

Minutes of Caspar Community Board of Directors Meeting

April 10, 2009

I. Call to Order at 9:10 a.m.

Board Members Present: Bette Goldfarb, Annie Lee, Paul Reiber, Paul Schulman, and Judy Tarbell.

Absent: David Alden, Susan Juhl, Susan Keller, Rhoda Teplow

Staff: Dalen was absent

Community Members: Marissa Cohen, Loraine Duff, Ray Duff, Rochelle Elkan, Sienna Potts.

Quorum Declared: Yes X No

II. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the board meeting of Jan. 30 were corrected to prices for *children's breakfast*, and "...bar intake after expenses (license, tequila) was split.... Minutes were then approved as corrected.

III. Reports

A. Correspondence

None

B. Treasurer's Report

None

C. Manager's Report

None. Paul S. thanked Ray Duff for facilitating the donation of new outdoor plastic chairs.

IV. Old Business

A. Fire Safe Council

Ray reported that the ad hoc Caspar Gorse Committee, including Julie Rogers, a representative from State Forestry, Steve Orsi (FB Fire Chief), the Ag Commissioner and others met on April 3 to get advice as to how to spend the \$108,000, which is now coming from US Forest Service. Steve Orsi said the first priority was to clear fire breaks. It was suggested that Susan Juhl's \$15,000 donation be used to begin work. There will be machine clearance and maceration only – no herbicides – with follow-up. The Fire Safe Council is still polling its members for approval.

B. Gorse

Bette spoke to Renee Pasquenelli of State Parks to see if she could get the crews to remove the stumps at Caspar Headlands State Park.

C. Sidewalk

Judy asked if anyone would like to meet with Kendall, DOT and others. Paul S. volunteered. Judy will fill Ray in on the history of the project.

D. Playground

Paul R. asked for clarification of the question: what are we trying to decide? Bette said LOCATION.

Community Notice

Loraine suggested that Michael's letter implied that decisions had been made without community input. Bette felt there had been many chances for community input and recounted the history of the playground:

In June 2008 Ruth had complained to the Board about the slide. Gunnar spoke at the July breakfast and Board meeting. In August the parents group started meeting, with all meetings open to the public. The project was announced in fliers and at every breakfast, CasparFest, the General meeting, and Halloween, including the sale of raffle tickets, model display, and sign-up sheets. In September the raffle was discussed and it was agreed that the playground fundraising would be separate from the Community Center.

Equipment

Rochelle and Sienna spoke in favor of retaining the old equipment. They both said that they didn't object to a new playground, but they want to retain the old one as well. Sienna was concerned about maintaining the view up to and down from the highway and reminded the Board to consider space and overall planning.

Liability issues need to be clarified and written out. Rick Miller had said the old slide should be removed, but it was not clear if he was speaking as a parent or county official. In a subsequent meeting with Paul and Marissa, Rick said it was not a county requirement to take down the original equipment.

Paul S asked if someone got hurt on the old equipment and a parent sued, how defensible are we, especially since there have already been complaints. The insurance company has been asked but will not commit until they see what they are insuring. They need an actual plan. There is some possibility that in the process of permitting the new playground, the old will come into question. The board agreed to retain the old playground if it is insurable at a reasonable cost.

New equipment – The elements are subject to change. At their last benefit, the committee decided important elements are a place for little kids, minimal plastics, natural colors, and not too high.

It will take a month or more to amend the kitchen permit as opposed to a much longer wait to get a new permit. An amendment would allow us to fulfill the terms of the playground grant and break ground for the kitchen this summer.

Paul R: Marissa needs a clear statement and the permit process needs location and size. Marissa is planning on approximately 45'x60'.

Paul read an email from Carli in support of the new playground, emphasizing the importance of bringing young people into the C.

Ray said two criteria are insurance and safety. The grant requires maintenance plans. Ray asked if the cost of insurance and maintenance, required was planned for. He also felt supervision should be part of the contract. Marissa suggested Mary Kay Champagne might know about insurance. Paul R said the only way to really find out if the old playground is covered is ask for an inspection.

Location

Southeast Corner (east of existing playground and due south and east of the pump house) designated by some agencies as wetlands. Different agencies use different rubrics, e.g. plant life, presence of water, etc. Only one need be present. Chances are a restriction could be challenged, but it is a process. If there is a spot not in wetlands, the process is easier.

Two sites are now staked out: the northeastern area near the garden and the area south of the addition.

Northeast - Patty and Tommy do not want the playground in the northeast corner because of noise and the effect on their viewshed. Rochelle noted that the minutes said Paul had checked with the neighbors, i.e. Hunter, Patty and Tommy.

Marissa said that her grant linked the garden and the playground, but the interpretation of "near" is flexible.

South side: on top of existing playground or closer to the parking lot. Better wind blockage. Parents might prefer to have all kids in one area. Judy noted that having a site away from the old playground might mitigate some liability for the old playground. Paul asked if having them adjacent might call the old playground into question and eliminate the grandfathering.

The new playground might be too close to the deck and the solar panels. Would there be enough room? Marissa said the designer can fit the elements in. She and Marissa will meet at the beginning of May so need to know the space. Marissa noted that to keep the old equipment we would have to add fall zones that would extend the footprint considerably. One possibility is to remove the old and put in the new.

Funding

Paul S: Board proposes that Caspar Community funds can be available as a bridge loan to be replaced upon receipt of the grant money to be used to start the playground. Wood and chips might be donated. Marissa will continue fundraising.

Judy asked Marissa how many phases were planned. Marissa responded that it depends on the money. First they will do the area for two to five-year-olds and then five to twelve, then swings.

Marissa asked for Board's approval to work with the Our Park Place Foundation. They look for sponsors, put pictures on their website, and provide a yearly inspection, if not for free, then for around \$400. Ray asked who will sponsor and would that make a difference. The Board unanimously thought it would and would want to know who the sponsor is before approving.

Bette moved and it was seconded the motion that we designate an area approximately 60'x45' plus or minus 15' in each direction for the new playground.. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Board members went outside to look at the staked areas. The original northeast area by the garden had been revised and the Board unanimously approved the revised garden spot as first choice.

V- New Business

Ray reported that Caroline Schooley wanted to use the 1948 hand-colored photo by Tom C, Whelan. of old Caspar for fundraising, an idea approved by all.

Adjournment: 11:15am. Adjourned by Paul Schulman, President.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Lee