

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Waverley called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Alice Waverley, Commissioners Heather Hester, Steve Keane, and Pat Rooney

Absent: Commissioners Darren Baker, Chris Boruff, and Greg Moore

Others Present: Rick Larsen, Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association
Bill O'Brien, Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association
Kevin Parks, Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association
Marty Brennan, Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association

Staff Present: Michael Hayes, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Todd Linder, Recreation Supervisor
Bethany Salmon, Village Planner
Maggie South, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes- October 10, 2023

Commissioner Hester made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting as presented. Commissioner Rooney seconded the motion. Upon the call of the roll, the votes were:

Ayes: Commissioners Hester, Keane, and Rooney and Chairman Waverley

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Baker, Boruff, and Moore

The motion carried. The minutes of the October 10, 2023 were approved.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Gateway Update

Mr. Hayes provided the report. Registration for Gateway programs is still fantastic. The organization is currently looking for information on leasing new buses. Basketball season is beginning soon and Gateway is looking for referees.

MONTHLY REPORTS

A. Staff Report

Mr. Hayes provided the report. He provided clarification regarding programming numbers, as many of the Village's recreation programs are cooperative. Therefore, staff can only offer what the hosting organizations offer. Staff is working with the Village of Willowbrook to offer new active adult programs. Signs regarding winter/spring registration were placed in all of the parks and an ad was run in The Hinsdalean reminding residents of registration dates.

Mr. Hayes provided an overview of registration numbers through the end of September, as well as a comparison of online and in-person registration numbers month to month. Ms. South discussed the different ways in which people register for programs. Mr. Hayes provided a recreation programming revenue and expenditures budget for CY2022, 2023, and 2024 as created by Director of Finance/Assistant Village Manager Carrie Dittman. Mr. Hayes and the Commission discussed the different line items as presented.

Mr. Linder provided an update on special events. Fall Fest was held on October 14. Although the weather was poor, the event was well-attended. The Burlington Park location was very popular, as it moved the event into proximity with the Police and Fire Department Open Houses. Activities included the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce costume contest, photos with The Hinsdalean, and holiday crafts. Breakfast with Santa is currently sold out and only 26 spots are open for Pizza with Santa. Letters to Santa begins on December 1st. Winter Wonderland only has 150 spaces left and has seven partners sponsoring the event. Staff is currently working to consolidate all program and event supplies in one location at KLM Park.

October was a busy month at The Lodge with twelve rentals. Staff is working to coordinate a marketing plan. Mr. Hayes provided an overview of where people access the Lodge's website from. He also provided a 2019-2023 month by month event comparison. The Commission provided feedback on the formatting of the reports.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider the installation of a plaque on a bench in Burlington Park

Mr. Hayes presented the request. The DiSavino family has submitted a request to place a plaque on the final remaining bench in Burlington Park. Commissioner Rooney made a motion to approve the request for the installation of a plaque on a bench in Burlington Park. Commissioner Keane seconded the motion. Upon the call of the roll, the votes were:

Ayes: Commissioners Hester, Keane, and Rooney and Chairman Waverley

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Baker, Boruff, and Moore

The motion carried. The request to install a plaque on a bench at Burlington Park was approved.

B. Consider a recommendation or recommendations to the Village Board regarding the construction of two (2) additional paddle courts at KLM Park

Mr. Hayes presented the request from the Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association (HPTA). This item originally came before the Commission on May 10, 2022. As the project has moved forward, it was necessary to bring the item before the Commission again. This project would not require any Village funds. Mr. Kevin Parks from HPTA provided an overview of the project for the Commission.

Mr. Parks recognized the progress that the Village and HPTA have made to date in developing the facilities at Katherine Legge Memorial (KLM) Park to be a world-class facility. He praised the Village's relationship with HPTA as a successful public/private partnership. HPTA has seen an increase in participation at the KLM Park facility, both from new and existing members and from Hinsdale residents and non-residents. This proposal would increase the number of courts at KLM Park to eight. The project would be entirely financed by HPTA.

Mr. Parks moved to the discussion points included in the packet as areas of due diligence for HPTA. At this time, HPTA does not believe that the existing agreement between the Village and HPTA would need to be amended. HPTA believes that they have a very strong relationship with their neighbors, and they have not received any complaints in a number of years. As the project continues to proceed, HPTA will be proactive with neighbors to ensure that there will be minimal impact to them. HPTA has received input from the Village's engineering staff regarding the placement of the new courts, and they will continue to work with engineering staff moving forward. Regarding lights, HPTA will be respectful of any concerns regarding lighting. At this time, they have not received any complaints about the lighting. New LED fixtures are being proposed to limit any light spilling off of the courts. Mr. Parks assured the Commission that HPTA will work with John Finnell, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry, to mitigate any adverse impact to the existing trees adjacent to the proposed courts. Further, while there are parking issues at KLM Park, HPTA does not believe that they are part of the problem, as their busiest hours are not during the times when the park is most actively used. HPTA league play does not currently conflict with the Montessori School or with daytime events in the park. However, there may be occasional conflicts that require additional communication with the Village. HPTA's goal is to build the courts in summer of 2024 to be ready for fall 2024 league play.

The Commission discussed the proposal. Commissioners Keane and Rooney raised concerns about the trees near the proposed courts. Marty Brennan (HPTA) discussed the way paddle courts are constructed and how they will work to mitigate impact to the adjacent trees, although some limbs may require trimming. Commissioner Rooney also requested clarification regarding the Weekend Warrior program and its impact on parking at KLM. HPTA's members clarified that the Weekend Warrior program only utilizes four courts, so there will not be any additional stress on the parking. Mr. Hayes provided clarification on the Police Department's request for no parking signs along the access road and the ways in which the Village works with rental groups to help mitigate parking issues. Chairman Waverley recommended installing lights along the access road to help increase safety in the park as people are walking through the park between the parking lots if HPTA players will be using the County Line Road parking lot. Mr. Hayes assured the Commission that staff and the HPTA will further discuss the parking challenges moving forward. Further discussion of the proposed lights ensued. Ms. Salmon provided further details on what next the steps would be moving forward.

Commissioner Rooney made a motion to recommend to the Village Board the construction of two additional platform tennis courts at KLM Park with conditions based on the items outlined below.

1. Parking - Parking at KLM currently is challenging at times and it is possible that additional courts will increase the need for parking given other park uses such as events at the Lodge, playground, sport fields, and the Montessori School. Currently, during tournaments and busy times, HPTA users park on both sides of the access road and the grass. Further review of parking impacts by HPTA is necessary, and an in-depth analysis of parking must be completed to determine Zoning Code compliance. The Police Department is recommending that “No Parking” signs be installed along the access road and to further discuss the scheduling of large events by HPTA with Parks and Recreation.
2. Trees – HPTA does not propose to remove any trees under the proposed plans, but the courts will be located within very close proximity to two large trees. HPTA will be required to work with the Village Arborist to evaluate if there will be negative impacts to the trees and confirm any conflicts with the height of the courts.
3. Lights - Per the preliminary site plan, the courts will be slightly higher in grade (3-4 feet) than the existing courts and will have slightly taller lights as a result. HPTA will be required to provide detailed photometric plans for review. Staff recommends that HPTA shield the lights to reduce impacts to the neighbors. Currently, under the Agreement with HPTA, lights for the courts must turn off at 10:30 p.m. and operating hours for the facilities are 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
4. Engineering - HPTA is required to work with their engineering company to confirm compliance with all stormwater ordinances, that no compensatory storage will be required as part of the project, and that there are no impacts to neighboring properties.
5. Neighboring Uses / Outreach – It is recommended that HPTA meet with the Montessori School and the adjacent property owners as a part of this project. Staff has recommended that HPTA consider neighbor outreach prior to the Plan Commission and Village Board review processes.
6. Village & HPTA Agreements – The Village has an existing agreement with HPTA, originally approved by the Village Board on May 4, 2019, and later amended on March 2, 2021, which allows for the operation and prior renovation and expansion of the HPTA facilities. Additional discussions are needed to determine if amendments would be needed to the existing agreement as a result of the construction of two additional paddle tennis courts.

Commissioner Keane seconded the motion. Upon the call of the roll, the votes were:

Ayes: Commissioners Hester, Keane, and Rooney and Chairman Waverley

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Baker, Boruff, and Moore

The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Quarterly Commission Meetings

Mr. Hayes presented the proposal to move to quarterly meetings of the Commission. The issue was originally raised at the October 10, 2023 meeting. After reviewing the Village Code, there is no requirement for the Parks and Recreation Commission to meet monthly. After conferring with Chairman Waverley, it is proposed to hold meetings in February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm. Each meeting would cover specific discussion items (November would be budget recap, February would be a facility review, etc.). Should urgent business come up, a special meeting would be called. Mr. Hayes would also provide a monthly staff report to the Commission and would still communicate with Commissioners should they have any concerns. The Commission discussed the proposal and ultimately decided to schedule eight meetings in 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Hester made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm. Commissioner Keane seconded the motion.

Upon the call of the roll, the votes were:

Ayes: Commissioners Hester, Keane, and Rooney and Chairman Waverley

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioners Baker, Boruff, and Moore

The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

ATTEST:

Maggie South, Administrative Assistant