Act obligations relating to open.
- ◆ There was correspondence from the Secretary of State. Paul will check with Carlson to be sure there is no duplication of payments.

Committee Reports:

Water — Charles Varvayanis: Water usage in the Park was 318,300 gallons for November. This is a very low number which may reflect the impacts of our slowing economy. The good news is, there are no leaks. Well 5 needs a new meter (estimated expense \$400-\$500). Motion: Mr. Varvayanis to fund the purchase using up to \$750.00 of funds coming from reserve. Second: Mr. Worsham. Approved unanimously. Mr. Varvayanis indicated the water system is slowly deteriorating. Mr. Ford opined this could be corrected by a wire brush scrub and repainting at minimal cost. Mr. Varvayanis also opined that we should consider an automated system which Barry Water Systems estimates may cost \$5,000. This would decrease inspection requirements as we would get information from the system. The fence at this location also requires repair. There are also problems with the retaining wall at the 43,000 gallon water tank site which will need to be addressed next year. Paul offered to assist Charles with creating a project completion plan with timelines for planning to be sure issues are addressed. Charles accepted the offer.

Roads — Jesse Worsham: The culvert at Jonathon still has some touch up work to be done. Mike Rainwater initiated a discussion regarding payment plans for the \$173,000 related to the road project.

Buildings — Mike Ford: Mr. Ford will finish the Lodge deck today if he can get help. Limbs at the gate need to be cut back to allow proper functioning of the motion detector. Since no new projects are planned before the next Annual Meeting remaining funds in the Buildings account may be used for pending, unfunded matters. The caretaker's dishwasher will be installed with expenses billed to the Buildings account.

*** Mike Ford asks that a thank you be sent to the Rebekahs & Odd Fellows for their assistance and financial support in painting the lodge.**

Timber — Charles Varvayanis: Mr. Rainwater contacted PG&E about five dead trees and they will drop them in the Spring. Discussed the need to clearly document the contractor's responsibility when getting trees felled to assure clean-up meets expectations.

Recreation — Sue Collie: Jesse Worsham reported Sue asked that we be sure the newsletter minutes reflect the **Christmas Party will begin at 5:00 p.m. (not 6:00 p.m.). We should also confirm that each family should bring a side dish or dessert and if you are bringing a small child, that you bring a gift gift for that child to be given by "Santa".** The concept of an Easter Celebration was discussed but it was decided that we will stick with Annual Meeting events for that season. The slide has been delivered to replace the one that is buckling. Ms. Collie will see to installation.

Health & Safety — Mike Rainwater: Since fire restrictions have been lifted Mr. Worsham reported that the Lake will now be drained. The pine needles around the gate house area need to be regularly cleared to avoid a potential for accidents that could damage the gate.

Equipment — Al Orth. Back hoe is in service, in the park and in good condition. The snow plow is not ready to go yet; it has a hydraulic leak. The sander is not working and Mr. Orth will provide a repair or replacement plan. Research continues to locate a road grader. Mr. Orth will work with Dave McMillan to make the final selection. Mr. Rainwater moved to initiate the contact and make a purchase. Seconded by Mr. Ford. Passed unanimously.

BOARD MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 15, 2008

Finance — Paul Emery. Mr. Varvayanis will contact accountant Carlson for clarification of a \$1950 reported expense for timber. A summary of delinquent assessment payments will be provided next month. Motion to approve payment of bills by Mr. Orth; seconded by Mr. Rainwater; approved unanimously. Total expenses for the month are \$8,984.10. Total income for the month is \$3,592.70.

*** Roads are complete. Repayment to the Timber Fund will be completed in two years as agreed.**

Old Business: Retention of Corporate counsel: A final report will be presented in December.

New Business:

- ◆ Discussion regarding whether to renew the \$100 permit that would allow use of the Lake water for drinking. Will renew for one more year but benefits and burdens should be decided before the next renewal is due. Charles spoke on some of the water bills.
- ◆ The information accountant Carlson has been sending for the Newsletter is confusing insofar as there is some information for the previous month included. Mr. Varvayanis will speak with Carlson about this.
- ◆ Gate Transmitters are being requested in ever growing numbers. Motion to fund purchase 40 remotes to have them on hand to fill orders by Mr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Rainwater passed unanimously.
- ◆ Mr. Varvayanis requested that a special budget account be initiated to establish a Gate Reserve Fund. Further discussions will be held.
- ◆ Lightning protection at the gate has become an issue. Motion by Mr. Rainwater and seconded by Mr. Orth to move \$200 from the Health and Safety Budget to purchase basic surge protectors for the gates and cameras. Further planning is needed to establish comprehensive protection.
- ◆ New cameras will be installed prior to the next Board meeting.
- ◆ Mr. Worsham will address necessary maintenance that must be performed in the gate area with Caropresso.
- ◆ Tuolumne County Animal Control has requested gate cards in lieu of a master code. Motion to provide four cards by Mr. Varvayanis, seconded by Mr. Worsham, approved unanimously.
- ◆ Homeowners continue to have problems with the gate cards. This is because they try to use the old system instead of the touch pad.
- ◆ We need to clarify insurance coverages and who can drive Park vehicles. Mr. Worsham will investigate and report at the December meeting. Agreed that only those with the proper licensing and training will operate snow removal equipment. Mr. Orth will draft a procedures list for plowing for use by volunteers. Those identified (in order of calls when there is a need) will be Mike Caropreso, Mike Rainwater, Jesse Worsham, Mike Ford, and Alan Orth.
- ◆ Adjustments will be made to the Lodge heating system to avoid having it run at over 40 degrees when the building is not in use. Mr. Worsham will update the thermostats.

Adjourned to two separate executive sessions:

- ◆ Board member communication. Policies and procedures discussion.
- ◆ Jeanne Knapp was nominated as Vice President to replace Mr. Wallace. Seconded by Mr. Orth. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Worsham agreed to take over the vacant Roads position.

Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m. **Next meeting will be Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.**

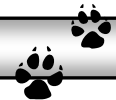
Minutes humbly submitted, *Jeanne Knapp*, Stand-in Secretary ~ November 15, 2008.

CHECKS DISBURSED FROM 10/23—11/22

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount
						13,142.06
Liability Check	10/28/2008	875	EDD	074-1658-9	-SPLIT-	-18.60
Paycheck	10/31/2008	876	Caropreso, Michael W.		-SPLIT-	-815.33
Paycheck	10/31/2008	877	Cloak, Robert B.		-SPLIT-	-91.55
Liability Check	10/31/2008	878	State- Farm Bank		185 · Payroll Deductions IRA	-50.00
Check	11/03/2008	1056	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn.		133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	12,500.00
Check	11/03/2008	879	Case Power & Equipment		773 · Maintain Equipment	-12,259.50
Liability Check	11/05/2008	881	EDD	074-1658-9	-SPLIT-	-130.91
Liability Check	11/05/2008	880	Oak Valley Bank	94-1181950	-SPLIT-	-1,404.85
Paycheck	11/14/2008	882	Caropreso, Michael W.		-SPLIT-	-1,058.62
Liability Check	11/14/2008	883	State- Farm Bank		185 · Payroll Deductions IRA	-50.00
Check	11/18/2008	884	A & A Portables Inc.	415657	740 · Health & Safety	-26.84
Check	11/18/2008	885	Alan Wallace Electrical Contractor	2412	775 · Maintain Water Systems	-20.00
Check	11/18/2008	886	Ford, Mike		-SPLIT-	-115.45
Check	11/18/2008	887	Angels Pest Control		772 · Maintain Buildings	-130.00
Check	11/18/2008	888	AquaLab	7530	794 · Water Testing & Fees	-760.00
Check	11/18/2008	889	AT&T		-SPLIT-	-66.13
Check	11/18/2008	890	Blue Shield Of California		728 · Employee Benefits	-516.00
Check	11/18/2008	891	Caropreso, Mike		745 · Employee Health Ins. Reimburse	-206.79
Check	11/18/2008	892	Eric A. Carlson Accounting Corp.	12955	756 · Accounting Services	-1,448.02
Check	11/18/2008	893	J. S. West	260951	792 · Utilities	-713.23
Check	11/18/2008	894	J. S. West Lumber & Hardware	241973	772 · Maintain Buildings	-470.58
Check	11/18/2008	895	L. K. Lehman Trucking, Inc.	oddfellows	772 · Maintain Buildings	-804.38
Check	11/18/2008	896	PG&E		792 · Utilities	-484.46
Check	11/18/2008	897	State Water Resources Control Board		-SPLIT-	-200.38
Check	11/18/2008	898	Twain Harte Lumber & Hardware	63098	772 · Maintain Buildings	-380.58
Check	11/18/2008	899	Waste Management of Cal Sierra Corp.		736 · Garbage	-2,021.35
Check	11/18/2008	900	Zaks	5000	773 · Maintain Equipment	-194.55
Check	11/18/2008	1057	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn.		133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	9,000.00
Check	11/18/2008	901	Miller, Andrea M.		758 · Member Communications	-162.30
Check	11/18/2008	902	Flory Industries		773 · Maintain Equipment	-1,035.56
					TOTAL	9,006.10



Coyotes In The Park—New Information



We received a letter from the USDA regarding the coyote problem in the Park. The letter generally reflected some basic measures which the Park might consider to make our area less desirable to a coyote population. The USDA also opined that although there has to date been a lack of aggression toward humans, previous aggression toward dogs indicates a breeding pair may be present.

Recommendations include: No pet food or garbage left out as that might attract coyotes or increase the rodent population. Clean up waste bird seed around bird feeders, eliminate rodent habitat by removing under growth from in and around homes, fence individual yards, and keep dogs on leashes and cats indoors at least when it starts to get dark. We can also harass the coyotes to maintain their level of discomfort with human contact by yelling, using noise makers, and the like. We should consider reducing cover in the meadow.

Removal of individual coyotes may become an option but it is a last resort. It is a difficult process that the USDA does not believe is warranted currently. Further, removing the current population is unlikely to stop others likely to find the habitat favorable and which will move into any vacated territory.

The entire report is available for your review on the Web Site at www.varvayanis.com/sp/Health_and_Safety.htm