



SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 116
Long Barn, CA 95335

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

Website: www.sierrapark.org

E-mail: sierrapark@sierrapark.org

Telephone: 209-586-3098

20010-2011

Directors

President	Gloria Harvey
Vice President	Friedhelm Peter
Secretary	Linda Clark
Treasurer	Shaun Velayas
Buildings	Dick Barrett
Equipment	Friedhelm Peter
Gate	Charles Varvayanis
Recreation	Linda Clark
Roads	Paul Emery
Health & Safety	Nelson Fialho
Timber	Charles Varvayanis
Water	Ron Hawke

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has arrived and it is good to see so many people in the Park. Although, the weather is cooler than in the valley, the pond is a popular gathering place to play and get cool. We remind parents to supervise their children at all times. Children should *never* be at the pond unsupervised. There is no lifeguard on duty. Diving from the docks is prohibited. An adult visitor to the park was injured at the pond on the week-end of July 10th. We encourage all who use the facilities in the Park to do so with care.

The Board of Directors has reinstated the **LABOR DAY BAR-BE-QUE** this year. On **Sunday, September 5th at 5 p.m.** come to the pic nic area-bring a dish to share, your drink and your meat to BBQ. The coals will be ready and the Board will furnish plates, utensils and napkins. Also, the lake will be open to adults and children for fishing beginning **Saturday, September 4th** and until we drain the lake for the year. State Fishing License rules will apply. **COME CATCH SOME FISH!**

On October 16th we will be having an Oktoberfest at the pic nic area. Watch the Newsletter for further details next month.

After the bad storm last winter, the caretaker surveyed the park and made a list of damaged properties. An effort was made to contact the homeowners where damages had occurred. Some of the contact information was outdated. In some instances there was no phone number for contact. We strongly advise all property owners to update your contact information by phone or e-mail. We regret that you were not contacted for whatever reason and will make an effort in the future to see that homeowners are contacted if property damage does occur.

Benches are in the process of being installed in the park. We hope you enjoy them. Thanks to all members of Dogwood Rebekah Lodge #200 for sponsoring this project and especially to Bob Cloak for constructing all the benches.

There was some abuse of the playground equipment on the weekend of July 10th. We encourage and remind everyone that this park belongs to all of us to enjoy with our families and friends. If you see someone not using park equipment in a respectful manner, you have a right to ask them not to abuse your property. This should not lead to any ill feelings or arguments. Individuals who disrespect park property can be held accountable for any damages.

Hope to see all of you at the Labor Day Bar-be-que.

~ Gloria Harvey

***** BEAR SPOTTED *****

Recently a bear was spotted on Beersheba and Abraham. It got into some garbage. We all need to be sure we don't leave any garbage or anything else out that will attract bears.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please see the notice at the bottom of "EXHIBIT A" following the minutes for an **URGENT MESSAGE**

REBEKAH'S CORNER

Dogwood Rebekah Lodge #200 meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Lodge Boardroom. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

COMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 4TH
LAKE OPEN FOR FISHING**

**SEPTEMBER 5TH
BAR-BE-QUE**

**OCTOBER 16
OKTOBERFEST**

**WOOD CUTTING
AT OLD CAMPGROUND
OPENS 7/24 - 8:00 AM
CLOSES 8/15 - 5:00 PM**

THE 2009 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 the Board.



ODD FELLOWS

SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

REFUSE AND ASH DISPOSAL

Some people were observed putting trash in the ash barrel. That barrel is for ashes only. Household trash goes in the dumpster. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

The question was raised as to when the annual assessments become delinquent. The annual assessments are due upon receipt and become delinquent on September 1st. A late fee of \$25.00 per month is assessed for each month they are late.

FLAG BY THE LODGE BUILDING

Thank you to Deanna Mooney for donating the flag that is now flying on the tall flagpole by the Lodge Building. It is a wonderful addition and greatly appreciated.

EXERCISE CLASSES & YOGA

The exercise classes are going well. Everyone is welcome. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 for about half an hour to forty-five minutes. Some go for a walk afterward to enhance the experience. Also, on Saturday mornings at 9:00 Claire Velayas is leading an hour of yoga exercise. Please come join in the fun any day.

AT THE LAKE

A couple of issues have come up that need to be brought to everyone's attention. First as a reminder, no dogs are allowed at the beach of the lake or in the lake. This is a Health Department issue. Please note the posted signs at the entrance to the lake area. Also, there should be no minors at the lake unless they are accompanied by an adult. There are no lifeguards on duty. Please be mindful of where your children are.

ON A SAD NOTE

It is with sadness that we learned that longtime Park resident Ben Hunter passed away on July 23rd. He was at an assisted living facility in Soulsbyville. Thoughts and prayers go out to Ben's family.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

It is hoped that you will all turn out to fish over the Labor Day weekend and come to the Bar-be-que. It will be a great opportunity to become acquainted with your mountain neighbors and have some fun too. The Oktoberfest on October 16th promises to be a great time as well. More details next month.

Please read the future newsletters for more information as to dates times and content of upcoming community events. We hope a lot of you will volunteer to help with these endeavors. Please contact the Board via phone or e-mail if there is something that you would like to help with.

SEPTEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Please note that the September Board of Directors' meeting has been changed to Saturday September 25th

SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, ETC.

Your Board welcomes your suggestions, comments, etc. So, please do let us know what you think.

RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please contact the Board via phone or e-mail.



**ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR
MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 17, 2010**

INTERIM MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by President Harvey. Board members present: Linda Clark, Paul Emery, Nelson Fialho, Gloria Harvey, Ron Hawke, Friedhelm Peter, Charles Varvayanis, and Shaun Velayas. Board member excused: Dick Barrett. Caretaker Mark Higgins was also present.

The Invocation was given by Ron Hawke

HOMEOWNERS OR GUESTS PRESENT:

President Harvey recognized the following homeowners: John Tenbrink, Karin Schultz and Jeff Peterson

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Harvey read a letter from the Thiemann's regarding their grandsons' use of their cabin and use of ATV's in the park. This issue will be addressed under Old Business. President Harvey had a letter from Beverly Adams notifying the Board that she had sold her cabin. Secretary Clark had no additional correspondence.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2010 MEETING:

Director Varvayanis noted the water usage report for June was not in the minutes. Director Hawke stated that the reporting period is being changed from a Board meeting to Board meeting basis to a calendar month basis which will be more accurate and is preferred by the State. He will have a report for June for this month's newsletter. **Fialho moved, second by Peter to approve the minutes as noted. Carried and so ordered.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATER – HAWKE:

Director Hawke presented a written report regarding the progress and inspection of the Park's water tanks. Refer to Exhibit "A" at the end of these minutes for the details. He also presented a report from Gary Scarborough which explained the method of choosing Inland Potable Services to do the cleaning and inspection of the tanks. Inland Potable Services will provide a full written report to the Board in the near future. In preparation for a probable State inspection, Ron presented a prioritized schedule of tasks that have been and need to be done to the wells and the tanks. The Annual Water Report to the State has been filed and the 2009 Water System Consumer Confidence Report is now available on the website at: www.varvayanis.com/sp/water.htm. Water usage for the month of June was 862,800 gallons.

ROADS – EMERY:

Director Emery reported that George Reed Company was in the Park the week before the 4th of July week-end. They were in the Park for about three days to do minor repairs where necessary and crack-fill. Some areas of cracks were missed. The company did not do a walk through. After discussion, it was determined that the bill from George Reed Company should not be paid until the job is finished satisfactorily. Director Emery has contacted the company requesting they return to finish the job. He will contact them again and refer them to Director Peter as Director Emery will be away for a lengthy period.

