



# SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

ODD FELLOWS —LONG BARN, CALIFORNIA, USA

FEBRUARY 2009

## 2008-2009

### ◀ Directors ▶

- 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 ▶

9 of the 24 Dogwood Rebekahs reported 2803 hours of volunteer service to the community for 2008. Monetary value of these hours is \$54,686.53.

Monthly Rebekah business meetings have been changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10:A.M. in the O.F.S.R.A. board room.

### ◀ Coming Events ▶

> Nothing to report at this time—we'll keep you posted!

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](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp).

The 2007 Water System Consumer Confidence Report is now available on the website at [www.varvayanis.com/sp/water.htm](http://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](mailto:sierrapark@sierrapark.org)
- > Website: [www.varvayanis.com/sp](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp)

## Notes From The Board

### PARKING ON THE ROADS



As chronicled in the "Roads" section of the minutes last month, the instance of homeowners and their guests parking on the roads has risen dramatically. This causes significant problems for Park maintenance and safety and increases the cost of snow removal as well. The Board has, therefore, instituted a program to

immediately tow all cars improperly parked on the roads in our park.

To avoid the costs of reclaiming a towed car, all homeowners and their guests and renters should be reminded that when a driveway is blocked by snow the proper procedure is to unload the car and proceed immediately to the parking areas in the Lake area until you have time to clear the driveway, at which time the car may be retrieved and parked properly.

### DISHWASHER AUCTION

Mike and Jo Jo Caropreso placed the winning bid on the brand new dishwasher that did not fit the needs either of the caretaker's home or the Lodge. Congratulations Mike and Jo Jo!



\*\*\* 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2009

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:42 am by President Jesse Worsham. The invocation was delivered by Jesse Worsham. All Members were present except Alan Orth who had an excused absence. Motion by Mr. Worsham and seconded by Mr. Ford to approve the minutes from the January Board Meeting. Passed unanimously.

**Homeowners Present:** Steve Wallace; Joe Nelson; Arlen Santos; Linda Santos; Joe Schultz; Fred Coleman; Mike VanGrundy; Larry Vaughn; Keith Wallace; Robby Betancourt

**Correspondence:** A thank you card was received from Linda Clark thanking the Park residents for their donation to Shriner's Children's Hospital in memory of her husband, and our good friend, Tom Clark.

**Homeowner Presentations:** Joe Nelson reported that after the Forest Service had started a burn pile on its property he saw the Park backhoe on the hill with the bucket extended and moving sidehill. It appeared the backhoe was being used to add fuel to the burn pile. Mr. Nelson called the Forest Service to inquire whether permission had been given to the Park to conduct operations on the Service's property and was told it had not.

Linda Santos stated that it upset her that the action being criticized was reportedly instigated by a homeowner who requested the action and that all homeowners should be apprised that they cannot task Park personnel for personal reasons.

Joe Schultz opined that our caretaker is not a certified equipment operator and that the Park should institute a more rigorous training program to assure that such training is given. He also stated that when he arrived in the Park last night it was clear that much of the snow that had blocked travel had been removed and that it had been done by a qualified person. We cannot expect our caretaker to perform tasks beyond his training and capacity.

Fred Coleman expressed his concern that the Park's snow removal equipment was put on the road without acquiring proper chains for it. He pointed out that CalTrans puts chains on when they are merely trimming and yet the Park equipment appeared to be operating without them and laid the responsibility for this decision on the Board. He was also concerned that the Park caretaker was being allowed to work for too many hours and this affects his ability to operate complex equipment efficiently, which is also a Board responsibility.

Mike VanGundy asked why there was no front wheel drive on the grader. Mr. Worsham responded that the front wheel drive is intact but we have not been able to make it work at this time.

Robby Betancourt said he would refuse to drive the grader without chains and pointed out that the last two weeks constituted a true nightmare in terms of the conditions facing the Park. He also noted that something must be done to get cars off the roadside during snow season. This creates a very dangerous condition. In response Fred Coleman suggested a system of plowing in anyone who parks improperly and notes he has seen this done by some of the small businesses in Sugar Pine.

