

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairman Alice Waverley  
Commissioners Darren Baker, Chris Boruff, John George,  
Heather Hester, Steve Keane, and Greg Moore  
Absent: Commissioner  
Others Present: None  
Staff Present: Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public  
Safety  
Heather Bereckis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
John Finnell, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry  
Sammy Hanzel, Recreation Supervisor  
Hilary Poshek, Lodge Manager  
Brian Powell, Aquatics Supervisor  
Maggie South, Administrative Assistant

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Approval of minutes- October 13, 2020**

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

**LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Gateway Special Recreation Association Report**

Ms. Bereckis presented the report. Gateway has been enjoying the platform tennis classes and would like to continue to offer them if HPTA is willing to continue to accommodate them. They are currently using Burns Field for therapeutic recreation.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**A. Recreation Staff Report – October 2020**

Ms. Bereckis presented the report. The school is providing some revenue, however, expenses are currently exceeding revenue due to front-loading expenses before the pandemic. 2021 looks to be a great year so far.

The Winter/Spring brochure will only be digital. It will go out November 30 with registration beginning December 7. Postcards will still be mailed out to let people know the new brochure is available. They will be delivered to every household.

Fall Festival was mostly successful, although it wasn't the same caliber as previous years due to the restrictions in place. Approximately 350 people attended. Next will be the Socially Distant Pictures with Santa and the Carriage Rides in December. The Turkey Trail Pop-Up Event is ongoing. Chairman Waverley noted the positive response she has received to the Turkey Trail.

Public Works has begun winterizing facilities and will put up the ice rink soon.

The Commission requested further information on the monthly newsletter. E-mail addresses were pulled from recent program participants and pool members. Chairman Waverley suggested advertising both the Parks and Recreation newsletter and eHinsdale newsletter. Commissioner Boruff suggested adding text to request people pass the newsletters on to grow the database.

Mr. Finnell presented updates of the Parks Maintenance report. Miscellaneous hours were from excavating and pouring new pads for benches at KLM, Brook, and Stough, as well as blowing leaves from the tennis and pickleball courts.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Ice Rink Options**

Staff reached out to the Clarendon Hills Park District to see how they build the rinks on the courts. CHPD staff noted that while it takes two days less to freeze, they do need to drill holes into the courts and their courts are lit. Staff would have to rent portable light towers and need to purchase additional rink liners and system pieces to build the rinks on the courts. At this time, staff does not feel it would be fiscally responsible to build the rink on the courts, but they would like to consider moving forward with building the rinks on the courts in the future. Additionally, drilling holes can cause cracking in the courts, which were recently refinished. Neither Clarendon Hills nor Hinsdale's rinks could open last year. In 2018, the rink was only open for three weeks to a month. An added benefit would be the ability to lock the courts to prevent damage. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of moving the ice rinks to the tennis courts in the future and whether or not to move the rink to a different park to aid in freezing it faster. Ideas included moving it to Burlington Park or finding a parking lot to use both this year and in the future. Staff will research available options for the rink.

#### **B. The Lodge Caterers- proposed changes to preferred vendor policy**

Ms. Poshek presented the current catering structure. Currently, preferred caterers pay \$1000 annually. Clients can also choose to bring in a one-day caterer for a \$500 fee or arrange for drop-off from a restaurant for no fee. In recent years, preferred caterers have complained that they are not receiving enough business as clients choose the drop-off option. Particularly this year, caterers have seen a steep drop in business. Staff is proposing moving to a percentage-based system. When a caterer books an event at the Lodge, they would pay a \$250 catering application fee and 10% of the food and beverage sales from the event. These caterers would receive advertising the same way they do now. This would lead to a significant increase in catering revenue. Staff is also proposing a fee for drop-off catering as a way to better regulate the process and streamline events. The Lodge is one of the only venues in the area that allows drop-offs. Those venues that do allow drop-off meals typically cap the maximum attendees at 50 people. Ms. Bereckis pointed out that the drop-off fee would mainly serve to discourage weddings from utilizing the drop-off option, as they are most likely to abuse it. The drop-off could be waived in certain circumstances, such as for non-profit organizations. The Commission discussed current and proposed processes. Staff was directed to continue refining the policy.

#### **C. End of Season Pool Report- Summer 2020**

Ms. Bereckis expressed her gratitude for the 2020 pool staff for working so hard to make the season happen. Ms. Hanzel and Mr. Powell presented the report. Due to the pandemic, the pool did not open until the end of June with additional policies and procedures in place. Memberships were eliminated in favor of a daily reservation system. The pool was able to turn a profit, mostly due to swim team rentals. While special events were cancelled, swim and dive lessons were able to run. Staff is hoping that more people will register for private swim lessons and dive lessons in the coming years due to the popularity of the programs. Town Team was cancelled due to the pandemic, but some coaches stayed on staff to coach private swim lessons and engage those program participants. Staff is planning on holding the 2021 season, even with COVID-19 guidelines. Survey responses indicated that most people would consider purchasing a membership to the pool in future years. Overall, comments were positive and people appreciated having the pool. The only negative comment was that the reservation system was less than ideal. Should the 2021 season operate under similar guidelines, staff will look into an online reservation system. Marketing will largely take place in the summer program guide due to uncertainty surrounding the pandemic. A number of public pools did not open this year, which led to an increase in traffic at the Hinsdale Community Pool. The Commission discussed the report and the OSLAD Grant upgrades, which will begin in the spring. The Commission expressed their gratitude to staff for working so hard to open the pool for the 2020 season.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Chairman Waverley requested updates on the KLM fields and the pedestrian bridge. Mr. Bloom updated the Commission on the status of both projects.

#### **A. Next Meeting Date- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The next Commission meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### **B. Park Surveys- Due November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Ms. Bereckis reminded the Commission that park surveys are due November 20<sup>th</sup> and will be presented at the January meeting.

Ms. Bereckis also called the Commission's attention to the ornament decorating contest.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Baker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Keane seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

ATTEST:

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Maggie South, Administrative Assistant