BUILDINGS – BARRETT:

Director Peter reported in Director Barrett's absence that four contractors have responded with bids on the work that needs to be done to finish the caretaker's cabin and for repairs to pump houses 5 and 6. The caretaker's cabin needs stairs outside the sliding door where the fireplace used to be. The dormer on the roof

where there was a snow deflector where the chimney used to be needs to be replaced. Pump houses 5 and 6 need sheetrock on the ceilings due to exposed fiberglass insulation that could contaminate testing samples. **Fialho moved that Director Peter evaluate the bids received to complete this work and that he make a selection. Hawke seconded. Motion carried and so ordered.**

CARETAKER'S REPORT – PETER:

Director Peter stated that there has been a lot of catch-up work being done and that Mark has been doing a terrific job in so doing. A part-time helper has been hired to help Mark with some of the clean-up work that requires more than one person, such as weed-eating, cleaning out the bar ditches and picking up the bar ditch pine needles along the roadways. Director Peter has been in touch with the Mi-Wuk/Sugar Pine Fire Protection District Chief Randy Miller who will help in obtaining fire hoses to attach to the fire hydrants in the Park to pressure clean the culvert pipes. This will eliminate the need to hire outside equipment to do this task. Directors Peter and Hawke along with Mark made inspections around all the water tanks to determine what still needs to be done. There is still some weed-eating necessary and some other weatherizing tasks. There is a large hole in the Corp Yard building and it will be patched in the next few weeks. Some people were observed dumping garbage in the ash barrel. Director Peter is in the process of obtaining the much needed work bench for the shop. Director Peter recommends that a sign be made for the lake stating that all minors must be under adult supervision at all times while at the lake. He also addressed ongoing maintenance projects and future projects such as extending the sprinkler system in the apple orchard and adding water access to the dog park.

EQUIPMENT – PETER:

Director Peter reported that all equipment has been serviced and repaired. The snow plow truck needs a new front differential. Replacement will cost approximately \$4000 – includes new bearings, gears, etc. This needs to be done before the winter season begins. Excessive metal shavings were found in the drain plug and housing when the oil was changed. The plow also needs to be readied for the twelve foot blade. This could involve mounting brackets and hydraulic lines issues. After discussion, **Hawke moved that Director Peter further investigate the snow plow issues and schedule repairs as necessary, Fialho seconded. Motion carried and so ordered.** A routine maintenance schedule for all equipment needs to be established. Director Peter is in the process of setting this up. The old tractor has been pressure washed, a freeze plug was replaced, the exhaust repaired, a muffler installed and a new seat installed. The cost for repair and maintenance was \$955. It is now running good and should last for many more years. A new grass mower was purchased. The old dump truck is not insurable because the hand brake does not work. After discussion, **Hawke moved that an estimate be gotten for repairs to the dump truck to make it serviceable and insurable for use within the park. Fialho seconded. Motion carried and so ordered.**

TIMBER – VARVAYANIS:

Director Varvayanis reported that Forester Will Dorrell will have the Vegetation Management Plan for the meadow available in August.

HEALTH AND SAFETY – FIALHO:

President Harvey reported that all of the fire extinguishers have been inspected and we are waiting for a bill from the inspecting company. Director Fialho had nothing further to report.

RECREATION - CLARK

Secretary Clark requested that September 5th be set as the date for the Labor Day Week-end pot luck Bar-Be-Que, October 16th for an Oktoberfest and December 11th for the annual Holiday Dinner. **Hawke moved that these dates be approved, Varvayanis seconded. Motion carried and so ordered.** Details to be published in the Newsletter.

GATE - VARVAYANIS

Director Varvayanis reported that several people have contacted him about their clickers not working. He believes that this is an issue with the receiver, not with individual batteries. He would like to purchase a new receiver. **Fialho moved that up to \$400 be allocated to the purchase of a new receiver. Velayas seconded. Motion carried and so ordered.**

EVACUATION - HARVEY

President Harvey reported that we have applied for a grant of \$51,000 for fuel reduction and to create defensible space. We will know after the RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) committee meets in August whether or not we will receive the grant. There is positive feeling that we will get at least some of the money to start doing clearing along Wheeler Road and Long Barn/Sugar Pine Road.

