

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

Monday, October 26, 2015
Memorial Hall Memorial Building

Chairman Banke called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

Members Present: Chairman Banke, Commissioners Baker, Conboy, Keane, George and Waverley

Members Absent: Commissioner Owens

Staff Present: Gina Hassett, Director of Parks and Recreation, Kathleen Gargano, Village Manager, Darrell Langlois, Assistant Village Manager, Rob McGinnis, Building Commissioner, Linda Copp, Secretary

Others present: Members of HPTA: Marty Brennan, Mary Doten, Bill O'Brien, Kristen Evans, Rick Larsen, Patty Doolas, Margaret Hawn and Bryan Freel

Discussion regarding the KLM Platform Tennis Court Walkways

Chairman Banke gave a background of the situation regarding the walkways at KLM. Ms. Hassett commented on the memo regarding the license agreement with HPTA. She explained the items in the memo and the table that was provided with the contributions and expenses. Lifetime memberships were sold which offset the construction of the courts and the village is responsible for the maintenance of the hut. Staff noted this year about the declining condition of the walkways and suggested repairs be made in the next budget year. On October 9 the Village Building Commissioner noted that there was deterioration of the walkways and the gas and electric are under the walkway. The courts were closed at that time due to safety concerns. Staff stabilized the existing walkways because the bid process would take too long to be able to fix before winter. Staff is suggesting a structural engineer comes out so construction can start next spring. The building department will inspect all construction to be sure it is to code.

Ms. Gargano clarified that the scope of work exceeds \$20,000 and must go out to bid by state law. Specs will take a couple of weeks and the bid process takes time so the earliest it would be available would be late December or early January.

Marty Brennan, 4516 Woodland Ave, Western Springs, HPTA board member addressed the Commission. He mentioned that he runs the travel program and feels there is a good partnership with the staff. He stated that KLM was state of the art when it was built, but it is now 10 years old.

Mr. Brennan wanted to point out the three important issues that HPTA has.

1st – Opportunity to have a better working relationship with village and staff. He commented on how many new facilities have been built within 5 miles. They feel that KLM needs a better standard to compete with private clubs.

2nd – Infrastructure needs operating agreement to do long-term planning. Need to be ahead of issues yearly and need to maximize resources for the maintenance of the facility

3rd – Long term facility management, seasonal maintenance schedule, protocol in how to manage upkeep

Mr. Brennan commented on what the immediate needs are:

1. lighting at all courts - they feel LED is not adequate for good performance and player safety. They would like all courts to match the one that has been changed already. Suggestion is half this year and half next year.
2. court heaters – traditionally a problem due to topography. They propose an outside expert to consult on the heating equipment.
3. walkways – they are in support of the Village staff recommendations
4. snow removal – heaters will melt courts, but walkways need to be shoveled. Fullers is outsourced for that and HPTA wants to propose that Mary Doten could manage the snow removal crews.
5. Burns Field – original courts are worse than KLM and need a plan to maintain them

Mr. Brennan summarized that they would like to initiate funding for the paddle facility in general. He suggests keeping \$1 from every membership towards maintenance of the courts. Formation of an operating group so everyone is accountable and a plan and timetable for the suggestions of their needs.

Commissioner Conboy asked about the membership numbers – Mr. Brennan stated that there are 220 members in the men’s leagues and the women have 7 teams, which is one of the largest league. Bill O’Brien has 40 new players this year to learn the game every Sunday night. Commissioner Conboy asked how many communities are represented. Mr. Brennan explained how many communities are represented. Ms. Hassett stated that the non-residents have the biggest growth. Commissioner Keane asked if the revenue covers the costs. Mr. Langlois stated that generally it does cover operating costs but capital does not cover a six figure repair. We are not getting any more revenue from lifetime members. Mr. Langlois stated there is currently about \$11,000 surplus.

Commissioner Waverley asked why there was a limit of lifetime memberships. Ms. Hassett explained that they could be sold until the debt was paid or 29 memberships were sold. Mr. Langlois explained there is reluctance for anymore lifetime memberships and would have an impact on capital costs for big ticket items. The fees for next year will increase. Ms. Hassett explained that we are at the low end of fees but it also challenging because there are also league fees in addition. Mr. Brennan explained that the funding for the KLM courts was paid almost in full by the paddle members through lifetime memberships and donations.

Bill O’Brien, 16 Lake Ridge Club Court, Burr Ridge explained that the two Burns courts were donated by a resident, but four courts and the hut at KLM was mostly paid for by paddle members. The last two courts were paid for by paddle members. Membership fees cover the on-going operations and he explained why the courts are in that location. He explained that the Village did pay to build the last two courts.

Ms. Hassett stated that lifetime membership covered most of the courts but did cover the cost of the hut. Mr. Langlois stated that the village paid over \$400,000 with the hut. Commissioner Baker asked Mr. Brennan if the list was in priority order. Mr. Brennan stated that is correct and they feel confident that the walkways can hold until next year. Ms. Hassett commented on the lights and the expense would be around \$13,800 to do all of the fixtures. \$15,000 has been budgeted and \$5000 has already been spent for repairs, including heaters. All the water flows under the courts so it is a challenge to keep the heaters dry. Last year staff installed chicken coup heaters on 3 courts but then there were ventilation issues. Experts have stated that more ventilation is needed, but they were not built with the recommended clearance. Ms. Hassett explained the challenges that will always be there because of the wetness and clearance issues. The engineers will also evaluate that.

Commission Baker asked if the clearance issue would be covered in the budget amount for the repairs. Ms. Hassett explained that it is impossible and won’t go away. HPTA believes that the

walkways are secured for this season and now HPTA has new priorities. Ms. Hassett stated that there was never been a safety issue with the lights so they were not budgeted. There are no funds available this year for lighting changes.

Ms. Waverley stated that the walkways are still slippery and asked for more non-skid stripping to be installed. Ms. Hassett stated that there is no salt put there. Mr. Brennan stated that HPTA does endorse the proposal in the memo to replace the walkways in the summer. Commissioner Baker asked what is meant by cost sharing for an operating agreement. Mr. Brennan stated they don't have funds for maintaining a budget to help with the expense.

Chairman Banke thanked Marty Brennan for the presentation. Chairman Banke moved for a motion to go forward with the recommendation for the temporary fix and have a permanent solution in the off season.

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Commissioner Waverley moved to approve, Commissioner Baker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Banke told HPTA that the Commission is an advisory committee and will need to be considered by the board. He asked them to come up with creative ideas for funding and to remember that there is only so much money in the budget for the entire parks department.

Mr. Brennan asked when the lighting issue would be addressed. Chairman Banke stated we don't know when that would be. Commissioner Waverley asked about the \$15,000 in the budget. Ms. Hassett stated that about \$10,000 has already been used and there is not \$6,000 left for lighting. Ms. Hassett stated that if revenues exceed the projection, then it would be possible. Platform revenues will come in through November.

Bryan Freel, 32 S Adams, Hinsdale asked about how much money the paddle revenue provides. Mr. Langlois stated that it varies from year to year and currently there is an \$11,000 surplus. Paddle revenue pays for operating costs. \$29,419 is budgeted for expenditures to cover maintenance issues, including snow removal. Mr. Langlois explained that staff knew that the walkways would be in the budget for next year, but it will be significantly more than budgeted.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Conboy moved to adjourn. Commissioner George seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was declared adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary