

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
January 15, 2019**

Chairman Waverley called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 7:00 pm at the Memorial Building Board Room

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Baker

**Others Present:** Vincent Distasio

**Staff Present:** Heather Bereckis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager  
Sammy Hanzel, Recreation Supervisor  
Maggie South, Administrative Assistant

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approval of Minutes**

There being no changes to the draft minutes, Commissioner Keane made the motion to approve the draft minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Moore seconded. A voice vote was called and passed unanimously.

**Gateway Special Recreation Association Report**

Ms. Hanzel presented the report. She called the Commissioners' attention to the attached audit. She further explained that Gateway is looking into purchasing or leasing new vehicles, as the vehicles they currently use are dated and reaching the end of their viability.

Commissioner Boruff asked if there was any discussion about controls issues. Ms. Bereckis explained that the board would like someone who is trained in accounting to be treasurer.

**Monthly Reports**

- a. Ms. Hanzel explained that KLM Lodge revenue has increased over the prior year. She then explained the revenue data for December 2018, which was not finalized as the books were still open for December, and the projected revenue for 2019. Commissioner Boruff expressed concern that early 2019 was not looking as robust as early 2018. Ms. Bereckis explained that lots of spring bookings are last-

minute. She also explained that a hotel chain that would book several events outgrew our facility and can no longer book with us. Part of the struggle is that the upstairs area is not easily accessible and that the downstairs is difficult to break up into multiple spaces. Lodge Manager Hillary is looking at finding another business to take their place. The Commission expressed concern that it looks as if KLM doesn't have many bookings so far. Ms. Bereckis explained that Ms. Poshek is trying to accommodate as many groups as possible for the end of the year, which is challenging. Part of the challenge is that the Lodge cannot double-book dates for weddings. To combat this, Ms. Poshek is offering a small discount to groups who take open Fridays instead of Saturdays.

Ms. Hanzel offered a break down of some of our past and upcoming events. T-Ball is already reaching capacity and is performing very well. Ms. Hanzel explained that Holiday Express went very well. Upcoming events include the Egg Hunt and the Spring Park Clean-Up Day. Ms. Bereckis informed the Board that Ms. Hanzel brought in \$25,000 in additional sponsorships for the year and that she was awarded with an Employee Recognition Service Award from the Village for this work.

Ms. Hanzel reported on the status of the ice rink. Staff is hoping to be open by January 26, and they must be taken down by March 15 to get fields ready. It is looking like the residents at Mellin may opt out of setting their rink up as the season may be so short.

Ms. Hanzel reported on the Platform Tennis reports. There has been an increase in revenue due to an increase in fees, however memberships, particularly resident memberships are down. Chairman Waverley reported on the status of the agreement with HPTA. Staff is waiting for HPTA to return the agreement with their comments.

Commissioner Keane asked if staff tracks weather year-over-year and how it affects the ice rink and fields. Ms. Bereckis explained that staff has been tracking the weather each year and setting up the ice rink later and later. The rink takes six full days to freeze. The ground must be frozen and the weather must be below 30 degrees for six consecutive days. Because of the ground at Burns, it takes a very long time to freeze since one end is nearly four feet deep. If the rink was on the tennis courts, it would be an even amount of water, staff would be able to lock it up, and the ground wouldn't have to freeze. The downside is that it is a little less inviting. Staff would need to offer two separate rinks, but they would have the potential to be open longer and there would be less possibility for damage to the liner. Damage to the liner would end the season prematurely. Chairman Waverley suggested polling people about whether or not they would care if the rink was on the tennis courts if they could use the rink longer. Commissioner Keane inquired about removing the tennis court poles to create a larger rink. Ms. Bereckis said she would speak with John Finnell about it.

Ms. Bereckis and Commissioner Boruff reported on the KLM Lodge subcommittee. They are looking at updating the brochure and redesigning the website to match. Brochures are budgeted for May 1, so they would come after that. Ms. Bereckis

discussed caterer fees and how they compare to other venues. She also discussed the potential for food trucks and creating a more flexible, boutique feel at the Lodge. They are exploring their options for offerings and what would allow them to retain the flexibility at the Lodge.

- b. Ms. Bereckis described the Treasurer's Report. Picnic and field revenue have increased about 15%, and field revenue alone has increased 33%. New groups have been approaching the Department for rentals, so staff are offering them fields we wouldn't usually offer. Picnic revenue was down 20% due to the wet spring weather. Park Maintenance costs were up due to vandalism. She reported that the bleachers have been repaired. All staff positions except for Horticulturalist have been filled. Program revenue has increased 12%, largely due to new offerings. Expenses are up 11% due to increased revenue. Athletic programming revenue is down about 4%, which follows the trend of the last several years. This could be because of wider availability of more specialized sports and camps, whereas Hinsdale offers basic sports. Early childhood income has decreased because day camps were passed to the Community House, but expenses are also down. Platform Tennis revenue is up by 23%, mostly in Non-resident Memberships. General Expenses are down, since the platform tennis heaters are now a capital expense. Chairman Waverley asked who shovels the sidewalks from the parking lot to the Paddle Hut. Ms. Bereckis explained that park paths are maintained by Public Works, but their directive by the Village President is to prioritize downtown and major arteries through town. Special Events revenue is up by 90%, thanks to increased sponsorships. Rec Admin Operating Expenses are up by 8% due to staff merit increases. Community Pool revenue has increased. Ms. Bereckis explained that Town Team registration decreased and will probably continue to fluctuate. There is potential for additional after hours rentals. Pool Operating Expenses increased due to when things were purchased during the fiscal year. Ms. Bereckis explained that these numbers will increase very slightly, but there should not be much change in the expenses.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **a. Concessions Contract Renewal**

Ms. Hanzel explained the concessions contract with Baldinelli's. Staff is recommending that the Commission accept the contract for the 2019-2021 pool season. Commissioner Moore questioned whether or not Baldinelli's runs a background check on the employees at the concession stand. Mr. Distasio explained that all of his workers are fifteen or sixteen years old and that he would be happy to run a background check if needed. The Commission deferred to Assistant Manager Bloom's judgement. Mr. Bloom did not feel that it was necessary to background check teenagers. The Commission inquired about credit cards and reloadable concession cards. Mr. Distasio explained that Clarendon Hills is going to offer reloadable cards and the benefits of these cards.

He also explained how credit and debit cards are run. Ms. Bereckis explained that we will be trying to integrate our system with Clarendon Hills' system and that the workers will have access to WiFi at the pool. Chairman Waverley asked Mr. Distasio about the figures presented in the RFP. Ms. Bereckis explained that we are expecting the amount of concessions sold to increase, especially if the weather is good. There was discussion of promoting the use of the walk-up window and advertising this as an option, especially now that Hinsdale Ave. is open. Chairman Waverley expressed concern that concession sales seem to be dropping. Ms. Bereckis explained that our pool membership numbers have decreased over the past few years. She further explained that there is a decrease in participation in programs where there is significant saturation of the market. Ms. Hanzel told the Commission that she and Mr. Distasio have been working on birthday packages to offer at the pool. Mr. Distasio said that he is also working on a hot dog cart, which may drive sales. Chairman Waverley clarified that this is a three-year term with an option to renew in April 2022, since the 2021 pool season would need to be included.

Commissioner Boruff motioned to approve, Commissioner Keane seconded, voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence**

None.

**Other Business/Discussion Items**

Ms. Bereckis pointed out that we have nothing for the February agenda. Her last day is February 1, and she will send out a staff report before that.

Chairman Waverley wished Ms. Bereckis well during her maternity leave and called attention to the upcoming Unplug Event

**Adjournment**

Commissioner George motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:42. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moore. A voice vote was called and passed unanimously.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maggie South  
Administrative Assistant