FINANCE - VELAYAS:

Director Velayas addressed questions presented by Director Varvayanis at the June 19th board meeting regarding the transfer of funds from the Money Market account to the appropriate water reserve accounts. These transfers have been completed. The other main question had to do with the other reserve accounts not increasing in value with interest earned. This is due to the way Wells Fargo calculates their interest payments. Wells Fargo posts interest earned at the time in which a CD matures. Total bills for the month were \$52,625.31. This includes \$33,628.00 moved to the appropriate reserve accounts. Director Velayas is working with Director Peter to determine the phasing out of equipment depreciation on equipment the Park no longer has. After discussion it was determined that the balance of capital purchase funds need to be transferred from the money market account to the equipment reserve account for the grader after all purchase costs have been determined. Homeowner Karin Schultz had a question regarding the Annual Assessment bills received from Carlson, Haff and Associates Accounting Company. She asked why do they not have a deadline due date and a statement of when late fees will apply and how much will be assessed for late fees. All bills are late after September 1st and a late fee of \$25 will be assessed each month they are paid late. **Hawke moved, Fialho seconded that the bills be paid as presented. Carried and so ordered.**

At 9:45 a.m. the Board went to a short closed session to discuss some legal issues.

The regular session of the meeting reopened at 10:15 am

Home owner Jeff Peterson addressed the Board regarding replacing his deck and wanted to let the board know of his intentions. He will be getting the proper county permits. He also addressed a dangerous tree on his property and wants to contact a tree removal service recommended by the Board. Homeowner John Tenbrink also had a question about a dead tree on his property.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Sierra Nevada Communications:** Director Hawke has been in contact with Tim Holden, the owner of the company regarding upgrading the existing coaxial cable lines to fiber optics lines for television reception and internet service. Due to apparent misunderstanding regarding right-of-way agreements in writing, Sierra Nevada has not proceeded with their installation. In the meantime, the equipment that Sierra Nevada had planned to install in the Park has been installed elsewhere. Ron was told it will take from a year to a year and a half to have new equipment available for the Park. Ron has had difficulty in getting responses from Tim and has recommended a letter be sent to Sierra Nevada so that there is something in writing to determine if they are still interested in upgrading the Park cable service. Director Varvayanis explained that, at this time, no one owns the cable rights in the Park. There is no franchise agreement with anyone. After discussion, it was determined that Director Varvayanis will contact Tuolumne County regarding their franchise agreement with Comcast to see if Comcast may be a viable option for the Park.

2. **Homeowners Request to Remove willows – Varvayanis** - Director Varvayanis will contact forester Dorrell before the next Board meeting and report back at that time.

3. **Open the Lake to Adult Fishing** - A discussion was held and it was determined that the Lake will be opened to adult fishing beginning on Saturday of Labor Day week-end.

4. **Thiemann Issue:** The Theiemanns have stated that it is all right with them to restrict their children and grandchildren from entrance to the Park because of their continued disregard for Park Rules and trespassing on neighbor's property. After discussion, it was determined that if any future infractions of Park Rules by the Thiemann relatives occur, the Board will proceed with calling the authorities and report them for trespassing. Furthermore, the entrance cards and clickers used by the disrespectful relatives will be disabled.

5. **Water License Agreement: - Varvayanis** – Director Varvayanis will work on this in the very near future.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Accident at the pond** - President Harvey addressed the unfortunate accident at the Pond where a young man dove off the pier and was seriously injured.

2. **Notification to property owners of when property is damaged** - President Harvey reported that some homeowners e-mailed that they were not notified that their property had suffered damage after the bad storm last winter. The current policy/procedure is for the Caretaker to make a note of any property with damage and then to turn the information over to a Board member to contact the property owner. In order to do this, the Board must have current contact information.

