

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Memorial Hall Memorial Building

Chairman Banke called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

Members Present: Chairman Banke, Commissioners Baker, Owens, Conboy and Waverley

Members Absent: Commissioner Keane

Staff Present: Gina Hassett, Director of Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Owens moved approval of the September 8, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Conboy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Little Library Presentation by Hinsdale Library & the Christopher Family Foundation

Kelly Christopher Schuler spoke about the Foundation and how they want to become involved in the community parks. She defined it as take a book, return a book or keep a book. The Foundation will support 100% of the program funding. They will be checked every Monday by staff and the books will be refreshed if necessary. If it doesn't work, they will also pay the costs for termination. They hope to be able to add on to the program. Ms. Schuler stated that there were suggested locations, next to a park bench and facing west. Ms. Schuler emphasized the benefits of this program and how it would promote the use of the library.

Commissioner George asked if they have any other locations. They have no other locations in Hinsdale, but the hope is to have it in a park, it will promote literacy. Chairman Banke asked who the books would be geared to. Ms. Schuler stated that she would hope that there would be adult and children as well, but they are open for suggestions. Commissioner Owens commented that perhaps a phone number could be included in case there were questions or comments. They would start with one location to see how they are received. Commissioner Waverley commented about kids putting in inappropriate materials and that would have to be looked at closely. Commissioner Waverley also wanted to know if it would be a year round program, or just the spring and fall.

Ms. Schuler had four locations in mind but the parks department and the library need to decide the best location. Commissioner Baker suggested Robbins and Burns to start. Ms. Hassett stated that the maintenance was an initial concern. The Hinsdale police chief stated that there has been some vandalism at some places that have them. Ms. Hassett asked if Parks and Recreation special events could be included.

Commissioner Owens stated that LaGrange just installed Little Libraries in their town. She thought that Burlington Park would be a good trial, but Ms. Schuler stated that is close to the library so they thought a different location would be better. Chairman Banke asked what the materials would be. Ms. Schuler stated that there always needs to be a backup unit and they would be wood and painted. Ms. Schuler stated that spring would be a great time to start the project but will take whatever time that is needed.

Chairman Banke stated that all donations are greatly appreciated by the village.

Liaison Reports

Gateway Special Recreation Association

Ms. Hassett commented that the vehicle will be leased and they are working to get the correct language from the attorney.

Recreation Staff Report

Ms. Hassett commented on the report. KLM revenue increased 30% over the prior year due to increased bookings and increase in fees. Ms. Hassett explained about the condition of the walkways at the paddle courts. They are deteriorating and those walkways are currently closed due to safety issues. When they were built in 2003, they were not built to code and the materials were all donated. A temporary staircase has been constructed for the courts. The new stairs would be made of aluminum. The gas lines are under the decking, so that makes it a challenge. Chairman Banke asked where the funds come from for this project. Ms. Hassett stated that the village does have a reserve fund and the costs could be as much as \$85,000. Chairman Banke asked if HPTA has offered to help with the funding. Ms. Hassett stated that they don't have a lot of money because what they collect generally goes right back out in fees.

Commissioner Waverley asked if the gas lines have been turned off and stated that players are walking through the caution tape anyway. She suggested having communication sent out to the members notifying them of the danger. Ms. Hassett stated that the gas lines are now back on and the walkway will be dismantled as soon as possible. Ms. Hassett stated that the heaters are an issue every year but some work has been done to them because of the low clearance. The courts are located in the wettest part of the park and that will always be a challenge.

Ms. Hassett stated that the pool will come out better than the prior year primarily due to lower personnel expenses. The pool report will be presented at the next meeting. Town team participation was down primarily due to staff changes and competition. Ms. Hassett reported about an arson incident at Brook Park. There is mostly smoke damage and the family will be making restitution for the damage. Commissioner Waverley asked how long the bathrooms remain open. Ms. Hassett stated they generally stay open until the weather freezes, sometime in November.

Ms. Hassett stated that Fall Fest will be held at Hinsdale Middle School on Saturday, Oct. 24 and there will be touch a truck outside. Commissioner Baker asked how much of the school is used. Ms. Hassett stated we use the common area on the first floor and the vendors will be outside unless it rains. They can go to the gym on the 3rd floor if they can't be outside. It is more congested if the vendors are located on the first floor. Chairman Banke complemented Ms. Hassett that the financials are showing an increase of revenue and decrease in expenses.

Ms. Hassett stated that they flooded the Burns tennis courts to see if there are any areas that hold water. They will need to patch some areas, and leaves have been dropping to stall the project. They hope to still get the courts painted this year.

Revenue/Expense Report

Mr. Hassett commented on the report. Personnel services are up over the prior year due to staff vacancies or incorrect coding. Contractual expenses are down due to some of the mowing being allocated to Public Services budget. Ms. Hassett explained the program revenues and expenses. The pool revenue through August increased 6%. Commissioner Baker asked if the pool would be in the black. Ms. Hassett stated that there were some repairs, but she believes that it will be.

Old Business

Public Donation/Artwork Guidelines

Ms. Hassett received comments back on the draft policy from the village attorney. It will be brought to the Commission next month.

New Business

Ice Rink Discussion

Ms. Hassett commented on the plan for a rink at Burlington Park last year. She stated that there are challenges for installing an ice rink at Burlington Park and believes that staff should focus on a rink at Burns. Ms. Hassett asked for feedback on the two choices for installing the rink at Burns. There could be one large rink or two smaller rinks. We have the large rink on hand so no additional purchase would have to be made. All of the staff resources would still be allocated to snow removal. Ms. Hassett suggested option two, the one larger rink. The liner we have would last approximately three years. Commissioner Waverley asked about the area for hockey players.

Chairman Banke stated that he was happy with the larger rink. Ms. Hassett stated that there would be a goal to have the warming house open. Ms. Hassett gave the history of making the ice rink and how it is much more than buying a liner. Staff sits in trucks overnight to be sure no one drives or skates on it until the ice is ready. Commissioner Waverley asked if we know the usage. Ms. Hassett stated that there is no way of knowing that.

Melin Park Ice Rink Request

Ms. Hassett explained the annual request. Commissioner Baker asked about risk management for any liability at the rink. Ms. Hassett explained that staff inspects the rink and assumes the risk. Commissioner George moved approval of the motion. Commissioner Waverley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Hinsdale Swim Club Agreement Discussion

Ms. Hassett commented that there needed to be a recommendation to bring to the village board. The cost is \$17,900 with a 3% increase each year. One change is that they need to find an alternate location for Hinsdale members to swim at during meet times, which has currently been Clarendon Hills. Ms. Hassett stated that lap swimmers have use of two lanes during this time.

Chairman Banke asked what the motion was specifically for. The motion would be for the \$17,900 with a 3% increase for subsequent years. Commissioner George moved approval of the motion. Commissioner Conboy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Draft Community Survey

Ms. Hassett stated that the draft survey was just received and a copy of one from Pleasant Dale that was currently done. There will be an electronic version available as well as in direct mail. There will also be an ad in the Hinsdalean promoting the survey. The return date is November 20th. The goal is for the survey to be sent out the last week of October. Commissioner Waverley asked if there would be any incentive for filling it out and felt the survey was too long. Ms. Hassett stated that would be difficult because then personal information would have to be given.

Commissioner Waverley thought it was vague. Ms. Hassett stated that there is some clarification needed on visits and participation. Chairman Banke stated that he believes that there are many things on there that residents are not aware of. There was discussion among the Commissioners regarding the survey and thought it should be more focused. Commissioner Baker suggested having a pool section and being specific on the questions regarding their usage. Ms. Hassett commented on what should be removed or added to the survey. Commissioner Baker stated that it is important to have a web version of the survey. Ms. Hassett stated that the cost will be for mailing, printing and postage. Ms. Hassett asked for feedback from the Commissioners by the end of the week.

Correspondence

None

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Conboy moved to adjourn. Commissioner Baker seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was declared adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary