
Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association

President's Message

Since our last newsletter we've had an open Board meeting and a Town Hall meeting, both conducted via Zoom. This new format has had a very positive response, with strong turnout for both meetings; the Board thanks all of you who attended. See below for topics discussed.

Also since the last newsletter - maybe not the storm of the century, but it felt pretty close to those living through it! A whopping four feet of wet, heavy snow fell almost overnight. Despite round-the-clock plowing by our Caretaker and a team of volunteers, it created drifts too deep and too heavy for the snowplow to budge. Highway 108 was also closed for a while. We requested the help of a bigger, more powerful plow from outside the Park, but it was some time before it could make the trip.

Our thanks to those of you who chose to be up here for your cooperation and patience as the roads were gradually cleared, first to a single lane and finally to two-way traffic. As always, many thanks to Wanda Lenhardt for her emailed cautions prior to the storm. And an especially big THANK YOU for the tremendous effort by caretaker Robert Tackitt and volunteers Jesse Worsham, Richard Wheeler, Brian Andersen, Fred Coleman, Dennis Johnson, Steve Wallace, Robbie Bettencourt, Jerry Powell, Brad Niess, Rick and Michelle Nesbit, John and Christen Borges, and Clark Kellogg. These folks cut up downed trees, cleared roads, operated equipment, drove neighbors to appointments, directed traffic, inspected homes for damage, provided updates and information to those not in the Park, and cleared snow so their neighbors had somewhere to park. **Their assistance was essential**, and appreciated by all!

Michael Lechner, President

Report from Zoom Board Meeting, 1-9-21

President Michael Lechner opened the meeting at 9:30. Directors also present were Secretary Wanda Lenhardt, Treasurer Mitch Gabriel, HR Director Heidi Ordwein, directors at large Mark Logan, Jesse Worsham, and Lori Crivelli, and VP Susie Lechner. There were at least 32 property owners in attendance.

Directors reported on Park conditions:

- The needle dump is now closed for the winter.
- The gate is now functioning; it is fixed open whenever snow is forecast. This is an old system, prone to breakdowns, and will need to be upgraded in the future.
- Robert is maintaining the equipment and repairing as needed with the volunteer help of Jesse Worsham. The old snowplow is getting a new axle.
- PG&E will be replacing all utility poles within the Park, with work resuming in the spring. They are still cutting down trees that may threaten power lines; for logs left behind, owners need to call PG&E directly to request removal.

- Lori will research the requirements for being designated a Fire Wise Community. This may help to reduce owners' property insurance costs.
- Michael has been working with the Forest Service to decide whether a long-term homeless encampment off of Bottini Apple Farm Road is on Park property or forest property. Next step is to have a surveyor help us to resolve this question. The answer will determine who has responsibility for removal and subsequent cleanup. A majority of owners at the meeting indicated a preference for removal in a humane fashion, once when COVID regulations are relaxed and eviction is allowed.

Property owners offered comments:

- There is a desire for a community directory, so neighbors can reach one another when needed. The Board does not share contact information without express permission of the property owner, so cannot serve as the source.
- Firearms have been heard behind the water tanks off Isaac. **Note: discharging a firearm is not legal anywhere near a developed area, which includes the meadow. If you hear shots fired on Park property, please notify the Sheriff's office promptly. Board members do not have authority to enforce this law.**
- A confusing road sign on David misidentifies the road name. This will be remedied.
- A makeshift tent structure near the meadow needs to be removed.
- The "fire evacuation route" signs lead people toward roads that are reportedly not passable due to downed trees. These back roads to Sugar Pine and Long Barn are only on Park property for brief distances, so are not ours to maintain. Those involved with Fire Evacuation can study this further. In the meantime, we will remove the misleading road signs.

Other Business:

- Property owners are encouraged to check on our website, sierraparkservices.com, for any updates. Marianne Gennis is our website administrator, and does a terrific job of keeping it current.
- Mark Logan reported that a group of interested owners has formed a Fire Evacuation committee to study egress from the Park. James Costello will chair the committee, which has already had its first meeting.
- Wanda will send out an email request for volunteers to study the following additional topics:
 - Short-term home rentals
 - Off-road or unlicensed vehicles
 - Community events (when possible again)
 - Homeowner information sources - could include the proposed directory

The Board moved to executive session at 11:20.