3. **Move office upstairs** – The current situation with the computer in the closet of the Board Room is very cramped and difficult to work in. It is suggested that the office upstairs be used. Additionally many documents need to be combined in one place. After discussion, it was decided that this will be done as time permits for moving the computer and the file cabinets. The need for a new copier/fax machine will be researched. **Peter moved that a router be purchased so that internet access can be had for the office computer when needed. Velayas seconded. Motion carried and so ordered.** Additional discussion was held regarding internet access. **Velayas moved that Director Varvayanis be allowed to spend up to \$300 for the purchase of two radios and wires to access his internet service. Hawke seconded. Motion carried and so ordered.**

4. **Delinquent Accounts** – Director Velayas addressed this issue and will contact attorney Roger Brown's office to determine the correct procedure for this.

5. **Gate Camera Operation** - Director Peter stated the efficiency of the system is not good. It records constantly. He feels it should be changed to a motion sensor operation. Director Varvayanis stated that the DVR that came with the camera has the capability to be set to a motion sensor operation. After discussion it was determined that Director Varvayanis will research the possibilities and report back at the next meeting.

6. **Audit** - President Harvey suggested that an audit should be performed since one has not been done since 2004. An audit has not been budgeted. An estimated cost per year is \$5000. Clay Maddox did the 2004 audit. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the membership to demonstrate monies are being used appropriately. It was suggested by Director Fialho that estimates be gotten for both a financial audit and a financial review. He also suggested that after the audit or review a report be given in writing to all the membership explaining the precision of the finances and a description of the programs, services and projects that the Board has done on their behalf. This could be an Annual Report to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Secretary Clark will present President Harvey with a couple of other names of auditors.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The rental agreement with Mark Higgins, caretaker has been signed.

2. Goal Setting Meeting. After discussion, it was decided to move the **September Board meeting to September 25 at 8:30 a.m.** and the **Goal Setting meeting will follow** in the afternoon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Linda Clark
Secretary

EXHIBIT A
Minutes – July 17, 2010

July 17th, 2010

On July 3rd & 4th Inland Potable Services cleaned out sediment and inspected all 6 of our Park's water tanks. Inland experienced some difficulties with too much sediment in our tanks, which incurred an additional expense of \$1200 for 3 additional hours at \$400 per hour. This was agreed upon in the original contract. The total bill will be \$5625, the original \$4425 plus the additional \$1200. We have a DVD that shows all the significant findings. Internal corrosion of bolts and a support beam are of the greatest concern and need to be minimized with sacrificial material. The biggest problem found was the roof support beams in the 210,000-gallon tank. The beams are delaminating, rusting and flaking apart. A repair plan is needed. One of the small tanks off Wheeler shows blistering of the interior coating and a plan of action is again needed. Inland suggested isolating the small tanks and high pressure washing the walls of the tanks for a thorough cleaning. A full written report from Inland is in progress and expected to arrive soon. FYI; Gary Scarbough acquired information from TUD's competitive bidding for cleaning and inspecting their tanks and used it as the basis for selecting Inland for our tanks. The highest bidder on TUD's list was an average of \$5000 per tank while Inland was \$1265. We ended up getting everything done for less than \$1000 per tank even with the additional fees added for extra diving time.

The 2009 Water System Consumer Confidence Report is now available on the website at www.varvayanis.com/sp/water.htm.

Gary submitted the annual Water Report to the state.

Mark has done a lot of work on Well houses and the Tank Farms, preparing for a probable State inspection. His work on our water system has been done through the approval and direction of Friedhelm Peter and has gone smoothly and effectively.

Water usage for the month of June was 862,800 gallons. We have transitioned to reporting water usage on a calendar month basis, which is preferred by the State.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Hawke, July 17, 2010.

PLEASE CUT THIS NOTICE AND MAIL TO: OFSRA, P.O. BOX 116, LONG BARN, CA 95335- 0116

URGENT NOTICE: PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.

**WE HAVAE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT SOME PROPERTY OWNERS REGARDING
BROKEN WATER PIPES ON THEIR PROPERTY. PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW OR
CONTACT THE BOARD VIA PHONE (209) 586-3098 - OR E-MAIL: sierrapark@sierrapark.org ASAP.**

NAME _____ **PROPERTY ADDRESS:** _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____

ARE YOU A REBEKAH OR AN ODD FELLOW? _____

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

CHECK REGISTER

As of July 20, 2010

Type	Date	Num	Name	Split	Amount	Balance
						9,044.88
Paycheck	07/02/2010	1452	Higgins, Jr., Mark K.	payroll	-1,250.70	7,794.18
Liability Ck	07/07/2010	1453	EDD	payroll tax	-54.21	7,739.97
Liability Ck	07/07/2010	1454	Oak Valley Bank	payroll tax	-562.90	7,177.07
Paycheck	07/16/2010	1455	Baumann, Donald W.	payroll	-600.63	6,576.44
Paycheck	07/16/2010	1456	Higgins, Jr., Mark K.	payroll	-985.32	5,591.12
Check	07/19/2010	1457	AT&T	phones	-109.69	5,481.43
Check	07/19/2010	1458	Auto Discount Repair	773 · Maintain Equipment	-3,421.46	2,059.97
Check	07/19/2010	1459	C & W Supply	775 · Maintain Water Sys.	-250.86	1,809.11
Check	07/19/2010	1460	Carlson, Haff & Associates	756 · Accounting Services	-2,251.00	-441.89
Check	07/19/2010	1461	Doherty Tire of Sonora Inc.	773 · Maintain Equipment	-183.50	-625.39
Check	07/19/2010	1462	El Dorado Septic Service, Inc.	740 · Health & Safety	-115.50	-740.89
Check	07/19/2010	1463	General Plumbing Supply Co. I	equip. and water sys.maint.	-676.03	-1,416.92
Check	07/19/2010	1464	Gloria Harvey	780 · General Park Mtce.	-639.75	-2,056.67
Check	07/19/2010	1465	Ron Hawke	780 · General Park Mtce.	-34.39	-2,091.06
Check	07/19/2010	1466	Peter, Friedhelm	park and equip. mtce.	-1,480.21	-3,571.27
Check	07/19/2010	1467	Scarborough, Gary	794 · Water Testing & Fees	-962.50	-4,533.77
Check	07/19/2010	1468	Scottsdale Insurance Company	744 · Insurance	-500.00	-5,033.77
Check	07/19/2010	1469	Sierra Instant Printing	758 · Member Communic.	-238.16	-5,271.93
Check	07/19/2010	1470	Sonora Rentals & Sales	780 · General Park Mtce	-580.00	-5,851.93
Check	07/19/2010	1471	Splash Spa & Pool	780 · General Park Mtce	-130.60	-5,982.53
Check	07/19/2010	1472	Twain Harte Lumber & Hardwa	building, water & park maint.	-284.72	-6,267.25
Check	07/19/2010	1473	Waste Mgt of Cal Sierra Corp.	736 · Garbage	-1,226.11	-7,493.36
Check	07/19/2010	1474	Wells Fargo Investments	transfer to reserves-Roads	-16,520.00	-24,013.36
Check	07/19/2010	1475	Wells Fargo Investments	transfer to reserves-Timber	-728.00	-24,741.36
Check	07/19/2010	1476	Wells Fargo Investments	transfer to reserves-Water	-16,380.00	-41,121.36
Check	07/19/2010	1082	Odd Fellows Sierra Rec. Assn.	133-Oak Valley Comm.Bank M.M.	53,000.00	11,878.64
					<u>2,833.76</u>	<u>11,878.64</u>
					<u>2,833.76</u>	<u>11,878.64</u>