

Richfield Friendship City Commission Meeting Minutes June 18, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Roger Swanson, our Chairman. Members present were Roger Swanson, Craig Osten, Frank Sitko and Dave Delzer. Mary Supple was ill and could not be with us. Christine Kargel was absent.

Jim Topitzhofer, Recreation Services Director for the City of Richfield, was introduced. He had been asked to join us and share regarding the impact on Heredia Park that would result from the construction of the new Richfield City Hall. Mr. Topitzhofer had met with concerned neighbors two days before, Tuesday June 16th. There will be another neighborhood meeting July 16th. The gist of the meeting Tuesday was that the community members who live near the park do use it and would like to see similar features and function once the work is done.

It was explained the park will partially be used as staging area while the new building is being worked on. We were shown the site plan and Mr. Topitzhofer attempted to describe how Heredia Park would probably be after the new facility was completed. While a portion of the park will need to be used within the footprint of the new facility and for Fire Department parking, park functions after the work is done would include green space, tennis, perhaps a picnic shelter, playground and ball field. City Hall visitors and employees would benefit from ready park access and enhanced landscaping.

Commission members again expressed their concern that Heredia Park remain viable and recognizable as an entity; reiterating how it tied together with "Boulevard Richfield" in Heredia; named in honor of our Friendship City connection and designated as such with a plaque. It would be good to include a plaque or some other explanation of why the park is named as it is.

Other concerns regarding our needs were covered. While we have shared these concerns with Mayor Goetel and with Rick Jabs previously, Mr. Topitzhofer suggested that the time would be right to send a letter to Mr. Jabs regarding our needs for display and storage space and requesting a meeting room be named the Heredia room. We appreciated his input. Thanks, Jim!

May 21st meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer indicated funds of \$3772 remaining after \$1425 had been sent to Heredia for earthquake relief. Frank Sitko's efforts with the records were reviewed and his recommendations accepted. Good work, Frank!

The next meeting will be July 16th. Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Dave Delzer.