

**STRAWBERRY RECREATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
May 14, 2008**

Chair Spinola-Schwartz called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Strawberry Recreation District to order at 7:05 PM.

QUORUM CALL:

Present were Directors Spinola-Schwartz, Francis, Klopfer, Wambach, and Zener. Manager Joseph and members of the public were also present.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION: (limited to 3 minutes per person):

Members of the public raised the following concerns:

- It was suggested that the plants and landscaping needs improvements. It was suggested that a hedge be placed next to the path as a safety precaution.
- Letters from the public were handed to the Administrative Assistant for copying and distribution to the Directors.
- Another member of the public stated that there had been no response to her April letter.
- A member of the public noted that the path owned by the four neighbors on Harbor Cove Way is poorly maintained. Furthermore, he claimed that the neighbors do not like the path.
- A member of the public presented a brochure from 2001 and indicated that the number of youth class offerings has dropped.
- A neighbor of the privately owned path said that signs have been vandalized. He suggested hiring a security guard to stop bicycles and dogs from using it.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

MINUTES CORRECTIONS:

None.

MINUTES

Motion: Approve the March 19, 2008 minutes. M/S/C Klopfer / Francis

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Spinola-Schwartz, Zener, and Wambach.

Noes: None

Absent: None

Motion: Approve the April 16, 2008 minutes. M/S/C Klopfer / Francis

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Spinola-Schwartz, and Zener.

Noes: None

Absent: None

Director Wambach was not present at the April meeting therefore she did not vote on the April minutes.

Item A. Discuss and Approve Picnic Table for Harbor Cove Path

Manager Joseph clarified that there are two paths in the Harbor Cove Way area. The path owned by SRD is 120 feet long and forty feet wide. The District path is the path where the picnic table is being considered to be located. The other path is 200 yards long and runs behind the houses of four neighbors. The public has access to this path.

Members of the public raised the following concerns regarding the District path:

- A resident of Harbor Cove Drive opposed table and benches because it would increase the congestion and noise in the area. There is a parking problem and the congestion is a danger to the bicyclists coming down that steep hill. He also commented that the path has been maintained and is not totally neglected. He commented that the bench was repaired by the homeowners.

- A neighbor of the District path commented that they took their fence down at the request of SRD. She had concerns over security with kids and adults in the area. She stated that a 250 pound horse sculpture was stolen from her yard. Sign makes no difference and if you talk to people they get angry.
- Another Harbor Cove Way resident thanked the District for the written notice of the discussion item. He commented that the addition of a table turns the path into a park because the picnic table is a destination. The addition of the table will cause more trash and noise right next to the school.
- Another member of the public thought that some sort of table somewhere would be a good idea and would not bring more people to the area.
- Another Harbor Cove Way neighbor was opposed to the table. He felt that people would linger more. He stated that 80% of the people don't respect the rules. He added that the area is a bird sanctuary.
- Another member of the public has used the path continuously for 30 years. She felt that it is a community asset and thought that a table is not that different and would not change it much.
- Another member of the public was strongly opposed due to loitering and the additional clean up.
- Other members of the public suggested that instead the bench be repositioned and face the water.

Chair Spinola-Schwartz turned the discussion over to the Board:

- A Director felt that the addition of a table would not increase the number of people using the path.
- A Director commented that the path is for water access for the public and was formerly used by the Strawberry Yacht Club. She stated that if it becomes worse the Board would reconsider.
- Manager Joseph stated that staff already cleans up the area at least once a week, but that can be stepped up.
- A Director felt strongly that the path is close to the house and it differs from Brickyard Park. The public dock is for water access and the path should not be a destination. She did not support the expansion of the usage and thought the table alters the usage.
- Several Directors noted the residents concerns and perhaps repositioning the existing bench so it faced the water made more sense.
- The Chair appreciated the public attendance and agreed that the change would cause a great impact. She supported having a bench face the water.

Motion: Move to reject table and relocate existing bench so that it is facing the water. M/S/C Wambach / Klopfer

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Spinola-Schwartz, Zener, and Wambach.

Noes: None

Absent: None

Item B. Action Item-Discuss and Vote on Lowering Pool Temperature by Three Degrees, Early Morning Swim Hours and Master Swim Team

Aquatics Supervisor John Hale stated that the pool used to be at 79 degrees. He changed it to 84 degrees which led to a substantial increase in membership. There are members interested in water aerobics, swim lessons, and recreation swimming. Last year we had 515 family memberships while today we have 381 family memberships. Mr. Hale expects that the District

will likely reach the 500 family memberships level again later this year. Mr. Hale recommended not lowering the temperature because the Strawberry Pool is family oriented. One degree makes a huge difference. Four weeks ago the pump was down at night. It can take 7 to 8 hours for the pool to heat up 1 degree. It can drop 1 degree per 2 hours. Today it was 86 degrees due to the outside warmer air; it was 82 degrees in the morning. We are selling memberships based on a warm pool (84 degrees) and it makes a huge difference.

Members of the public made the following comments:

- A pool member commented that the pool is comfortable. You will lose some seniors if you lower the temperature, but it will cost less to heat less.
- A former Director commented that people do come for the warm 84 degrees pool. She added that the pool is more family oriented with John Hale as the Aquatics Supervisor. The Mill Valley pool is cold and unpleasant.
- A member of the public commented that it would be a mistake to change it now and advised to wait until next year.
- Mr. Hale noted that the heaters were turned off last night, but the sun can warm the pool, today it was up to 85 degrees. The heaters are turned off for swim meets. He added that it is cheaper to maintain a temperature rather than cycle the temperature up and down.
- A survey of pool members was suggested.

The Board directed District Manager Joseph and Aquatics Supervisor Hale to prepare a survey. The Board would seek community feedback before changing the temperature. It was determined that the survey should be emailed to the Chair who would approve the survey and instruct staff to send the survey out to pool members.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

Item D1. Directors Reports: Director Klopfer-Update on Employee Handbook

The employee handbook is based on the Highlands Recreation District handbook and has been updated to conform to our District by Manager Joseph. County Counsel thought that is was acceptable to build from the Highlands Recreation Employee Handbook. Manager Joseph has adjusted the handbook where policies differ. Director Graham was working on the employee handbook in 2002, but the project was tabled because the County was in the process of creating a 300 plus page handbook. Existing District employee resolutions were sent to County Counsel. Manager Joseph has spoken with County Counsel and faxed over 2 additional resolutions. County Counsel is happy with the resolutions. County Counsel will take the resolutions and look at the template and review it. The handbook is based on a district of similar size.

G1 new business

Item G1. New Business Action Item-Discuss, Review and Approve a Citizen Advisory Committee

9:25 Chair Spinola-Schwartz left the meeting.

Kirstie Martinelli commented that there are people who don't use this facility. Give it a fresh face and involve more people. She has ideas to improve operations, for the pool and tennis. Manager Joseph stated that a room could be provided for meetings with advance notice. Mrs. Martinelli stated that she is looking for community input for ideas like a movie night.

Motion: Approve a Citizen Advisory Committee. M/S/C Wambach / Zener

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, Wambach, and Zener. Noes: None

Absent: Spinola-Schwartz

Item D2. Directors Reports: Director Wambach-Discussion on Green Festival and Tote Bags
Director Wambach presented a pitch document on the Green Festival to the Board. The presentation is broken into 3 topics:

1. Learn Green: Invite Mill Valley Refuse, Sustainable Mill Valley, and Supervisor McGlashan to the event.

2. Experience Green: Kids “Trash into Treasure” or Denim Pocket activities and games. Sell raffle tickets for \$.25 for green items like a lunch bag or water bottle.
3. Community Green: Green companies like Harmony and Stefano’s restaurants, Smith and Hawken, and textile companies with sustainable fabrics.

Anchor the event with celebrities. Educate on what a recreation district is and pitch as a go green initiative. Sell the ideas of solar energy and small steps towards a greener facility. Market it through the fall brochure. Director Wambach was interested in lining up the celebrities first in order to pull in more people. The plastic tote bags range in price depending on whether it is a stock bag, stock color, and monogrammed. The minimum run is 250. The locally produced ones vary from \$2.00 to \$5.00, Ann Batalli \$15.00 to \$20.00. The goal of the totes is to market the recreation center, sell or give the bags away as a promotion. Raffles are popular. Food is a separate question. Director Zener suggested selling pizza by the slice. The event is pitched as a fund raiser and gift certificates to support green issues could be sold. Director Wambach was planning to lock up the key anchors in the next few days and start building a roster. The heavy hitters should be met face to face. Director Wambach will be handling the totes, strategy, securing the anchors, and the public relations. Mill Valley Refuse fits with the local theme; PG & E is too big. We need to confirm people and confirm the trash to treasures game. The network builds itself.

ADMINISTRATION:

MANAGER’S REPORT

Manager’s Report as presented.

Manager Joseph thanked Director Francis for reporting the water pipe vandalism. The water pipe protective cover will be strengthened. Manager Joseph stated that he has contacted three solar vendors. Solar systems require an approximate area up to 75% of the pool surface area for the collectors. The pool house would only provide about 20% of the needed area, to make up the additional area the parking lot would have to be covered with a roof for the collectors. The cost of solar is too expensive to be effective at this time. Creating electricity from solar is not financially viable and it would take more than 20 years to break even.

Manager Joseph stated that goose chasers dogs cost \$900 per month for a 6 month minimum. There are reliability questions. Additionally, the geese would likely fly to the field across the street and then return to SRD after the dogs have left. The cost for one year would be \$11,000 while the fields generate only \$5,000 in revenue from Little League and Soccer League.

Manager Joseph is looking at 2 different contractors for the stairs. Cagwin and Dorward can do concrete stairs. Fencing would be by another contractor.

Manager Joseph stated that Richardson Bay Sanitary has not charged the District for many years. However, they have recently charged the District \$3,900 for current services.

FISCAL REPORTS – CONSENT CALENDARS:

Item C1. Fourth Quarter 2008 Revenue-To-Date vs. Budget

As presented.

Motion: Approve Items C2 – 4. M/S/C Klopfer / Francis

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, and Zener.

Noes: None

Absent: Wambach, and Spinola-Schwartz.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Item G2. Action Item- Approve Resolution for Consolidation and Services to Allow a General Election to be Held November 4, 2008

The County runs the election for the District. Directors Wambach and Spinola-Schwartz are up for 4 year seats.

Motion: Approve Resolution for Consolidation and Services to Allow a General Election to be Held November 4, 2008. M/S/C Klopfer / Zener

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, and Zener. Noes: None

Absent: Wambach, and Spinola-Schwartz.

Item G3. Action Item-Nominate a Candidate for the CSDA Board of Directors

Motion: Decline to Nominate a Candidate for the CSDA Board of Directors. M/S/C Klopfer / Francis

Ayes: Francis, Klopfer, and Zener. Noes: None

Absent: Wambach, and Spinola-Schwartz.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

Matters of an Urgent Nature Arising Since Agenda Distribution:

Director Francis urged the Board to make a statement opposing moth spraying. The spray is harmful to kids and we do not know what is in it. The spraying could affect the pool, pool deck, and the fields. Director Francis suggested writing a letter to Supervisor McGlashan opposing the spraying. The topic should be agenized for next month. Director Klopfer suggested adding a link on the website to protest moth spraying.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There being no further business to come before the Board, Director Klopfer motioned that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Director Zener. The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Francis at 10:40 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Strawberry Recreation District Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

Secretary, Board of Directors
Strawberry Recreation District

Chair, Board of Directors
Strawberry Recreation District