Twelve o'clock, report from Executive Session:

- In re the proposed neighborhood directory, The Board will not produce or distribute the directory. However, at the Annual Meeting in May we can circulate an information sheet,

asking those who wish to participate to “opt in” by sharing their information. A group of homeowners could be formed to move forward with production and distribution.

- The meeting ended at noon.

Trash dump area

Any time of year, large items (furniture, construction waste, broken bikes or strollers - you get the idea) are not allowed in or alongside the dumpster. The security cameras can capture your image, and there is a County fine for illegal dumping. Those large items should be discarded at the transfer station in Standard, just down the hill.

Report from Town Hall Meeting, 1-21-21

Michael welcomed everyone at 9:30 am. Other board members present were Secretary Wanda Lenhardt, Treasurer Mitch Gabriel, HR Director Heidi Ordwein, directors at large Mark Logan, Jesse Worsham, and VP Susie Lechner. However, the main purpose of the meeting was to hear more from property owners about their concerns and wishes for the Park - and nearly 80 owners, including family members, logged in to take part.

Upcoming survey:

Director Lori Crivelli has been working on a survey to identify how property owners' interests are trending, and how they'd like to see the Park evolve (or not!) in the future.

Primary discussion topics for this meeting, identified in the Annual Meeting discussion:

- Fire evacuation procedures - a committee is up and running to investigate what's optimal. Look for a report of their findings to date at the next Town Hall meeting.
- Short-term home rentals - homeowners believe a set of guidelines/ ground rules for renters would be very helpful. Owners could add on their own additional requirements as desired. (Note: Since the Board is already working on an information packet for new community members, producing these guidelines will mesh well with that effort. We will report on progress at the Annual Meeting.)
- Off-road vehicles - our ability to prohibit these on our private roads is limited. However, owners suggest that posting signs at sensitive areas (e.g, the meadow) or those seeing heavy damage (toboggan hill) could help. So could notices that all vehicles must obey the same “rules of the road,” registered or not. Finally, the instructions for both new owners and short-term renters should spell out the off-road rules very clearly.
- Homeowner directory - homeowners Brad Niess and William Martin volunteered to set up a Google page where owners can “opt in” and leave their information.
- Security - ideally, we would engage a professional security firm to help patrol the Park; as an alternative, owners suggested staffing the gatehouse and screening entrants. However, the cost for either alternative is estimated at a minimum of \$40,000 annually, which is not accounted for in the budget. This topic was tabled until such time that finances make it more feasible. Other security-related news:
 - The gatehouse has a security camera that is active. John Wohler offered to take charge of reviewing footage for interlopers when indicated.
 - As we determine who actually owns the land under the homeless encampment, owners request additional “No Trespassing” signs at Park boundaries.

- Owners are concerned about illegal and costly misuse of the trash dumpster. Jesse Worsham is leading an effort to improve security at the enclosure, and hopefully to replace that structure with a more attractive one. Adding card-key trash access to our gate cards is the goal.
- A committee of interested homeowners will consider options for increased security. Volunteers include Bill Martin, Brad Niess, Dana Christensen, Kathy Hillblom, Joe Carranza, and Mark Meyers. Meeting date TBD.
- A few rental homes in the Park have accumulated piles of discarded items outside. Cases on these have been opened with the County; additional complaints could strengthen the demand for cleanup. For more information, call Patti Meade, 209-575-9623.
- Additional neighborhood committees are suggested, including log removal for fire safety, neighborhood positivity, and off-road vehicles. A Board member needs to be part of each committee to provide reference on historical precedent and budgetary constraints.

Next meeting date - an open Board meeting will be held via Zoom on February 13th at 9:30-11:30.

Happy Valentine's Day to All

Note: These minutes reflect our recollection of the proceedings. If additions or revisions are needed, they may be noted by calling the hotline number, 209-533-7909, emailed via the link on our website, or brought to the Board's attention at the following meeting.