Larry Vaughn complained of threats directed to homeowners by the caretaker, including himself.

Steve Wallace asked for a description of an accident that occurred between the grader and an automobile driven by a contractor working in the Park and was told that the report was that the automobile was following the grader when it suddenly seemed to lose traction and slid back into the automobile knocking off its front bumper.

Mr. Wallace continued to recount incidents where the snow plow went off the road three times on Christmas night and plowing never was performed on Upper Ruth. As a result the snow became heavily compacted resulting in another off road incident when an effort was made to plow the compacted area resulting in the need for a tow truck at Park expense. Again on February 14 the plow was off the road and became stuck resulting in the need for another tow truck to be called. Instead of waiting for a large tow truck, a resident had a smaller one in the Park for another purpose and the caretaker flagged it down and requested the driver to use it to pull the snow plow out of the drift in which it was trapped, and then attempted to drive the plow out which resulted reportedly resulted in a broken yolk on the plow. Keith Wallace, of A-Snap, repaired the broken yoke at a cost of \$8,096.00. He said the U-joint was broken and the yoke and seal were damaged. The rod support on the left side was broken some time later when A-Snap, while serving the snow plow at the firehouse, forced turning of the wheel. Thus two parts in the yoke assembly ultimately failed and required repair.

Steve Wallace recounted another incident on February 15 when inadequate chains were installed on the grader and the equipment once again slid off the road and had to be towed at a cost of \$828.75. At this point Charles Varvayanis brought an operator in from Peterson Excavation who used our grader to open our roads at an additional cost of \$10,965.30.

Mr. Wallace also questioned why the flatbed truck was out in the snow instead of in the barn, why the mudflaps were left on the plow at the time of the accident on Rebecca when they are to be removed when chains are installed resulting in the flaps being torn from the plow, why there was snow blocking access to the garbage dumpster and the gates, and why the gates were left open long after the snow stopped. He pointed out the Christy box at the gate had been dented when the plow ran into it. He went on to note that the homeowners on Deborah were trapped for at least 2 days with no way to exit until Mr. Varvayanis brought in outside help to open the road. That opera-

# BOARD MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2009

tor was told that there were only 45 gallons of diesel in the tanks which is far too low in snow season. The operator was asked by the caretaker to leave the park before he completed the tasks he had been assigned by Mr. Varvayanis. Further, the Park charger was discovered in a roadside drift with the extension cord still attached, suggesting it had not been disconnected from whatever vehicle it was charging before it drove off. Mr. Wallace concluded by stating that the snow was even heavier last year when the volunteers were plowing and they only went off the road 4 times and never so far that a tow was required, and they never left large chunks of snow in the road such as there are this year. This is very dangerous.

Keith Wallace reported that the sander on the plow has two gear boxes that require oil and two days ago he discovered that water had leaked into one of these boxes. He went on to state that one side of the brake system on the grader had a crushed component and the other side was out of alignment. He test drove the plow yesterday and found it is pulling to the right suggesting it is out of alignment; none of his repairs would have affected or caused misalignment. It is roadworthy but will need to be carefully inspected and repaired at the end of the season. In his opinion all of the problems described were the product of operational errors, not mechanics. Even if the 4-wheel drive was slipping out that would not have affected the drive shaft.

Fred Coleman stated that he thinks the Board must act to assure that neither the caretaker nor anyone else is injured until the problems the homeowners have disclosed are resolved.

At the conclusion of the homeowner presentations Mr. Worsham asked if the issues they raised could be properly summarized as operator training, operator qualifications and equipment maintenance. They agreed this was an accurate summary. Mr. Schultz then added that the Park can't afford to be paying a full-time caretaker and then hiring out elements of the work on his agenda at prime rates. Perhaps we need a second employee.

The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 10:47 a.m. and returned to regular session at 12:05. It was recorded that the following resolution had been passed unanimously during the Executive Session:

Resolved, Mike Caropreso is terminated effective February 21, 2009, with one month's severance pay. Mr. Caropreso's tasks will be handled by a volunteer force led by Jesse Worsham until the vacant position is filled.

It was then determined to address only major topics and to waive the Committee Reports and New Business topics, including the Budget, until next month.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Water** — Charles Varvayanis: 758,000 gallons of water were used in the last month

**Finance** — Mike Rainwater: Income: Expenses \$16,487.58. Motion to approve expenses by Mr. Varvayanis and seconded by Mr. Worsham passed unanimously.

## **Old Business:**

1. Corporate Attorney. The committee, comprised of Ms. Collie and Messrs. Varvayanis and Worsham, met with John Doyle of Hodge, Fenton Hayes & Appel, Inc. Mr. Hodge impressed the committee insofar as he had done a great deal of research regarding both the Park and the Odd Fellows to prepare for the meeting. He disclosed that a senior member of the firm had done work for other Odd Fellows groups and that both he and Mr. Hodge had a degree of familiarity with the Park.

Mr. Hodge was informed that the most important issue the Board would like addressed is to address our corporate structure and operating guidelines. Mr. Hodge assured the Committee that his firm's expertise in realty, zoning, and collective institutions would fit the Park's needs and estimated that it would take about 40 hours to completely review and suggest a plan for amendment of these legal areas. The firm would require a \$7,500 retainer and would bill between \$250 and \$500 per hour for the services it performs. He also assured the Committee that the lowest rate would be used when at all possible. As an accommodation Mr. Hodge provided the names of two other firms we might consider if his firm's proposal was unsatisfactory.

A motion by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mr. Worsham to inquire whether the firm would reduce its highest level of fees to \$400 and, if not, to have the Committee contact the two alternate firms for comparison purposes carried unanimously.

2. Williamson Act follow-up. Mr. Dorrell reported that his full examination of all the issues had not changed his earlier conclusions, i.e., that we cannot meet the requirements for any Williamson Act classification. Agriculture would require that 80% of the covered acreage be under cultivation, Recreation would require that the gate be left open so the public can enjoy our amenities, and Open Space would result in elimination of many of the activities that are now enjoyed in the meadow and pond areas. Motion by Mrs. Miller that the County be informed that the Park wishes to withdraw from the Act and the 10 year process be instituted, immediately seconded by Mr. Varvayanis, passed unanimously.

3. The Park website now provides an immediate "bounce back" response to any message and all inquiries are forwarded to Mr. Worsham for referral to another Board member or more full response.

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4. Towing of cars parked on the roadways contrary to Park rules cannot be effected until we enter a full contract with Vic's Towing service for which we have no allotted budget funds at this time. We will revisit the issue in the next budget cycle.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m. **Next meeting will be Saturday, March 21, 2009, at 8:30 a.m.**

Minutes humbly submitted, *Andi Miller*, Secretary ~ February 21, 2009.

