

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

Tuesday, September 11, 2018  
Memorial Building Board Room  
6:30 PM

Chairman Boruff acted as Chair for the meeting since Chairman Waverley was absent. Commissioner Boruff called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Building Board Room.

**Members Present:** Commissioners Boruff, Baker, Keane, Hester and Moore

**Absent:** Chairman Waverley and Commissioner George

**Others Present:** Greg Donnelly, 24 S Monroe St, Hinsdale  
Colin & Meredith Peterik, 5345 Grand Ave, Western Springs  
John Rivera, 418 S Bruner St, Hinsdale

**Staff Present:** Heather Bereckis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager  
Hilary Poshek, KLM Lodge Manager  
Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Bereckis introduced Greg Moore as the new Commissioner to replace Patrick Conboy.

**Public Comment**

**Robert Frost statue** – Mr. Greg Donnelly discussed the product to review. His company invented a formula to change the color of copper to a green color to speed up the aging process. He believes the statue would be more eye appealing. The chemicals are all non-toxic and safe. Commissioner Keane asked if it would shorten the life span of the statue. Mr. Donnelly stated it did not since it is not changing the metal and the copper takes a long time to age. The Commissioners asked if he had done any other municipalities. Mr. Donnelly commented on the cities that he has done work for.

Mr. Donnelly stated that a bronze statue would take about 40 years to turn color. He already has used his product on the copper gutters on the Memorial building and public works. Ms. Bereckis shared the feedback from Chairman Waverley and Commissioner George and they were not in favor of it because the statue was donated. It was suggested to ask the donors what they thought of the idea. Mr. Donnelly stated that he would do it personally and it would be a slow process that would take a couple of days to spray it on. Mr. Bloom stated that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and not everyone likes the look.

Commissioner Keane also agreed that the donors should be contacted and use the majority decision of the donors. Mr. Bloom explained the choices for recommendations. Commissioner Moore asked if the product was tested to turn the item back to the original state if necessary. Mr. Connolly stated that it can be, but it is not done very often. Mr. Bloom stated that the statue is insured for \$250,000 so we have to be very careful what is done to it.

Mr. Bloom suggested tabling the decision until more research is done and the donors can be contacted. Commissioner Baker made the motion to table until the next meeting. Commissioner Hester seconded and the Commission agreed to table the decision until the next meeting.

**Veeck skate park** – Ms. Bereckis commented on the condition of the park and IRMA recommends it to be closed permanently. Colin and Meredith Peterik from Western Springs commented on the condition and safety concerns at the park. They believe that there will be a rise in popularity once again when skate boarding becomes a sport at the Olympics in 2020. They received 135 signatures in support of keeping the skate park.

Ms. Bereckis stated that the Village board did not give enough support to make repairs. There is some money in the budget and it could possibly be relocated to a better location. Ms. Bereckis stated that we need to work with people who can give ideas for relocating and design. Mr. Bloom stated that it is a spot for vandalism and it is difficult to see from the roadway so police have to drive into the back of the park.

Ms. Peterik stated that most people did not even know that there is a skate park in Hinsdale so they feel a different location would help. Mr. Peterik stated that there was a Dr. that signed the petition that gets many patients from the park because of how bad the park has become with nails and screws sticking out.

Ms. Bereckis is asking for a recommendation for either removing the equipment or just locking it up. Ms. Bereckis stated that in the future there could be discussion of building a new facility at a different location. The lifespan of the equipment is about 10 years. Mr. Peterik suggested using concrete instead of plastic. Mr. Bloom stated that our insurance carrier said the park is not safe and should not be used. The concrete and fence would remain but the equipment would be removed.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to remove the equipment. Commissioner Keane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Keane moved approval of the May 15, 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Gateway Special Recreation Association Report**

Ms. Bereckis gave the report. Ms. Bereckis commented that two kids are going to Special Olympics for golf. They are not Hinsdale residents, but new to Gateway. We are still looking for staff with 10 positions open. Oak Brook just built an all-inclusive playground that includes amenities for disabled or those with limited mobility. Commission Boruff asked if they are concerned about so many staffing vacancies. Ms. Bereckis stated that Gateway has a good core of staff, but there is high turnover. Raises have been approved for staff so that is helping with retaining people.

### **Monthly Reports**

a. Staff Report - August 2018.

Ms. Bereckis stated that KLM is doing well and has increased over last year. We are trending up over \$18,000. There have been requests for little programs that are on going. The marketing will continue.

The fall/winter brochure was delivered on July 30. Fall classes are starting this week. There are three winners from the photo contest. Sept 8<sup>th</sup> there was a dog days at the pool. There were about 80 dogs at the event. 75% of the participants were non-pool members and they had to pay \$5 each to attend. The wading pool was very popular with the small dogs. Ms. Bereckis commented on the release waiver that participants had to sign.

Commissioner Boruff asked about the beer/food event. Ms. Poshek stated that there was low attendance, but the food and beer were amazing. The participants thought the price was a little high and there were similar events in the area on the same night.

Ms. Bereckis commented that the final summer events were Lunch on the lawn and movie in the park. Over 200 people attended the movie at Robbins. All of the movies had sponsors so we had no expenses except for the popcorn and water. The movie at the pool had low attendance but it was a chilly night.

Ms. Bereckis reported that all the fields are rented and at capacity. If fields are closed, they do not have to pay and get a credit on their account. If the organization cancels play, we need seven days' notice or they have to pay.

b. Financial Report – end of year 2017/18

Ms. Bereckis reported that daily revenue for the pool has increased and there was a slight decrease in memberships, mainly residents. There is growth in the neighborhood passes. Commissioner Boruff asked about the total revenue and if it includes daily fees. Ms. Bereckis explained how the revenue is reported. Expenses are down so we should be in the black this year. Commissioner Moore asked about the budgeted amount being lower for KLM. Ms. Bereckis stated that is because it shows capital.

Ms. Bereckis stated that the figures are preliminary because finance runs 3-4 months behind our software. Revenue for fields and picnic shelters decreased primarily due to a wet spring last year. Money is credited to their account and not refunded. Parks expenses are up due to a new staff position. Programming has increased 9% and platform tennis revenue has increased.

Ms. Bereckis stated that KLM revenue increased 9% and expenses increased 13% as well due to more rentals, some of which were capital expenses. Commissioner Baker asked if the lodge expenses would always be higher than the revenue. Ms. Bereckis stated that if capital is not included, there is not a loss. There was some major expense at KLM this year. Commissioner Keane stated that we need to know if the lodge broke even over the last 5 years.

Class registration for the pool decreased, but some other pool programs increased. Overall, the year ended up better than last year.

c. Financial Report – May-July, 2018

Ms. Bereckis stated that most items have not posted yet through finance. Three years ago, we had a good year, but the last few years the spring has been wet. Picnic shelters rentals have decreased. Fullers are now maintaining the maintenance of the picnic shelters and there have been complaints about how dirty the shelters were. Operating expenses are up due to the vandalism to the slide that had to be replaced at Melin Park. There have not been many capital expenses yet that have not shown up. Ms. Bereckis explained about rec programs that have increased or decreased. Platform tennis fees are now being collected. Catering and rental revenue at KLM has increased about 30%. Pool revenue decreased 6% through July.

**Old Business**

a. Update on KLM Sub-Committee

Ms. Bereckis asked for a new member for this sub-committee since Patrick Conboy has left the Commission. Commission Greg Moore volunteered Ms. Poshek gave the report from the last meeting in July. She gave statistics on the Knot storefront and the increases on the leads. There has been more traffic to the website. Having the website as part of the VOH website was not easy

to find so a new domain has been created for the lodge to be on its own. New content tags will be put on the website and they are looking at ways to get the name out there better throughout Chicagoland. They track how many tours are being done and how many events are booked per month. Commissioner Boruff asked if logging the data would continue for multiple years. Ms. Poshek explained the graph of the types of event. Weddings are where the money is and so that is why promoting on the Knot is the right thing to do. Ms. Bereckis explained that there were more events, but they are smaller, less expensive events. Ms. Poshek explained that brides are no longer looking at magazines to find wedding venues, but do so on-line. Ms. Poshek explained that they are also researching food trucks and how to charge for them. Ms. Poshek explained that when people drop off or deliver food, there currently is no fee, so staff is looking at charging a fee to do that.

Ms. Poshek is also looking on the caterer list as far as the rules and fees. She wants to revamp the brochure and they are still coming up with something visually appealing. The sub-committee will help with those ideas. Ms. Poshek has researched some of the competition and most in the area market themselves as wedding venues. Ms. Bereckis stated that because of the unique look of the Lodge, there is a specific group of people we can cater to.

b. Update on Naming Rights Committee

Commissioners Hester, Baker and Ms. Bereckis have been working on the policy. Ms. Bereckis asked for feedback from the Commissioners. Commissioner Moore asked if the addendum was final text to fit into the policy. Commissioner Keane stated that narrowing it down will be very helpful. Commissioner Moore suggested more definitions that would be left to the judgement of the Board and if there were something new, it would have to be defined. Ms. Bereckis stated that this document still has to be sent to the attorney. Commissioner Keane asked about the termination of the name. Ms. Bereckis stated that whatever the lifespan is of the donation would be the name timeframe. Commissioner Hester stated that it would be a 7-year wait before naming something in memory of someone who dies. Commissioner Baker also stated that petitions have to be signed by at least 1000 residents. There are limits so that there is thought put into the naming and not done immediately. Ms. Bereckis is keeping a record of when benches etc. need to be replaced. Ms. Bereckis will send the document to the attorney and then it will come back to the Commission and then to the board.

**New Business - Park bench donations**

The Commission reviewed the three requests. The benches are all ones that were scheduled to be replaced. All Commissioners agreed to the first two requests. Ms. Bereckis explained the request from the Levine family. They want to donate a bench at KLM in memory of their son. Commissioner Baker asked about the reference to the photo on the application. Ms. Bereckis stated that she explained to the donor that we do not put photos on the bench. The Commission was in favor of the third request.

**Correspondence**

Ms. Bereckis commented on the letter from resident regarding brochure delivery. It comes every year but we do not know whom the resident is that sends this. If we knew who the resident was, we could not deliver the brochure to their door.

**Other Business**

- a. KLM Sub-Committee member – Commissioner Moore volunteered to serve on the Committee.
- b. HPTA update

Ms. Bereckis stated that the Village and HPTA are close to an agreement but they will not be taking over this year. There is a month-to-month agreement through January. The Village board agreed to raise membership fees this year. Ms. Bereckis stated that our membership fees are lower than the surrounding communities that have platform tennis courts.

- c. Tollway update – there will be some landscape pictures at the next meeting and will not impact soccer or little league
- d. Linda Copp retiring – Ms. Bereckis commented that Ms. Copp will be retiring at the end of the year and that December will be her last meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Baker moved to adjourn. Commissioner Keane seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was declared adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant