

**TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY
TOWN COUNCIL – SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES – APRIL 22, 2008**

The Special Meeting of the Town of Apple Valley Town Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, California.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Council Members Peter Allan; Scott Nassif; Rick Roelle; Mayor Pro Tem Bob Sagona; Mayor Tim Jasper. Absent: None.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

1. Discussion of Park and Recreation Fund Analysis

Jim Cox, Town Manager, thanked staff for putting the report together. He pointed out the completeness of the report and stated there are three actions that council can take that will keep most programs in place and make it economical. He stated that staff's goal was to salvage programs and not completely take away programs that have an impact on the community.

Patty Saady, Deputy Town Manager presented the Executive Summary of the Park and Recreation Financial Analysis. Staff is recommending approval of all Category A savings provided in the report that will reduce the subsidy to the General Fund to 3.43% for this fiscal year. She stated that staff would continue to optimize operations in an attempt to reduce costs.

Dennis Cron, Director of Public Services, spoke about the costs of maintaining the parks. He stated Civic Center Park is high maintenance but does have an efficient sprinkler system. He stated the park is not watered during the winter months.

Mr. Cox commented that a reclaimed water plan is being looked at for Apple Valley and this water would be used for irrigating the parks, creating an overall savings in water costs.

Discussion ensued concerning the Town producing their own wells, however it would have to be financially feasible.

Ralph Wright, Community Services Manager, presented a summary on the costs of operating the pool at Civic Center Park. He stated during the winter the costs are greater because of the pool being heated. He stated that solar panels are an option, however they are typically not used for commercial pools and it is difficult to get a cost savings analysis. Although they are very costly initially, they are reported to pay for themselves.

Ms. Saady commented that Category A does not include closing the pools in the winter based upon the school district's support of \$60,000. She also commented on the enormous cost to provide a cover for the pool.

Mr. Wright discussed the plan to close three of the After School Activities Programs in June because they are also offered by the school district.

He also spoke about the increases in the youth sports and an increase in lighting fees for use of the parks in the evening. This increase will affect the Little League program, but the increase will be an average of what is charged in other cities. Little League does participate in an exchange of service program with the Town.

Mr. Wright commented about fee increases for other Park and Recreation Programs, such as Mudfest, birthday party packages and rental of facilities.

Mr. Wright also discussed the possibility of limiting the Park and Recreation Commission meetings to be held on an as needed basis and not monthly.

Kathie Martin, Public Information Officer, gave a brief report on events, stating the Freedom Festival is our largest event. She stated that we do get sponsors for this event, such as a commitment from Charles Abbott & Associates for \$12,000 this year.

Ms. Martin stated the Roundup event has proved unsuccessful and will not be held this year. There will be a Town Anniversary event in the fall. The Sunset Concert series is a neutral event as far as costs and Target stores will be donating \$20,000 to be used for the concerts.

Ms. Martin further suggested combining Christmas events with Park and Recreation and having a winter festival event. This would save on staff resources and advertising costs.

Mayor Jasper commented on charging a fee for Freedom Festival. Ms. Martin stated that another option would be to collect donations at the event.

Barbara Maloney, Apple Valley Aquatics Booster Club, expressed concerns regarding closing the pool in the winter months.

Larry Cusack, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, stated the Commission had not reviewed the budget cuts and would like to give the Council their recommendations and suggestions.

William Furnage, Apple Valley, spoke about bicycles being allowed outside the skate park.

Councilman Roelle, with the consensus of the Town Council, recommended this item be forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission for their input before making a decision on staff's recommendations.

Mayor Jasper wanted the Commission to be aware that the Council's goal is to reduce the subsidy to the General Fund for Park and Recreation Services and programs.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Mayor Jasper made a motion, seconded by Councilman Roelle, to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Apple Valley Town Council at 6:18 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor Jasper