

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Waverley called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Alice Waverley, Commissioners Chris Boruff, Darren Baker, Heather Hester, Steve Keane, and Greg Moore

Absent: Commissioner John George

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 and Marketing Communications Manager
Maggie South, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of minutes- July 20, 2021
Commissioner Boruff motioned to approve the minutes with changes. Commissioner Keane seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Baker, Boruff, Hester, Keane, and Moore

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner George

The motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Gateway Special Recreation Association Report
Ms. Bereckis presented the report. A copy of the fall brochure was included in the packet. Gateway has been using space for summer camps and was able to use the pool, and would like to continue to do so. Hinsdale has 13 participants registered, which is almost pre-COVID number. The purchase of an additional vehicle was approved. In the event that the new vehicle is not ready by Spring, Ray Graham will loan the SRA a vehicle. Chairman Waverley requested clarification on the Intergovernmental Agreements between the different park districts for park accessibility improvements. Ms. Bereckis explained the IGA and the upcoming improvements to Hinsdale's parks to make them more ADA accessible and will send the Commission the document explaining Hinsdale's contribution to the organization.

MONTHLY REPORTS

A. Recreation Staff Report – August 2021
Ms. Bereckis presented the report. The Lodge is doing well to date and is booked steadily through the year. The majority of bookings are for outdoor events and staff has only seen a

few cancellations due to the updated mask mandates. Staff is also seeing bookings come in for 2022. The Commission and Ms. Bereckis discussed the report.

Staff is working to compile the winter/spring brochure. Staff is requesting feedback regarding whether to continue with the print brochure or move to an all-digital brochure. Registrations numbers are increasing, as was the pool. Staff has added events to accommodate increased interest, such as Pizza with Santa. Upcoming events include the Fall Festival, Turkey Trail, and Fall Park Clean-Up Day. Fall Fest will be held at Robbins Park and will be mostly outdoors.

Last-minute fall field rentals are coming in. The Veeck softball and all soccer, lacrosse, and football fields are booked all through the fall.

A new SaveStation with AED has been installed at Burns Field Park. A dedication and ribbon-cutting will be held on September 21 at 5:30 at the park. The Just1Mike junior board will be present to hold a CPR demonstration with the Fire Department.

Final pool numbers will be presented at the November meeting, but so far look to be increasing. Pool improvements have begun, which led to the cancellation of Dog Days of Summer.

Ms. Bereckis presented the parks maintenance report and called attention to the different tasks that Mr. Finnell and his staff completed. The Commission discussed the report.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Ice Rink

Ms. Bereckis presented the information regarding the different options for ice rinks for 2021 and future years. Other organizations have not had ice prior to January 1st in several years. Ms. Bereckis also shared a presentation from the Wheaton Park District regarding their chiller system and ice rink. No organizations recommended moving forward with synthetic ice. The Commission discussed the available options and were not in favor of moving forward with synthetic or chilled ice.

Ms. Bereckis presented the pros and cons of placing the rinks on the tennis courts versus their current location. The Commission and staff discussed the different options. The Commission was in favor of maintaining the status quo.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Picnic Reservation Policies and Fees-Proposed Changes

Ms. Bereckis presented the proposed changes to the Commission. The Commission discussed the proposed fees and current status of picnics at KLM Park. Commissioner Moore motioned to approve the new fees and policies as presented. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Bakers, Boruff, Hester, Keane, and Moore

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner George

The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. KLM-Dog Park

Ms. Bereckis presented the proposal. Edwards James Company (James) has requested Village Staff consider a fence-in dog park in lieu of additional lacrosse fields. The lacrosse fields were a very messy and involved project for James. Village Staff and officials

expressed concerns that there would not be enough dirt to complete the project, and a significant amount of trees could be lost, which would change the character of the park. Purchasing the dirt would be extremely expensive and could cost the Village additional funds. The Commission expressed their belief that the dog park would be a better fit for the park overall.

The intent is that the dog park would replace the off-leash hours and add a controlled and fenced off-leash area. Staff believes that the creation of the fenced dog park would create a safer environment for all park users. Staff receives weekly complaints from park users and dog walkers under the current ordinance, and the dog park would alleviate them. It is very challenging for staff and the police to enforce the current ordinance as it stands. In 2019, staff posted signs with maps to indicate where dogs are allowed and the ordinance hours. Staff at The Lodge have created signs to try to mitigate dogs interrupting weddings and events. A fenced dog park would allow staff to confirm that dogs are vaccinated and permitted to be in the park via a controlled access system. This would also eliminate the ordinance hours, so dogs could be in the dog area at any time.

The Commission and staff discussed and was in favor of the proposed dog park. The issue will be available for public comment and will be voted on at the October 12th meeting.

B. HPTA-Hut Update

HPTA passed their inspection and are installing drywall. They hope the hut will be open within the next month or so.

C. Next Meeting Date- October 12, 2021, 6pm

The next meeting will be held on October 12 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Hester motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Keane seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Baker, Boruff, Hester, Keane, and Moore

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner George

The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.