

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 8, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Waverley called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Chairman Alice Waverley, Commissioners Darren Baker, Chris Boruff, Steve Keane, Heather Hester, Gregory Moore, John George

Absent:

None

Others Present:

Tom Lockhart (Hinsdale Tennis Association)
Nick Skokna, Hinsdale Resident

Staff Present:

Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public Safety
Heather Bereckis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Sammy Hanzel, Recreation Supervisor
John Finnell, Forestry and Parks Superintendent
Maggie South, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes—September 10, 2019

Commissioner Keane motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Hester seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and all were in favor. The motion passed.

B. Approval of minutes—September 20, 2019

Commissioner Baker motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Hester seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and all were in favor. The motion passed.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Gateway Special Recreation Association Report

Ms. Bereckis asked if anyone had any questions regarding the report. Nothing was noted.

MONTHLY REPORTS

A. Recreation Staff Report – September 2019

Ms. Bereckis asked if anyone had any questions regarding the report. Nothing major was noted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. KLM Brochure

Ms. Bereckis presented the new draft of the brochure to the Commission. A photographer took new photos of The Lodge in exchange for her business cards being handed out. Some of the kissing couples have been replaced with photos of the space. The brochure does note that other types of events besides weddings are offered. Chairman Waverley offered her suggestions. Overall, the Commission was in favor of the new brochure with the recommended changes. Ms. Bereckis described the next steps of the rebrand, including the new website. Commissioner Moore inquired about the potential changes to the catering program. Ms. Bereckis and Ms. Poshek will schedule a meeting for the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

A. HTA Review & License Agreement

Tom Lockhart introduced himself to the Commission. He noted that the HTA has been a successful program for many years and highlighted some notable alumni. However, enrollment in the recreational aspect is declining. Mr. Lockhart wants to dedicate more time to growing this

part of the program. Ms. Bereckis provided a review of the recreational program and competitive lessons. Competitive lessons continue to grow. Recreational tennis is declining, but competitive lessons are increasing. Ms. Bereckis' provided a recommendation regarding the fee structure. Mr. Lockhart described the ways in which his program is different from other recreational programs and the challenges he faces. The Commission and staff discussed options for registrations for the program. The Commission and Mr. Lockhart discussed the Hinsdale Tennis Association program further and what types of activities succeed with other recreational organizations. Ms. Bereckis noted that the program is no longer capturing children under eight. Discussion ensued regarding marketing, competition from high school organizations, the challenges involved with scheduling outdoor programs without adequate indoor space, and potential changes to the program. Commissioner Boruff noted the importance of knowing who to target and what the obstacles are to the success of a particular program. Chairman Waverley noted that per the survey responses from last year, there were requests for higher caliber instructors as well as longer camp sessions. Commissioner Boruff asked if a subcommittee could be formed to do more research on the issue. Commissioners Boruff and Baker volunteered to serve on the Tennis Subcommittee.

B. Park Walkthroughs

Ms. Bereckis introduced John Finnell, Parks and Forestry Superintendent, to help present the Park Survey results. The results were reviewed by Mr. Finnell and Ms. Bereckis. Mulch at the parks is replaced every June, and weeding is difficult with the wet weather. Weeding will be included in the landscaping contract. As playgrounds are replaced, poured soft surfaces will be used in place of mulch. Ms. Bereckis is also working on a new Parks Masterplan. New receptacles have been budgeted for and will be installed in the coming years. Ms. Bereckis recommended that the Commission consider the types of picnic table they would like, as the type that look most similar to the park benches are not identical and are very expensive. Picnic tables should be considered as a capital item. Chairman Waverley noted that some look as if they could use only minor repairs, and Mr. Finnell informed the Commission that there is a stock in the barn at KLM that can be used to restore the vandalized or broken tables during the winter. Tree removal occurs each winter. This winter Mr. Finnell's crew will remove roughly 40% of the diseased trees in the parks. A new budget item has been added for revamping declining landscaped areas. In 2017, Ms. Bereckis and Mr. Finnell created a schedule for replacing playgrounds. The Tot Lot at Robbins Park is scheduled to be updated, as it is the oldest playground. It will be the first playground where mulch would be eliminated and poured soft surface would be installed. The current replacement schedule runs through 2034. Some of the playgrounds are themed, and the benches match the playground. Ms. Bereckis wants to be able to upgrade the playgrounds with ADA accessible equipment, poured play surfaces, and benches that meet the current standard. Sidewalks will be added to the Master Infrastructure Plan, similar to parking lots and roadways. Smaller items like net replacement and field grooming will be updated next spring. However, Mr. Finnell and his staff do replace small items like broken nets as they arise. The Commission discussed maintenance of various parks with Mr. Finnell. Chairman Waverley suggested asking local service organizations to volunteer to help maintain the parks. The Commission was in favor of conducting park walkthroughs every year, as was Mr. Finnell.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Pool Improvement Planning

Ms. Bereckis noted that there will be no major changes to the schedule. Improvements will begin at the end of the next pool season. Early next year, a basic design should be available.

B. Construction Update

The only construction that is ongoing is the Peirce Park Tennis Courts. The courts are ready to be painted, and staff is waiting to hear back from the contractor. The Tollway is beginning work near Peirce.

C. HPTA Update

Ms. Bereckis informed the Commission that the naming request for the Paddle Hut was approved. HPTA is now planning their construction. Chairman Waverley described the changes HPTA has made, which are very positive.

D. National Conference Update

Ms. Bereckis recapped National Conference for the Commission. Mr. Finnell, Ms. Bereckis, and Ms. Hanzel felt that it was a valuable experience. Ms. Bereckis attended sessions on volunteer program development and creating a "Friends of the Park" group. Ms. Hanzel attended courses on rebranding and programming. Mr. Finnell took a tour on downtown renovations in Frederik, Maryland and how it caused an economic upswing. He feels that downtown Hinsdale should be developed to be as parklike as possible to benefit everyone. Ms. South will be attending State Conference in Chicago in January.

E. Tollway Pedestrian Bridge

Mr. Bloom presented the new preliminary designs of the pedestrian bridge over the Tollway that connects Western Springs and Hinsdale. The Tollway has provided two design options. As the pedestrian bridge now has to be ADA compliant, the ramp has been extended and now includes switchbacks to bring the ramps into compliance. Neighbors who live in the area like having the pedestrian bridge, but they are not wholly in favor of the new design aesthetic, as it is a dramatic change. The second option would involve moving the bridge to connect Veeck Park and Spring Rock Park in Western Springs. Whatever design is chosen has to be in agreement with Western Springs and what they choose. Spring Rock is Western Springs' most heavily used park, and Veeck is one of Hinsdale's most heavily used parks. This bridge would connect people closer to downtown Western Springs and downtown Hinsdale. **Nick Skokna of 808 N. Oak** approached the Commission and noted that his family utilizes the bridge to get to Bemis Woods and the Zoo on their bikes. The Tollway is paying for this project. The Commission offered their feedback regarding both plans. The Commission suggested putting a billboard at Veeck to capture any interest or disinterest at that location.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Boruff motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36. Commissioner Hester seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36.