

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

Tuesday, October 9, 2018
Memorial Building Board Room
7:00 PM

Chairman Waverley called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Memorial Building Board Room.

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

Absent: Commissioner Boruff

Others Present: Marty Brennan, 4516 Woodland, Western Springs representing HPTA
Dan Filice, a consultant working with the tollway

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

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Baker moved approval of the September 11, 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 and stated that demographics of the participants were supplied at the last meeting.

Monthly Reports

Ms. Bereckis presented the report. There is continued growth for KLM. There are some minor maintenance issues. Brochure is out and the winter/spring brochure is at the printer. The wine mixer was cancelled due to low enrollment. There were only six couples enrolled. Ms. Bereckis stated that there is someone who will help next year with pre-sales.

Movie in the park is this Friday and Fall Fest is on Oct. 20. The dog event at the pool was a huge success and staff hopes to be able to do more dog events next year. Fields are in full use but there has been a lot of rain and has destroyed some turf. Police do try to monitor when teams use the fields when closed. The teams will be done by Thanksgiving. Platform tennis revenue is running a little behind primarily because of the late start to the sales. Ms. Hanzel is working on the final pool report. The concessionaire is interested in returning next year and is working on a pre-loaded card for kids to use.

Park maintenance report – Commissioner George asked if another park clean-up day could be done at the end of the fall in addition to the one in the spring. Mr. Finnell stated that there would be plenty areas that would need attention. Chairman Waverley asked about the leveling of the fields at KLM. Ms. Bereckis stated only 3% of the units are sold at 55th and County Line so there is not enough dirt to transfer yet.

Old Business

Robert Frost Statue – Mr. Donnelly was not in attendance. Ms. Bereckis stated that staff reached out to the donors that we could find. Staff is unable to find most of them since the list is twenty years old. Six were contacted and most were not in favor of the process. Commissioners George and Keane both stated that they had talked to residents about the idea and most were not in favor and did not understand the point of it. Staff will ask Mr. Donnelly to remove the product from the legs of the statue.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to leave the statue as it is and deny the request. Commissioner Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a. HPTA Agreement

Ms. Bereckis explained the Agreement and stated that it is currently with the attorney for fine-tuning. Chairman Waverley commented on the updates to the Agreement over the years and thanked all involved. Many staff have been involved with making the Agreement. Chairman Waverley explained the expenses that have occurred that were unforeseen and how the idea came about for HPTA to run the program. Chairman Waverley explained the plan to upgrade the existing hut in the amount of \$400,000. Additionally, the village will pay up to \$30,000 per year for operational and capital costs. Chairman Waverley explained the plan and the proposal that is being presented by HPTA.

Mr. Brennan commented on the HPTA plan to take on more responsibility for the program. He presented his power point slides and explained how the volunteers have worked to promote the program. Their goal is to have the premium public paddle program in Chicagoland. The volunteers are organized into five subcommittees: Technology, KLM hut expansion, memberships and programs, general management and budgeting and paddle courts and facilities. Commission Moore asked about if they would be competing for members. Mr. Brennan explained that most private clubs do not have a team at all levels. KLM always has something going on because of how many are on the leagues. Mr. Brennan explained that there are men that have played at private clubs that are now playing at KLM.

Mr. Brennan explained how they would handle the memberships. Target will be Hinsdale area residents that have not started playing yet and Club members who cannot get into a competitive program. Chairman Waverley explained how we are unique because we have premier pros to teach, Mary Doten and Bill O'Brien.

Mr. Brennan explained that we are an affordable option but the hut does not compare well and they want to improve it. He explained how leagues are played every Tues-Thurs. night through March. He showed a drawing of the hut concept that will include an office for the paddle pros and storage areas.

Membership fees will change according to how much they play. The organization will be totaling volunteer based in order to keep the costs down. Commissioner Hester asked about the ala-carte fees and how residents could be paying more. Commissioner Moore asked some questions regarding how much revenue could be generated. Mr. Brennan explained the new fee structure and how the Village sees no revenue from any of the league fees currently. Commissioner Moore also asked if there would be any more lifetime memberships. Mr. Brennan explained that there will not be anymore lifetime memberships sold. The membership fee would be waived but they would still pay league fees.

Mr. Brennan stated that the men's league is almost maxed out because of limitation of courts and times available to play, but the women have more availability. The member survey indicated 95% positive rate for HPTA plan. Mr. Brennan explained that a renovated hut will increase private rentals. Mr. Brennan showed how this agreement would work for Hinsdale.

Commissioner Keane asked if there would be a goal. Mr. Brennan stated that he feels comfortable there will be growth of the program since it will be a self-run operation. Burns courts are included but need a lot of work so the focus initially will be on KLM. The hope is that once the loan is paid back in 7 years there might be some attention to Burns courts.

Chairman Waverley asked the Commission for a recommendation of support. Commissioner Hester approved the Agreement contingent upon the Village board reaching acceptable terms on the lease agreement with HPTA. Commissioner Moore seconded and the recommendation passed unanimously.

b. Tollway landscaping design

Dan Filice from the tollway consultant firm showed option 2B plan as the staff choice. His company is in charge of the BNSF railroad bridge, which will affect Peirce and Veeck parks. Mr. Bloom explained the issue of the impact of the third rail for maintenance that is being added and the impact on the parks. Commissioner Keane asked about the options that were being chosen. Mr. Bloom explained the concerns and how the changes can make the parks look better. Ms. Bereckis showed the walls that will be constructed.

Mr. Filice explained how the railroad embankment would be changed. The Peirce park improvements would begin by the Highland station and would bury the culvert. The noise wall would be by the tollway right a-way. Chairman Waverley asked some questions about the green area and what was our responsibility vs. the tollway responsibility. Mr. Filice explained that this is a general overview concept and plans that are more detailed would be submitted with the final plan. Commissioner Baker asked about the line of sight trees and how long before they would grow. Ms. Bereckis stated it would be 16" per year, so about 10 years. Mr. Finell stated that as long as they are maintained, the benefit would increase. Mr. Bloom explained that there would actually be four tracks, one to store vehicles for maintenance. The maintenance track is about 1500' feet long and will end half way into Peirce Park. Staff is trying to find out how often the maintenance track will be used. The vehicles will only be there during track maintenance and staff is trying to get more information from BNSF on how long the maintenance vehicles will be there.

John Finnell commented that they have met with the tollway with the concerns and he believes that long term there will be more green space. Staff just needs to review the plan and be sure that it works long term. Mr. Finnell stated that the fields will be able to be rotated more often. Ms. Bereckis stated that the east side of Peirce Park will have the sound wall right behind the dugouts but green space will be added to the western side.

Commissioner Keane asked if we do native landscape. Mr. Finnell stated we are in zone 4 and 5 and most of the landscaping is native to IL. He explained they look for plants that will last over 40 years. Commissioner Moore made a motion to move forward with the plan. Commissioner Keane seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

c. Park bench donation – Cloud family

This one is in honor of their dog and will replace a bench at Burns that was scheduled to be replaced. Commissioner Baker asked what the rules are for dogs in the parks. Ms. Bereckis explained what the rules are. The Commissioners all agreed to the request.

Correspondence

None

Other Business - Update on National Recreation and Parks Conference

Ms. Bereckis explained how the new trend is having pets involved in events. She was thankful for the opportunity to attend. It was beneficial because the National Conference offers more for municipalities and the Illinois Conference concentrates more on Park Districts. The new trends are virtual reality and classes with pets and animals. Mr. Finnell commented on the success of pickle ball. Our pickle ball courts are under construction but the weather is too cold so that project is on hold until the spring. Ms. Bereckis mentioned that doing movies in the parks has been huge and if we get generators, we could use other parks. She explained that new events are being planned for the parks.

Meeting schedule for December has to be changed to the board meeting. December 4th could be a possible meeting date. Ms. Bereckis does not want to cancel meetings in November-January since she will be going on maternity leave in February and wants to have important matters done before she leaves.

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 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant