

**The TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 1, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Cusack called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission of the Town of Apple Valley to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Chairman Larry Cusack, Vice-Chairman Patrick Lyons, Commissioners Michael Hinkle, Michael Martin and Richard Turnbull.

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice-Chairman Patrick Lyons

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Approval of Minutes for Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Hinkle, seconded by Vice-Chairman Lyons to approve the minutes for the meeting of April 3, 2008. Motion carried by a 5-0-0-0 vote.

2. Approval of Parks and Recreation Division Monthly Report

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Hinkle to approve the monthly report for March 2008. Motion carried by a 5-0-0-0 vote.

3. Discussion of Park and Recreation Fund Analysis

Ralph Wright, Community Services Manager discussed the Park and Recreation Fund Analysis. He stated that the Town Council reviewed the analysis at their April 22, 2008 meeting and requested that the Commission review the analysis and submit their recommendations.

In presenting the analysis, Mr. Wright stated that the current subsidy to the Park and Recreation Fund is \$1.2 million which is approximately 6.57% of the General Fund. The Town Council would like the Commission to return recommendations that are equal to or greater than Category A which is a reduction in the subsidy level to \$667,205 or 3.43% of the General Fund. He also stated that the analysis includes reviewing the revenue and costs of parks and facilities, recreation programs and services and special events.

Dennis Cron, Director of Public Services discussed the following categories of recommendations to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the Parks Division. He stated that the Town Council has agreed to the Category A recommendation.

Category A – savings of \$344,987 and includes efficiency savings, no purchasing of equipment and closure of Don Ferrarese Park.

Category B – savings of \$115,813 and includes a reduction in fertilization and water consumption and no purchasing of equipment.

Category C – additional savings of \$1,234,197 and includes closure of parks and facilities and no purchasing of equipment.

Commissioner Hinkle asked if any of the efficiency savings change the turf management of the parks (mowing, watering, fertilizing). Mr. Cron stated that the savings does not affect the level of service for the parks. An example of one of the savings measures is to no longer outsource the mowing of the neighborhood parks and have it completed in-house.

Commissioner Martin asked about how the Category B recommendations would affect the park system. Mr. Cron stated that Category B recommendations would result in less mowing, watering, tree trimming which would negatively affect the turf. Mr. Martin concurred and stated that the recommendations could discourage the public from using the parks.

Mr. Wright discussed the different category recommendations for various recreation programs and services.

CIVIC CENTER PARK AQUATIC CENTER

Category A – savings of \$90,758 and includes efficiency savings in maintenance and operations, reduction in lifeguard costs and a \$1 increase for all lap swim programs.

Category C – additional savings of \$93,108 and includes closure of the pool during winter months, September through April.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Category A – savings of \$29,065 and includes the closure of three school sites (Mojave Mesa, Rancho Verde and Sandia) and a fee increase of \$3.

Category C – additional savings of \$24,000 and includes a fee increase of \$4.

DAY CAMP AND CAVE

Category A – savings of \$6,000 and includes reduction in supply and equipment purchases and a fee increase of \$5.

ADULT SPORTS

Category A – savings of \$9,366 and includes a reduction in part time staffing, reduction in equipment and supply purchases, budget corrections, fee increase for basketball and softball leagues as well as softball tournaments.

YOUTH SPORTS

Category A - savings of \$14,742 and includes reduction in part time staffing, reduction in equipment and supply purchases, solicit sponsorships, budget corrections, fee increase for flag football and increase the number of leagues and programs offered.

USER GROUPS

Category A – savings of \$11,423 and includes increase of ballfield light fee by \$5/hour, charging Little League the correct fee for dragging of fields and implementing an hourly fee for the Horsemen's BMX group.

Discussion ensued about the dragging of fields for Little League. Mr. Cron stated that there is too much risk involved with Little League using their own equipment and vehicles to drag the fields. Commissioner Hinkle expressed concern about the increase in fees impacting the youth user groups and suggested that the light fee not be increased for the youth groups.

RECREATION EVENTS

Category A – savings of \$13,179 and includes reduction in part time staff, use of volunteers, reduction in equipment and supply purchases, solicit sponsorships, budget corrections, fee increase for Mud Fest, Campfire Programs and Running Events and elimination of unproductive programs.

CONTRACT CLASSES

Mr. Wright stated that all of the direct costs are covered and most of the indirect costs are covered for contract classes.

RENTALS

Category A – savings of \$6,458 and includes an increase in the ballfield light fee from \$13 to \$18 per hour, increase the fee for Birthday Party Packages, expect at least four large scale soccer tournaments per year which translates to increased parking revenue.

ADMINISTRATION

Category A – savings of \$8,000 and includes the closure of the Recreation Office on Saturdays and elimination of one-time expenditure.

Category B – savings of \$9,942 and includes the closure of the Recreation Office on Fridays mirroring the Town's weekly schedule and reduction in the number of Commission meetings.

PIO EVENTS

Kathie Martin, Public Information Officer presented the Category A recommendations - savings of \$77,900 and includes accounting for vendor fees and sponsorship revenue, eliminate the Round-Up Days event and replace with the Fall Festival, eliminate the Jazz Night Series and combine various events and services with the Community Services Department.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Wright stated that other recommendations include implementing a non-resident fee structure where applicable and selling advertisements in the Recreation Activity Guide.

Discussion ensued about the naming of parks. Commissioner Turnbull suggested re-naming Horsemen's Center after Roy Rogers. Commissioner Martin stated that Horsemen's Center should not be renamed because it is historical. Commissioner Hinkle suggested naming parks to identify their primary use and location.

Motion by Commissioner Hinkle, seconded by Commissioner Turnbull to accept all Category A recommendations with the following modifications:

1. Do not implement an increase to the light fee for youth user groups.
2. Change the Park and Recreation Commission meetings from regularly scheduled monthly meetings to regularly scheduled bi-monthly meetings.
3. Staff research and return a report to the Commission on the possible implementation of a non-resident fee for all applicable programs and rentals.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

None

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Wright informed the Commission that the Summer Recreation Activity Guide will be mailed to all residents on Saturday.

Mr. Wright also informed Commissioner Turnbull that the Israeli Consulate has been contacted via email regarding the sports tournament and staff is awaiting a response.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice-Chairman Lyons and Commissioner Turnbull commended staff on the Park and Recreation Fund analysis.

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Commissioner Hinkle requested that the renaming of Brewster Park be discussed.

Mr. Wright informed the Commission that a Joint Meeting with the Equestrian Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008 at Horsemen's Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hinkle, seconded by Vice-Chairman Lyons to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

TOWN CLERK