

**Minutes**  
**City of Highland**  
**Silver Lake Advisory Commission Meeting**  
**July 21, 2011**

Meeting was called to order by Bill Ambuehl acting as chairperson on behalf of Kent Korte (absent). Other members present were: Sally Raeber, Randy Ammann, Gary Pugh, Larry Diveley, Ryan Hummert; Natural Resources Manager, Mark Rosen, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Minutes of the April 21, 2011 were approved by Randy Ammann making the motion and Larry Diveley second.

**Staff Reports:**

- Ryan Hummert reported that all waterfowl blinds were accounted for and filled barring any changes.
  - Updated the commission on the comfort station by letting them know that a pre-fabricated system is going to be recommended to the city manager and that every effort is being made to have it complete by waterfowl season
- Gary Pugh reported that the spillway wall had a few structural problems but it is in the process of being corrected.
- Mark Rosen reported that an Eagle Scout candidate is pursuing avenues to raise money to construct an ADA compliant fishing dock and parking space at the site that was used to load rip-rap on barges for the shoreline project in 2009.
  - Also that another Eagle Project was completed the previous weekend in the park where steps were installed next to the waterfall.

Old Business: Horseback Riding on city property debate was finally put to an end as the ordinance clearly states that it is permitted in agricultural zones.

**New Business:**

- Bow & arrow fishing – a motion by Gary Pugh to allow bow fishing in a designated area in the northern portion of the lake was seconded by Larry Diveley.
  - This site was agreed upon as it presented the least amount of danger to others. The discussion included whether it was safe and manageable in Old City Lake or in parts of Silver Lake accessible by foot from Silver Lake Park.
- Bow Hunting: The commission recommended discussing further with the city attorney but due to the fact that more and more people request information on where public hunting areas are, Ryan Hummert and Director Rosen presented the consideration of issuing permits for bow hunters that utilize city owned property around Silver Lake. The reasons being were that the city has no idea who or how many people are using city owned land. In addition, like a state park, it is important to know who is hunting for safety reasons. The commission recommended that Ryan proceed in drafting a permit application for the city attorney to review.

- Hunting Fee: Discussion was held in regards to whether a fee should be associated with a hunting permit. The commission opposed this idea
- Non-Motorized Watercraft Fees: Ryan Hummert mentioned that he fields many calls from people; both resident and non-resident, on what the fees are for placing a canoe or kayak on Silver Lake. Needless to say people balk at the idea of paying the fees because they are quite expensive; especially for those that simply want to use the lake one or two times/year. The commission recommended coming back at the next meeting with some fee structures that mirror other lakes as this could be a great way to attract people to visit Highland and generate some additional revenue

Commission Requests:

- Larry Diveley asked if there is a special use permit for people such as the High School Bass Fishing team. Ryan Hummert explained that we do give special use permits but would draft a document to share with the commission for their approval
- Bill Ambuehl commented that the trees surrounding Old City Lake are blocking the view of the lake and in essence takes away from the aesthetics. Director Rosen agreed but also explained that because of the different elevations, many of the trees, although pruned high, are at a height that blocks the view. However, he agreed that there could be some pruning/removal of understory vegetation to open it up and also improve the “forest” in the park.

Randy Ammann motioned to adjourn, Larry Diveley seconded.

Next meeting will be Thursday, October 20, 2011 @ 7:00pm in the KRC conference room unless the location needs to change.