

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

Tuesday, September 12, 2017
Memorial Building Board Room
7:00 PM

Chairman Waverley called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Memorial Building Board Room.

Members Present: Chairman Waverley, Commissioners Boruff, Keane, Baker, Hester and George

Members Absent: Commissioner Conboy

Also Present: Ed James, Brian Ratajczak and Mike Balas from Hinsdale Meadows project

Staff Present: Heather Bereckis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager/ Director of Public Safety
Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant
John Finnell, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry

Public Comment

Proposed changes to the KLM Lacrosse Fields

Representatives from Hinsdale Meadows project introduced themselves. Ms. Bereckis stated that the one regulation field is currently always booked. Ms. Bereckis commented on the field changes and is asking for a recommendation for field 3. The spoils donation would help with leveling the field and make it a regulation size field. The field would have a slope of less than 2%. It would look like the paddle field and a berm would be added in case of flooding on the Burr Ridge side. The entire build would take about 45 days dependent on the sale of the Hinsdale Meadows homes between July and August of 2019. The field would be off line for about a year.

Commissioner Keane asked about the revenue aspect. Ms. Bereckis stated there is currently only one field that pays for usage. The current regulation field is continuously booked. Commissioner Boruff asked about the removal of the dirt. Mr. James explained that it is part of the village ordinance to have a public benefit for a planned unit development. The board makes the ultimate decision if it is a public benefit. The goal is not to delay the process any further and any recommended would come back to Parks and Rec.

Commissioner Hester asked what else would be a public benefit. Ms. Bereckis stated that would be anything that is amendable to both parties. Some other items that other villages have used were sports courts or fixing sidewalks. At this point, the recommendation is for what is being presented currently. Commissioner Hester asked if the recommendation is for only the third field. Chairman Waverley stated that she did meet with the village regarding the look to the park from the lodge. The first step is to start with this field to see how it looks before continuing with the other fields.

Commissioner Baker stated that this field would not be lifted that much so the look would not change that much. He believes that the other two fields topography could look a lot different if they were to be leveled. Ms. Bereckis commented on a memo from Commissioner Conboy regarding the proposal. Commissioner Conboy is not in favor of the plan to level the field. Ms. Bereckis stated that fields one and two would be looked at after field three was finished.

Mr. James explained the timing. It is dependent on the home sales. The dirt would be stockpiled at the property and when there is enough dirt, it will be brought to KLM through the common property

line. The best time is July 1 -August 15 of 2019. Mr. James explained how many units there will be in the complex and about 2/3rds would need to be sold. The work would be coordinated with events that go on in the park, such as cross country. Mr. Bloom explained that Cross Country uses the inner perimeter. Mr. James explained that the haul road will cross the cross country path but it will be fenced off when the runners are not there. Ms. Bereckis stated that the ruts will be managed so no one gets injured.

Chairman Waverley asked about where the berm would be. Mr. James explained that the water will flow south. Commissioner Boruff commented that there is good logic in the plan but also had some other thoughts regarding the memo that Commissioner Conboy sent. Commissioner Keane thinks doing one field is a good compromise. Commissioner Baker commented that these are the only fields we have for lacrosse and this can deliver the demand for more lacrosse fields. Ms. Bereckis stated that we do get complaints that the fields are not level and we only have one regulation field. If you are playing a game, it must be on a regulation field.

Commissioner Hester also commented about getting use of one field and being hesitant to do the other fields. She feels that KLM is not a recreational park for sports and is such a gem. Mr. Bloom stated that the next step is going before the Plan Commission and then the Village Board. Mr. James stated that this was approved based on the recommendation by Parks and Rec. Mr. Bloom stated there are no legal ramifications with doing this according to the agreement with the Village.

Chairman Waverley asked Mr. Finnell about the trees that will be planted. The species will be integrated and still have the natural look. Commissioner Boruff asked if the developer has filled their obligation by filling only one field instead of three. Mr. Bloom stated that is not clearly defined in the Ordinance and it is up to the board to decide. Mr. James commented that this is in addition to a contribution that was given to the village years prior from the Sedgewick Development. Mr. James stated that since the improvement to the field can generate revenue, it is a win/win situation. The natural beauty on fields one and two would still be there. Commission Baker asked if there was any financial outlay by the Village. Mr. James stated there is not. Ms. Bereckis stated that the decision for the other two fields would need to be done once field three is done.

Chairman Waverley made the motion to recommend for the proposed improvements at KLM lacrosse fields beginning with field three and the improvement to the berm and the natural trees. Commissioner Baker seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Waverley thanked Mr. James and his associates for sharing the information.

The Commission would like to have a master plan for the vision for KLM Park. Mr. Bereckis suggested setting up a Sub-Committee.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Baker moved approval of the July 18, 2017 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner George seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Gateway Special Recreation Association Report

Ms. Bereckis gave the report. There has been a lot of turn over and Ms. Bereckis is now the longest member at 1½ years. There will now be a master calendar for 2018. The articles of agreement have been renewed for three years. Ms. Bereckis stated that two teams went to the Special Olympics for softball.

Monthly Reports

Ms. Bereckis presented the staff report for July, 2017. Revenue for picnics is down slightly and field revenue has decreased but that is due to timing of the payments. Fields are booked to capacity

due to the great weather. Programs and activities have increased for some of the programming. The early childhood programs are now being done at the Community House and we will receive 20% of the revenue. Platform tennis has increased due to off season rentals. There is a meeting with HPTA next week to work through the HPTA agreement. The lodge revenue decreased 17% but the marketing has picked up rentals for next year.

Ms. Bereckis stated that pool revenue decreased about 2% and pool resident passes increased but 10 visit passes decreased. Diving and water polo were filled for both sessions and did well. Operating expenses have decreased and staff wages have increased slightly. Commissioner Boruff asked about the variance in staff wages. Ms. Bereckis explained it is due to the times staff is sent home for weather or low attendance. Commissioner Baker asked about pool numbers being in the red, but Ms. Bereckis stated that the final numbers should be in the black. Ms. Bereckis stated that there were no major expenses.

Commissioner Baker asked if there would be any new features at the pool for next year. Ms. Bereckis stated any capital figures would need to be presented now. Commissioner Boruff asked about the status on the climbing wall. Ms. Bereckis says it can still be put into the capital plan. Mr. Bloom explained that it depends on what other items are in the capital plan and it will be put in as a place holder for next year for \$17,000. There should be some idea by the November meeting where it is in the capital plan.

Commissioner Boruff asked if there is a planning process for a comprehensive plan. Ms. Bereckis stated that a comprehensive plan for the pool is currently in four years. Mr. Bloom stated that the water plant staff has good knowledge regarding how much life is left in the pool. Chairman Waverley asked what the study will determine. Mr. Bloom stated it will ask when will there be significant repairs and how much will they cost. Commissioner Baker stated that they need to focus on what the community wants for the future and it would be a loss to not have a pool.

Staff Report

Ms. Bereckis commented on the financial reports. KLM had one extra event over last year in July. August had seven more events than last year. September has 11 reservations and last year there were 8. The Knot now has us on the first page of the searches. With the Knot lodge staff is now getting five or six leads per day.

Chairman Waverley asked about the lack of Wi-Fi at KLM and if that has impacted reservations. Ms. Bereckis stated that it is in the budget to get the capacity needed for new wireless routers. They would need to be in multiple locations in the building and would cost around \$5,000. Corporations are not deterred because they will use a hotspot. The marketing just started and we don't have data from that yet.

Mr. Bereckis stated that the food and wine event is this Thursday. There will be five tables. Staff hopes to have this event twice a year. Chairman Waverley asked about the monthly projections and to date November and December are low. Ms. Bereckis stated that those numbers should be higher with bookings coming in with holiday bookings. Ms. Bereckis believes that we will be ahead of last year in reservations. Commissioner Boruff asked about following up on leads from The Knot. Ms. Bereckis stated that someone is at KLM every day and they all follow up.

Ms. Bereckis commented that the Winter/spring brochure is being worked on and registration begins on December 11. New programs have been added for the fall. The final lunch on the lawn was a drum crew and was well attended. A snap chat has been started and each of the parks now has a hashtag. The first movie was well attended, but the second one was rescheduled and only one family showed up. There will be one more movie in October. Ms. Bereckis stated that the fall

movies day will be moved to Friday nights so it is not on a school night. Fall Fast will be held at the Community House because of the middle school being under construction.

Ms. Bereckis stated that the Holiday Express is Dec. 17 and is done by lottery. Fields are at capacity with soccer and lacrosse. Cross country has been at KLM and they hire police to control traffic. Platform tennis court work has been done and some heaters have to be repaired for a cost of about \$7500. Mr. Finnell explained that there is a GFI circuit under the courts and the power will be cut off when it gets really wet. There is not enough clearance under the court and the issue will continue. We have increased membership revenue to date and members are aware of the late fee that will begin on Nov. 1st.

Ms. Bereckis commented that through mid-August the pool daily revenue decreased slightly. There were more daily visits but less 10 visit passes. Neighborly passes continue to increase and are selling well. Ms. Bereckis stated that the largest group comes from LaGrange. Burr Ridge does have a small pool, so they do not get the neighborly rate.

Commissioner Boruff asked about the concessionaire. Ms. Bereckis stated that his sales have declined and we are waiting for his financials. They did not sell out of the window as he wanted. Ms. Bereckis stated she was frustrated with Mr. Creamer because of delays that he has caused.

Park Surveys Recap

Ms. Bereckis thanked the Commissioners for doing the surveys. Overall the parks are in good shape. The top five issues are: inconsistency and quality of park benches, inconsistency of park trash receptacles, tennis and basketball courts in poor condition, playgrounds lacking mulch and have lots of weeds, and inconsistent park signage.

Mr. Finnell explained that there is a lot of upkeep with a wooden bench, so resin player style benches are recommended. The Commissioners commented on their preferences for the style. Ms. Bereckis will present bench styles at the next meeting. Ms. Bereckis stated there are probably 30-40 benches that would need to be replaced and some would need to be done right away. Mr. Finnell stated that the benches would be replaced as needed and we currently don't have any in stock. Ms. Bereckis will bring samples of benches and trash receptacles to the next meeting.

Ms. Bereckis commented on the trash receptacles and the variety that there are. They are inconsistent but they need to be portable. Mr. Finnell commented on the wire mesh ones that do not last and have been pulled out of the parks.

Ms. Bereckis stated that there is a capital budget for redoing the basketball courts. Ms. Bereckis stated that some have already been redone and Peirce would be the next one due. The pickle ball courts at Brook would be covered under the court resurfacing that is currently in the budget. Surveys were sent to the Brook residents regarding the pickle ball courts and so far the comments are positive. The difference in price would be the cost of fencing and nets for the pickle ball courts.

Mr. Finnell explained about how the weeds are under control and the new type of mulch that can be purchased. Ms. Bereckis explained that the mulch is in the budget. Mr. Finnell stated that it is easy to find the mulch but hard to find an installer. The Commission asked Mr. Finnell about maintenance schedule and weed control. Mr. Finnell stated that there is an integrated pest management program in place that is non-chemical.

Commissioner Hester asked about the schedule for landscape maintenance for weed control. Mr. Finnell commented on what is included in the landscape contract. Commissioner Boruff asked about maintenance on structures at parks, like bathrooms. Ms. Bereckis stated that there is

painting and roofing that is being done that is in the budget. Ms. Bereckis stated that the park evaluations should be done yearly in the spring.

New Business

None

Correspondence

None

Other Business

National Recreation and Parks Conference

Ms. Bereckis mentioned that Sammy Hanzel and she will be attending the National Park and Recreation Conference in New Orleans at the end of September.

Ms. Bereckis stated that going forward the financial reports will be by season instead of monthly. Next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 10.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Boruff moved to adjourn. Commissioner George seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was declared adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant