Snowcrest Heights Improvement Association (SHIA)

General Membership Spring Meeting Minutes

Sierra Club Harwood Lodge; May 17, 2015

**Call to Order:**

Meeting started at 2:15 pm by Roger Watford, chairman, SHIA Board of Directors (BoD).

Roger introduced the meeting with a comment on the general weather patterns and the need to keep conserving water.

*Roll Call:*

Manker (M): Richard (Dick) Tufts (10), Michael (Mike) McCormack (13), Brenda Kueckels (33), Rodger Watford (16).

San Antonio Falls (SAF): Gordan Douglass (35), Dokan Martin (10), Chris Walker (56), Denis & Robert (Bob) Scudder (39), Eric Kueckels (33).

Glacier Tract (GL): Rodney Schaerer (27)

Ice House (ICE): Robbie Warner (46), David Siriani (48), Brian Glick (P1), Jim Kuhlman (P4), Terri Kuhlman (P5), Paul Hannosh (P2)

Harwood: Elizabeth Ward

A quorum is 15, of which we have; SHIA general meeting proceeds.

*Current SHIA BoDs:*

Chairman – Rodger Watford, M (16)

Secretary – Rodney Schaerer, GL (27)

Treasurer – Paul Hannosh, ICE (PVT2)

Other BoD members – Jim Kuhlman, ICE (P4); Eric Kueckels, SAF (33); Kathy Louche, GL (11): Robbie Warner, ICE (46); Bill Mabie, SAF (14)

*Town Hall Representatives:*

Libby Shorts, GL (31); Denise Scudder, SAF (39)

**Review and Approval:**

Everyone should have a copy of the last SHIA general meeting (fall) minutes. Robbie, past secretary, passed out the minutes for membership reading and approval. After a brief discussion, Brian Glick (PVT 1), moved and John Douglass, (SAF 35), seconded that the minutes be approved. Minutes were approved.

Bob Scudder, SAF (39), would like to have the minutes mailed to him via U.S. postal service which the BoD agreed to.

Financial report was moved to new business due to the importance of capital budget projects.

Robbie Warner, ICE (46), reminded members that SHIA-Water.org is the official SHIA web site URL address and that in the future the BoD plans to post SHIA documents on the web site for member access and viewing.

**Additional Business:**

Rodger announced Jim Kuhlman’s appointment to the SHIA BoD until the elections at the next general meeting to replace David Siriani who has resigned.

There was general membership discussion about the separation or joining of tracts in the Ice House Tracts.

**System Status:**

Roger Watford reports that the springs are flowing well and our tanks are full.

Chapman/Minich 30 gallons per minute (gpm)

Manker Spring and the Horizontal Wells are not usable because of the arsenic issue.

Lower source Spring #5 is in excess of 30 gpm.

System demand is 8-10 gpm, which is 3 gpm less than Fall 2014 meeting report, partly because repairs have been performed and leaks have been fixed.

Summer outlook is common sense, last summer was one of the worst on record statewide but, it is expected that this year’s rain fall will be very low. Everyone needs to be as conservative as possible. Brian Glick questioned the ski resort’s water reservoir. Rodger Watford noted that the ski lift has stopped taking water. It was a nice reserve for firefighting but, not at this time. Ellingson should be informed that we have excess overflow and if the ski lift wants water they should take it now before the excess flow stops. Roger thinks we should put together an informal letter to the ski resort. It’s all about over flow. Jim Kuhlman noted that there is a question of reimbursement. The Ski lift reservoir needs to be filled for fire fighting. Denise Scudder will bring the ski lift issue up at the next Mt. Baldy Town Hall Meeting. Brian Glick noted the fire fighting helicopters can dip and since the whole canyon will benefit, the cost of pumping should be spread over several multiple organizations. Bob Walker questioned if the helicopters can actually utilize the water. Robbie Warner noted that SHIA has paid Snow Crest to keep their swimming pool full for firefighting reasons.

State usage of water requirements has been mandated by the State of California. It is expected that a small water organization like us will probably not be required to immediately conform but, we should be ready in case the State of California does decide to intervene. We should have a standing conversation policy and plan just in case. The question is when and how will we conform.

Brenda Kueckels, M (33), noted that we are recreational cabins and should we even be in the governmental mandate loop.

**Improvement Projects:**

Robbie has been involved with the U.S. forest Service about the Manker Campground Project which is a very leaky segment. The other day, two of the campsites had massive leaks and Rodger had to turn the water off. The pipes are very deep and repairing these leaks is very time consuming and expensive.

The arsenic Project is also on hold due to the U.S. Forest Service approval.

We have enough money in reserves to fund one of these projects but, not both.

Dave Siriani complained about the filing for the environmental report expense being charged to SHIA. Gordon Douglas noted that there was a $15,000 earlier study that SHIA paid for and can that study be utilized.

Brenda Kueckels wanted to know why we are prioritizing the campground project over the arsenic project. Roger Watford noted that the campground is a greater maintenance problem and will probably be approved sooner than the arsenic. Robbie Warner believes that Spring #5 will still be our saving grace this summer. Robbie noted that there is a connecting line between the Ski Lift Miner’s Bowl and the Chapman Minnich that can be used as a bypass.

Rodger Watford noted that our system is becoming older and maintenance costs are coming up. There is a new county inspector and the Chapman Spring sanitary seal will not meet legal requirements and standards. Rodger Watford noted the seal needs to be upgraded. The second site tank #1 is currently off line but, needs to be restored. Tank #1 is about 30 feet up on the left going up the ski lift ramp. Tank # 2 needs to be renovated. Five companies have already refused to inspect the tank for safety reasons. The tank needs to be retrofitted. Last season the tanks water levels fell during the day and were restored with water during the evening. Tank #3 is 130,000 gallons, Tanks # 1 is less, Tank #2 is 20,000 gallons. Tank #2 is expected to cost a total of $43,000. That includes painting and manholes. Tank #1 replacement is for 30,000 gallons is expected to be $200,000. Tank #3 has been in place for over 20 years and still appears to be in excellent shape.

These tanks are in the ski lift parking lot. Roger Watford believes we will need U.S. Forest Service approval and trees will need to be removed. Out water is for about 120 cabins. Bear Canyon tank, built 8 years ago, was built in place and is about 50,000 gallons.

**New Business:**

Paul Hannosh, treasuer, offered the proposed budget. Annual income is $48,616 at $400 dues per cabin. $52,269.13 was the actual income last year. The proposed budget for next year is $50,940. SHIA does send certified letters to the address of record for delinquent accounts. Expenses are $33,368.08. A new computer and accounting software have been purchased for financial accounting and record keeping. The expenses minus the income are $18,901.05 and that has gone to reserves. Capital expenditures of the proposed projects are $13,500 per year over eight years. Total reserves are $91,540.90 but, $55,000 is designated for the three projects. Leaving only $36,000 that is truly free money. Paul reports that we have actually been putting about $12,000 per year in reserves over the last five years. Water bills are $35 to $100 in California. Paul proposes a $50 per cabin dues increase. There was discussion about raising the rates. It was agreed that we’ll raise the rate by $50 this year and an additional $50 next year. Dave Siriani moved that we do the $50 this year and Paul Hannosh seconded. 15 voted in favor, 1 voted against the motion; the motion passes and the cabin fees will be raised next year from $400 to $450 with the anticipation that next year’s dues will be raised by an additional $50.00 which will be voted on at the next membership meeting.

Roger Watford noted that reserving Harwood for this date is a conflict with Harwood’s permanently established schedule. Roger would like to move the SHIA general meeting date to May 15, Sunday. The membership agreed that would not be a major issue or problem.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20.

Minutes submitted by Rodney Schaerer, secretary.