## CHECKS DISBURSED FROM 1/23/09—2/24/09

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
							<b>16,241.70</b>
Paycheck	1/23/09	957	Caropreso, Michael W.		Payroll	-813.53	15,428.17
Paycheck	1/23/09	958	Cloak, Robert B.		Payroll	-91.25	15,336.92
Liability Ch.	1/23/09	959	State- Farm Bank		185 · Payroll Deductions IRA	-50.00	15,286.92
Liability Ch.	1/27/09	962	EDD	074-1658-9	Payroll taxes	-18.60	15,268.32
Liability Ch.	1/27/09	963	United States Treasury	94-1181950	330 · FUTA LIABILITY	-65.60	15,202.72
Check	1/31/09			Service Charge	752 · Interest & Bank Charges	-15.00	15,187.72
Liability Ch.	2/4/09	966	EDD	074-1658-9	Payroll taxes	-189.05	14,998.67
Liability Ch.	2/4/09	967	Oak Valley Bank	94-1181950	Payroll taxes	-1,373.00	13,625.67
Check	2/4/09	968	Oak Valley Bank		796 · Income Tax Expense	-5,124.00	8,501.67
Check	2/4/09	969	Franchise Tax Board	0233544	795 · Franchise Tax Expenses	-2,388.00	6,113.67
Check	2/4/09	1060	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn.	VOID:	133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	0.00	6,113.67
Transfer	2/5/09			Funds Transfer	133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	5,000.00	11,113.67
Paycheck	2/6/09	964	Caropreso, Michael W.		Payroll	-1,151.47	9,962.20
Liability Ch.	2/6/09	965	State- Farm Bank		185 · Payroll Deductions IRA	-50.00	9,912.20
Check	2/17/09	1061	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn.		133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	7,000.00	16,912.20
Check	2/17/09	970	A-Snap		773 · Maintain Equipment	-6,913.05	9,999.15
Paycheck	2/20/09	971	Caropreso, Michael W.		Payroll	-2,050.93	7,948.22
Paycheck	2/20/09	972	Cloak, Robert B.		Payroll	-91.25	7,856.97
Liability Ch.	2/20/09	973	State- Farm Bank		185 · Payroll Deductions IRA	-50.00	7,806.97
Paycheck	2/23/09	974	Caropreso, Michael W.		Payroll	-1,260.33	6,546.64
Paycheck	2/23/09	975	Caropreso, Michael W.		Payroll	-2,545.72	4,000.92
Paycheck	2/23/09	976	Caropreso, Michael W.		Payroll	-889.63	3,111.29
Check	2/23/09	977	A & A Portables Inc.	422552	740 · Health & Safety	-75.58	3,035.71
Check	2/23/09	978	A-Snap		773 · Maintain Equipment	-1,183.75	1,851.96
Check	2/23/09	979	AT&T		Telephone	-86.43	1,765.53
Check	2/23/09	980	Glenn S. Caldwell Insurance Services	invoice #14687	744 · Insurance	-250.22	1,515.31
Check	2/23/09	981	California Rural Water Assn.		723 · Dues and Subscriptions	-339.00	1,176.31
Check	2/23/09	982	Caropreso, Mike		745 · Employee Health Ins. Reimburse	-187.59	988.72
Check	2/23/09	983	Doherty Tire of Sonora Inc.	30764	773 · Maintain Equipment	-161.50	827.22
Check	2/23/09	984	Paul Emery		755 · Professional Services	-11.00	816.22
Check	2/23/09	985	Eric A. Carlson Accounting Corp.	13304	756 · Accounting Services	-1,023.10	-206.88
Check	2/23/09	986	J. S. West	260951	792 · Utilities	-994.16	-1,201.04
Check	2/23/09	987	Mark Vann Trucking		774 · Maintain Roads	-472.50	-1,673.54
Check	2/23/09	988	Miller, Andrea M.		758 · Member Communications	-42.48	-1,716.02
Check	2/23/09	989	PG&E		792 · Utilities	-572.34	-2,288.36
Check	2/23/09	990	Peterson Excavation	378	774 · Maintain Roads	-1,175.00	-3,463.36
Check	2/23/09	991	Twain Harte Lumber & Hardware	63098	770 · Recreation	-24.52	-3,487.88
Check	2/23/09	992	Charles P. Varvayanis		Reimbursements	-115.14	-3,603.02
Check	2/23/09	993	Vic's Towing Inc.		773 · Maintain Equipment	-468.75	-4,071.77
Check	2/23/09	994	Waste Management of Cal Sierra Corp.		736 · Garbage	-1,291.30	-5,363.07
Check	2/23/09	995	Zaks	5000	773 · Maintain Equipment	-218.32	-5,581.39
Check	2/23/09	1062	Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Assn.		133 · Oak Valley Community Bank M.M.	17,000.00	11,418.61
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>-4,823.09</b>	<b>11,418.61</b>