

Summer Newsletter

The long awaited Pond Improvement Project will begin shortly and the Board seeks your patience and cooperation while this work is being done. The pond will be drained during the first part of August and will be left empty while the soil at the bottom of the pond dries. Excavation is scheduled for early September, just after Labor Day. The Board is urging members and their children to stay out of the drained pond in everyone's best interest. The Commons will likely be closed during the days of excavation. The Board will notify the members of any changes to this timeline.

The AHHA is sponsoring a Community Work Day on August 12, 2017. Anyone and everyone are invited to participate. Spreading barkdust in the beds and tree rings in the Commons and adding cedar chips to the play area are the major projects. If there are enough volunteers some watering of trees might also take place. The official start time will be 8:00 AM on Saturday and work should be done by noon at the latest. While some of the work may require physical strength there is much that can be done by simply raking the barkdust into place. Lunch and drinks will be provided by the AHHA. Please consider volunteering as the community grows stronger when everyone participates. The work will also save the AHHA nearly \$2000.00.

The first portion of the Master Plan Survey has been completed and there is considerable interest for a shelter in the Commons and for the oft mentioned leveling of the play area. Both projects have significant costs and the next part of the survey will measure a more detailed description of what such improvements might entail and costs. Please remember that the Board has no current plans for any such project and is merely trying to measure what the members' desires are.

There are several other items or issues that have come before the Board. A policy on the use of artificial turf (17-02) has been written and can be viewed at the end of this newsletter or on the AHHA website. This is a draft policy and comments from the community will be considered before a final vote on the policy is taken in September. The Board is also in the process of establishing a fishing policy for the ponds. Once the policy is drafted it will be available for comments from the community. Work continues on the feasibility of a communitywide project to deal with backflow testing in the hopes of saving everyone a few dollars and streamlining the paperwork. The Board is seeking expert guidance on making the Commons more accessible for the disabled and that work will continue over the coming months.

The work of the Amenities Committee for the year is nearly completed. In the near future the area around each of the new benches will be levelled to make access easier. The design work for two new signs regarding efforts to save the signature oak tree has been completed. Efforts to get lines painted on the basketball court as well as a hopscotch course have been delayed by issues with the basketball hoop (see below) but the work will get done soon.

It would be wonderful to end the newsletter with nothing other than positives but such, unfortunately, is not the case. The new basketball hoop has been broken in its ability to go up and down. The unit is guaranteed for life for everything other than abuse and/or vandalism. The unit did not break from use

or even overly enthusiastic use, it was broken with intent. So much pressure was applied to the unit that a ¾ inch solid steel rod was bent at near 30 degree angles and the housing for the rod was partially split (see picture below). If anyone has any information on whom, when, or how this was done the Board would be interested in hearing from you. The Board has voted to repair the vandalized portion of the unit on this occasion but will be reluctant to do so in the future.

Lastly, the topic that upsets the community more than any other issue has to be addressed – PETS. If you are a pet owner it is imperative that you respect the rights, wishes, and property of those that do not own animals. Some people are legitimately scared or intimidated by dogs, some are allergic, and no one likes to clean up dog or cat waste from their yard, especially if they own neither. Loose dogs and straying cats are not everyone's responsibility; owners must become more aware of how their pets affect others. The Board would hope that members of the community can reign in the numerous loose dogs and straying cats, but as a last resort the CC&Rs must be adhered to.

The next ARC meeting will be August 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

The next AHHA Board meeting will be September 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Silverton Senior Center.