

Minutes
Indian Hills General Improvement District
District Office
3394 James Lee Park Rd. #A
Carson City, NV 89705
Project Meeting
June 2, 2008
6:00 P.M.

Trustees Present: Chairman Laura Lau, Vice Chairwoman Denise Pierini, Secretary/Treasurer William Eisele, Trustee Brian Patrick, Trustee Kathryn Clark-Ross

Trustees Absent: (none)

Staff Present: District Analyst Human Resources & Community Sandi Eisele, District Analyst-Operations Nancy Fredrickson, Field Operations Supervisor Russ Sterling, Administrative Assistant Karen Ziemer

Others Present: Attorney John Rutledge, Rena Mihlek, Lewis Mihlek, Penni Eisele, Michelle LaFontaine, Michael Glucksman, Steve Weaver of Nevada State Parks

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lau called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Chairman Lau
3. **Approval of Agenda:**

Trustee Brian Patrick made a motion to approve the Agenda. Secretary/Treasurer Bill Eisele seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Public Interest Comment:** (none)

5. **Discussion and possible action regarding a locked gate by the Tennis Courts in James Lee Park:** Field Operations Supervisor Russ Sterling stated that the previous General Manager had requested the gate be kept locked 365 days a year for fire prevention. The gate is open now. The Forest Service has opened their gate now, so IHGID gate was opened as well for access to Forest Service land. Motorized Vehicles have found a way around the gate to the road when it is locked.

Public Comment: Michelle LaFontaine commented that last year BLM closed access to land due to fire danger. Secretary/Treasurer Eisele commented that if BLM or the Forestry Service close access to land that IHGID would also.

Secretary/Treasurer Eisele motioned to open and close the gate at the same time the Forestry Service opens and closes their gate. Vice Chairwoman Pierini seconded. Motion carried 4-1, 4 ayes by Trustee Clark-Ross, Chairman Lau, Vice Chairwoman Pierini, Secretary/Treasurer Eisele, 1 nay by Trustee Patrick

6. **Discussion and possible action regarding a plan for replacement of a Year 2000 Truck.** Field Operations Supervisor Russ Sterling described the history and problems of the truck. A dump truck is used now for crack sealing. Russ would like to get a 1 ton truck or larger. Nancy Fredrickson stated that Streets has a Dump Truck budgeted in 2008-2009.

Public Comment: (none)

The Board of Trustees' agreed that Russ could purchase a used truck after July 1, 2008.

7. Reports to the Board:

a. Engineer Report (none)

8. Discussion and possible action regarding a progress payment in the amount of \$4,976.11 to Douglas County Community Development for costs incurred through February 5, 2008, for the Metal Storage Building Project at Hobo Hot Springs:

District Analyst- Operations Nancy Fredrickson, stated after this final payment to Douglas County, there is only a retainer fee left to be paid to Sierra Construction for this project.

Public Comment: (none)

Trustee Patrick motioned to approve a payment in the amount of \$4,976.11 to Douglas County Community Development for costs incurred through February 5, 2008, for the Metal Storage Building Project at Hobo Hot Springs. Secretary/Treasurer Eisele seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action on a proposal for a retirement buy-out for the District Billing Coordinator: Sandi Eisele reviewed her memo to the Board regarding a monthly cost comparison between the current District Billing Coordinator versus a proposed full-time new employee. Sandi stated that the District Billing Coordinator had proposed a retirement buy-out at 22 weeks of his gross salary. Sandi commented that a buy-out would be the first for the District. Nancy Fredrickson commented that Hazel Stone had received \$5,000 when she left the District. Steve Weaver, former Board of Trustees' member, commented that Hazel received a bonus gift that was not a buy-out. Chairman Lau commented that the District is not required to give a retirement buy-out, and that she does not want to set a precedent.

Public Comment: Mike Glucksman questioned a buy-out for someone who wants to leave on his own, and what type of retirement plan is available. Chairman Lau explained that District employees are part of the Public Employees' Retirement System. Legislation has been passed that requires an employee to retire by August 31, 2008 to be able to receive a Local Government Insurance Subsidy. Mike Glucksman commented that this sounds like a perk in itself. Steve Weaver commented that there is no reason the District should have to pay for a retirement buy-out. Employees can use money from their 457 plan to buy retirement themselves, or pay cash with a payment plan.

Trustee Patrick motioned to not move on the buyout of the District Billing Coordinator. Trustee Clark-Ross seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding Valley Vista Park items a. and b., listed below:

a. Request for more signage at Valley Vista Park stating "No Motorized Vehicles":

Michelle LaFontaine stated more signs have been put up. She spoke with Russ Sterling who advised her more signs have been ordered.

Public Comment: Steve Weaver commented that the trail was designated for 2 wheeled motors. The color coding and legend should be changed.

b. Request to schedule a public meeting for residents of IHGID with Sandra Wendel, Landscape Architect from Sandra Wendel & Associates, to view 3 conceptual drawings of Valley Vista Park for their preferences and modifications.

The meeting is requested to be in July, 2008: Michelle LaFontaine commented that she would like to set up a Public Notice Meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. with Sandra Wendel, for presentation of drawings for Valley Vista Park, and to get input from residents on design. Michelle will try to change the meeting to Monday, July 14, 2008 to fit in with Board of Trustees' schedule. Michelle spoke with Scott Morgan from Douglas County Parks who discouraged a parking lot at Valley Vista Park. Scott stated it should not be a drive to use Park, it is a pocket park. Sandra Wendel will speak with Scott Morgan regarding parking and about a future trailhead.

Public Comment: (none)

11. Discussion and possible action regarding James Lee Park items a, b, c and d listed below:

a. Review of Douglas County Codes, Title 10, relating to recreational trails, operation and restriction of motorized vehicles in a recreational trail, license requirements and penalties: Michelle LaFontaine reported that she spoke with Craig Burnside of Douglas County Parks Department regarding trails and questioned him if IHGID should follow Douglas County Codes regarding trails. Craig told Michelle if there is an Inter-Local Agreement between IHGID and Douglas County Commissioners regarding this trail, IHGID would have to follow the Douglas County Codes. Otherwise, it is up to IHGID to decide what they want to do with the trails because they are not Douglas County trails. Michelle asked Scott Morgan of Douglas County Parks Department if he remembered any agreement regarding trails. Scott told her he did not recall any agreement. Michelle commented that it is up to IHGID Board of Trustees' to decide what they want to allow on a recreational trail and Valley Vista Park. The Board may wish to abide by the Douglas County Code. Michelle reviewed the Title 10 Codes with the Board. Michelle stated she is concerned with Valley Vista Park design and the land behind it. There is 18 acres of land that has not been dedicated to IHGID and has motorized vehicles driving on it. Secretary/Treasurer Eisele commented that the 18 acres of land belongs to the developer. The developer would have to spend a tremendous amount of money on the trailhead before IHGID takes the property over. Bill agreed that the signs for access should be changed because they show the trailhead going through Valley Vista Park, but it is not our trailhead. Bill commented that most of the signs require the Sheriff's Office to enforce. Michelle commented that Russ Sterling is willing to put a sign at both entrances to the property to help educate the public about restriction of motorized vehicles.

Public Comment: Steve Weaver, former District Board of Trustees' member, commented it was always the Board's intent to take over the 18 acres, but the developer has not resolved erosion problems. Russ Sterling commented that he had done a walk through with Syncon, the developers of the property. There was a long list of items the developer was supposed to do, but has not done. Russ stated it would be a lot of work for the District to take over this area. Art Baer commented when he was on the Board the issue of Motor Vehicles was addressed. The Sheriff's Office told IHGID to post signs as per Douglas County Code that Motor Vehicles were not allowed within 500' of a residence. Art suggested bigger signs in a bright orange color for off road vehicle riders to notice. Include signage for fines related to off road vehicles such as being underage, no insurance and that parents are responsible.

Chairman Lau suggested the Board decide if they want to adhere to Douglas County Code, or come up with their own code.

No action was taken by the Board of Trustees’.

b. Review of signage at the back of James Lee Park. One sign shows James Lee Park with trails to the south and trails to the north to Valley Vista Park with mode of transport. The other sign shows drawings of the mode of transport: Michelle Lafontaine reviewed an existing sign with a map showing 2 wheel Motor Vehicles are permitted. Michelle and other residents would like this sign changed as it is contradictory to other signs in the area that restrict motorized vehicles. Vice Chairwoman Denise Pierini commented she'd like to postpone changing signs until Valley Vista Park is started. At that time strategies can be developed to discourage motorized vehicles from accessing the new park from other areas. Denise stated it would be difficult to enforce an open area like this. Trustee Brian Patrick voiced concern about vehicles on the trail now that are traveling over the area that is being re-vegetated, even if IHGID doesn't own the property. Brian suggested on either side of the Syncon owned property, IHGID could put signs advising no motor vehicles are allowed within 500' of homes and site the Douglas County Code. Vice Chairwoman Pierini commented that the sign needs a change in color. Chairman Lau suggested looking at all the trails before the map signage is changed and waiting until work has begun on Valley Vista Park to change other signs.

Public Comment: Art Baer commented that the current signs were specifically designed to be graffiti proof and would be expensive to change.

Steve Weaver from Nevada State Parks commented there is a Federal Recreation Trails Grant Program that is administered by his Division. The District can get up to \$100,000 for anything related to trails. Replacement of the kiosk signs would be eligible for the program and an 80% Federal share. IHGID applied in the past for a grant to construct the trail across the private property 18 acres, but was declared ineligible because they didn't own the property. If IHGID gains ownership of the property they could qualify for a grant. The current signs are about 10 years old and should be replaced and updated for trails and trail connections that are not shown. Steve suggested not saying "No" to motorized vehicles on trails, but providing alternatives for access to Forest Service land. Built in speed limits, fencing along trails, well designed and developed trails could be used. There are ways to contain dust and noise with speed being the key. Steve suggested the District not ignore the 18 acres they will eventually own, and plan for the future. Steve stated IHGID doesn't have to fund all of these themselves. Trailhead signs, trail construction and maintenance are all eligible for grant funds. The State gets \$1,000,000 per year for Recreation Trails Grants. There is approximately \$50,000 left this year with 23 grant applications approved. If you allow any motorized vehicles on trails, even if they are just dirt bikes, your competition for a grant is low. Federal law states 30% of funds must be spent on trails allowing motorized vehicles.

Harold Johnson commented he lives near Valley Vista Park where there is a dust and noise problem. Trying to control the speed is impossible, he suggested putting a sign up that "No Motor Vehicles are Permitted".

Michael Glucksman commented he would like to see a sign at the entrance to the 18 acre parcel that states "No Motor Vehicles are Permitted". If the Board is not going to change the sign with the map on it, he'd like to have the Board assign someone to update it. Chairman Law replied that it will be on a future Agenda and the Parks Department will bring a map to the Board at that time.

No action was taken by the Board of Trustees’.

c. Request to replace signs to meet County code. The Board of Trustees' decided the signs need to be revised and updated.

Public Comment: (none)

Trustee Patrick motioned to put up 3 signs; one at the Valley Vista Park sign, one at the Northern entrance to the Syncon Property and one at the Southern entrance to the Syncon property. The signs will read "No Motor Vehicles allowed within 500' of Private Property pursuant to Douglas County Code (Site County Code)". Secretary/Treasurer Eisele seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Review map of James Lee Park to identify a quality area for a Dog Park.

Michelle LaFontaine reviewed a map with the Board. Russ Sterling suggested the land behind the Tennis Courts. Trustee Kathryn Clark-Ross commented there is not enough room for the dogs to run there and cannot be expanded because it runs in to a canyon. Kathryn suggested across the road from the soccer field. Russ stated there is no water there. Vice Chairwoman Denise Pierini commented that Dan Bohler has plans for the soccer fields area involving private funds. Denise suggested researching some of the projects already in progress before the Board commits to a location for the Dog Park. Secretary/Treasurer Eisele commented that a fenced in area could always be moved if necessary. The Board discussed criteria for a Dog Park.

Public Comment: Steve Weaver commented that the District Master Plan showed a fourth ball field west of the skate park. That would be a good location for a Dog Park if the District was willing to forego a softball field, and it is close to water. It is nice to have grass, but not necessary, some Dog Parks use chips. Steve saw a Dog Park in Alameda that had trees, shrubs and an open field of approximately 200' x 200', which is almost a full acre with shade trees. Coloma trailhead would be a good location but has no parking. James Lee Park is good location due to parking. Steve mentioned that the current trails are being used with Dogs. Trustee Clark-Ross commented that when the Valley Vista Park Committee has their public meeting, a location will need to be discussed. Michelle LaFontaine commented that most Committee members don't want a Dog Park at Valley Vista Park and the development agreement did not include a Dog Park. Michelle commented that James Lee Park is a better location because it is away from residents.

Chairman Lau asked Russ Sterling to look for alternative areas in James Lee Park for a Dog Park. Russ should use the criteria discussed that includes flat land of approximately 200' x 200' with the possibility of water. Russ was asked to come to the June 18, 2008 Board of Trustees' Meeting with alternatives. Vice Chairwoman Denise Pierini stated she is not in favor of a Dog Park at James Lee Park, nor the use of man hours to take care of it.

12. Chairman and Trustees Reports: Secretary/Treasurer Eisele commented that James Lee Park was very busy the past weekend with baseball, soccer and barbeques taking place. The parking lot was full with some vehicles parked on the roads. It was the first time he'd seen the park packed.

13. Adjournment:

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Eisele motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kathryn Clark-Ross seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

FINAL APPROVED MINUTES AS PRESENTED

**Secretary/Treasurer
William Eisele**