

**The TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 7, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Cusack called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission of the Town of Apple Valley to order at 7:02 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 Lyons

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

William Furmage of Apple Valley, suggested that the Town try working with the cities of Hesperia and Victorville to construct a BMX and skateboard park. He explained that the BMX groups need access to an area where BMX use is allowed.

Larry Hayes of Apple Valley, discussed the importance of having a BMX park in Apple Valley and how it will keep the youth out of trouble.

Chairman Cusack presented the Commission with a recognition plaque from the Inland Empire Fire Explorer Association in appreciation of the Park and Recreation Department's assistance with the 2008 Fireman's Muster.

1. Approval of Minutes for Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

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

2. Approval of Parks and Recreation Division Monthly Report

Commissioner Martin expressed appreciation for the donation of trees from Victor Valley Advanced Imaging Center at Mendel Park.

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

3. Presentation – Department Update

Joseph Ramos, Recreation Supervisor discussed the following:

- Current adult sports leagues offered by the department including Men's Over-30 Basketball, 7-on-7 Adult Soccer, Co-Ed Adult Softball and Open Gym.

- New leagues being offered including Adult Kickball and Over-18 Men's Basketball.
- A possible softball tournament for all High Desert residents.
- Youth sports including Summer Youth Basketball which just finished and the winter league that will start in January. He anticipated that participation in the winter league could increase due to the middle schools offering limited sports programs.
- New youth programs including Co-Ed Volleyball and Open Gym for Teens.
- Assisted user groups that use Town ballfields and facilities including Apple Valley Little League and Apple Valley Seminoles.
- Special events including Mud Fest, Haunted House, running events, talent shows and skate park party packages.
- The coordination of parking for soccer tournaments at Brewster Park which has generated a lot of revenue for the Town.

Lena Quinonez, Recreation Supervisor discussed the following:

- Special events including the Easter Eggstravaganza, Water Festival, T'ween Dance for 6 – 8th graders, Parent's Night Out, Shop 'Till You Drop, Pictures with Santa and Winter Wonderland.
- Day Camp and CAVE which continue to have steady participation.
- The After School Activities Program which is now offered at six sites this school year.
- Teen programs including Open Gym for Teens and T'ween socials. The Teen Zone program which now has 35 volunteers between the ages of 13 and 16.
- Therapeutic Recreation which provides recreation programs for individuals with disabilities. The program averages between 15 and 22 participants per month.

Ralph Wright, Community Services Manager discussed the following:

- Contract classes which include a wide variety of programs for all ages.
- Aquatic programs including Open Water Diver, Water Aerobics, Open Recreation Swim, Lap Swim, swim lessons and private pool parties which have all had increased participation. New aquatic programs including Kayaking, Aquacise (water aerobics for individuals with disabilities) and a Scuba Santa event in December.

Sean Hagen, Parks Supervisor discussed projects and equipment for the Parks Division including:

- Renovations of ballfields at Brewster Park, Sycamore Rocks Park and James Woody Park.

- Donation of 15 trees for Mendel Park and major tree trimming that was done at Corwin Park, Lion's Park and James Woody Park.
- Replacement of chain link fencing at James Woody Park and new irrigation installed around the play lot at Yucca Loma Park.
- New equipment purchases including an aerator, diesel mower, utility cart, brush chipper, boom sprayer, trailer and in-house fueling equipment.
- Upcoming projects including a soil profile for Brewster Park, telemetry system for Horsemen's Center, backflow enclosures for various park sites, fencing replacement where needed, upgrading Horsemen's Center arenas, grading for the new Parks Maintenance building and the decommissioning of Don Ferrarese Park.
- Recurring grounds maintenance projects including fertilization, aeration and weed abatement.

Commissioner Hinkle asked what the total 2007-2008 expenditures were for capital equipment and what the budget is for 2008-2009. Mr. Hagen estimated approximately \$70,000 in expenditures for 2007-2008 and stated that there are no capital equipment expenditures budgeted for 2008-2009.

Chairman Cusack asked if any football programs are currently running at Mendel Park. Mr. Wright stated that there are currently no programs running at the park. There are soccer practices held at the park as well as possibilities of some youth football games being played at the park depending on the field dimensions.

4. Discussion on Changing the Name of Brewster Park

Mr. Wright presented the Commission with the cost of the proposed name change of Brewster Park. He stated that the cost of changing the park sign would be between \$700 and \$750 in addition to the staff time to remove and install the sign.

Commissioner Hinkle stated that the costs are insignificant compared to the benefit of having the Town identified with the complex. He stated that it would be appropriate for the Commission to consider calling the park Apple Valley Sports Complex or Soccer Complex.

Chairman Cusack expressed concern about any possible repercussions from the community as a result of the name change.

Commissioner Martin stated that Brewster Park was named after Mr. Lenny Brewster because he was very active in the community not because he donated the property for the park.

Commissioner Martin stated the correct process needs to be followed when renaming the park. Mr. Wright stated that staff will follow the correct procedures and bring the Commission's recommendation to the Town Council for approval.

Mr. Cron stated that the Naming of Parks and Facilities Policy requires that the Commission state the findings for the name change. He suggested that the Commission identify which conditions in the policy apply to the name change so that a recommendation can be brought to the Town Council.

Motion by Commissioner Hinkle, seconded by Commissioner to Turnbull to recommend renaming Brewster Park to Apple Valley Sports Complex in order to convey a strong, positive image that applies to the primary usage and promotion of the park. Motion carried by a 5-0-0-0 vote.

5. Discussion on Assisted Group Exchange of Service Policy

Mr. Wright presented the current Exchange of Services Policy to the Commission. He stated that the policy currently does not address differences in for profit or not for profit organizations and that there is some contradictory language that needs to be examined.

Mr. Wright referenced item 4 of the Competitive Youth Sports Organizations section of the policy which states that competitive groups cannot exclude participation. He mentioned that this language is contradictory since some competitive groups do exclude participation.

Discussion ensued about whether or not competitive groups actually exclude participants. Vice-Chairman Lyons and Commissioner Hinkle stated that they were not aware of competitive groups such as Apple Valley Soccer Club excluding any participants.

Discussion ensued about profitable uses that are associated with an exchange of service program. Mr. Cron provided an example of a non-profit group, that has negotiated an exchange of service with the Town, allowing a for profit use of the facility.

Chairman Cusack stated that the policy should not be changed unless there are a substantial amount of issues with for profit uses occurring for an exchange of service that has been negotiated.

Commissioner Hinkle agreed and stated that for profit uses such as Little League hiring a professional batting coach is not a problem since it benefits the participants of the program.

It was the consensus of the Commission not to amend the Exchange of Services Policy.

6. Request to install a permanent scoreboard at Brewster Park and discussion on Championship Field distinction

Craig Miller of the California Cardinals, discussed his minor league football organization and mentioned that the league struggles to maintain a field to use. He discussed some improvements that his group and the Apple Valley Seminoles can provide such as bleachers, goal posts and a scoreboard for Field 11 at Brewster Park.

Chairman Cusack inquired about how those improvements would affect soccer play on Field 11. Mr. Wright stated that the staff is in the early stages of looking into making Field 11 a championship field which would allow for both football and soccer play.

The Commission directed staff to continue looking into installing a permanent scoreboard and converting Field 11 into a championship field.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

None

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Wright stated that the Fall 2008 Recreation Activity Guide will be mailed out to all residents within the next couple of weeks.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Martin commended staff on the department update presentation.

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lyons, seconded by Commissioner Hinkle to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

TOWN CLERK