

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Other Present: Members of the public

Staff Present: Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager/Director of Public Safety
Tom Lillie, Deputy Chief of Police
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

No one was here for public comment regarding items not posted on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes- September, 14 2021
Commissioner Boruff motioned to approve the minutes with recommended changes. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. Upon the call of the roll, the vote was:
Ayes: Commissioners Baker, Boruff, George, Hester, Keane, and Moore
Nays: None
Absent: None

The motion passed.

LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Gateway Special Recreation Association Report
Ms. Bereckis asked if the Commission had questions on this item. All events going forward will feature a sensory bag with items for participants.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- A. Recreation Staff Report – September 2021
Ms. Bereckis presented the report. The Lodge is seeing an increase in revenue over previous years. October is the Lodge's busiest month and 2021 looks to be a great year for the Lodge. 2022 rentals are also coming in including business meetings. Staff is cancelling the Holiday Express event due to Metra restrictions. In lieu of this event, staff will be hosting Hinsdale's Winter Wonderland featuring hayrides, crafts, hot cocoa, snacks, a live reindeer, and the characters from Frozen. This event will also feature professional photos with Santa and magic from Frankie Ace at the Lodge, as well as a Toys for Tots drive. The limit for this event is 350 people at this time. Advance registration is preferred, but staff will accept registrations at the door. Staff is offering Breakfast and Pizza with Santa. Staff will also offer Santa's Mailbox, holiday tree decorating, and the Turkey Trail.
Field users are increasing, including lacrosse groups, football, soccer, and fall baseball teams. Numbers aren't quite rebounded, but things are looking up.
The SaveStation dedication went well and staff are honored to have taken part with the

Just1Mike foundation.
The final pool report will be available in November.

OLD BUSINESS

A. KLM Dog Park

Concerned park patrons approached the commission to make their comments. Ms. Bereckis provided a brief overview of the issue at hand and noted that the Commission was not rendering a verdict at this meeting. The final recommendation would be made at the November 9th meeting. Ms. Bereckis noted that the issue has been at play since 1985. Chairman Waverley laid out the procedures that would take place as well as the role of the Commission in the decision-making process. Chairman Waverley then opened public comment.

Matthew Halpin, 938 Allmen Ave in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Paulette Allen, Willowbrook was opposed to the proposal.

Robert Silver, 134 Maumell in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Lisa Lundgren, Washington St in Hinsdale presented her public comment. She was opposed to the proposed changes.

Susan Malone, Willowbrook was opposed to the proposal.

Alita Belletete, 1200 Laurie Ln was opposed to the proposal.

Sherrill Gray was in favor of the proposal.

Tony Evans, 5920 Flagg Creek Ln in Western Springs was opposed to the proposal.

Jim Kroft of 113 S Bruner in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Bill Traeger, 118 E 6th St in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Blair Jackson, 730 N County Line Rd in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Joe Derezinski, 236 S Bodin in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal..

Beth Grunow, 913 S Adams in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Elizabeth Sharer, 410 Highland Rd was opposed to the proposal.

Virginia Malinas, 5635 S Oak in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Jane Friedland, 729 E 3rd St in Hinsdale was opposed to the proposal.

Gary Bazzini, 4641 Clausen in Western Springs was opposed to the proposal.

Rob Lynch, 321 S Kensington in La Grange was opposed to the proposal.

Mary Beth Tokarz of Willow Springs was opposed to the proposal.

Chairman Waverley closed public comment and summarized the major concerns with the proposals, including size, health of pets and their people, concerns about dog behavior and safety in a fenced area, the need for paved paths, the social aspect of the off-leash area at KLM Park, concerns about enforcement or lack thereof, concerns about hours, and posting of the rules and hours. The Commission then discussed the proposal for the fenced in dog park. Chairman Waverley clarified some common misconceptions regarding the park. Mr. Bloom clarified the agreement with Edward James Company for those present and how it relates to the current status of KLM Park. The Commission and staff discussed. Members of the public provided input on the need for increased citations for those who do not follow the rules during non-dog hours. They also discussed the disc golf players in the park. The Commission discussed the proposed fees, with Commissioner Boruff proposing that when dogs are registered in Hinsdale that registration fee should apply to the entry fee to the dog park. The public comment continued regarding signage at the park and adding hours to the existing ordinance. The Commission and staff discussed these issues.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Hinsdale Little League-License Renewal

Mr. Robb Tonn, President of Hinsdale Little League, and Ms. Bereckis presented the updated license agreement with the Hinsdale Little League. Mr. Tonn discussed the Village's agreement with the Village. This agreement will waive the usage fee for Hinsdale Little League in exchange for them performing their own field maintenance. The Commission discussed the proposed updated agreement. Commissioner Boruff made a motion to accept the agreement as presented. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. Upon the call of the roll the vote was

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Chairman Waverley discussed the possibility of installing a SaveStation at Peirce.

B. Hinsdale Little League- Peirce Improvement Project

Mr. Tonn and Ms. Bereckis presented the proposal. Hinsdale Little League has provided significant improvements to Peirce and are looking to make changes to the field they primarily use. This item would only need to be approved by the Commission. Hinsdale Little League would be fully funding this project and are working with the Village Planner and Community Development Department to secure permits. Commissioner George motioned to approve the proposal. Commissioner Hester seconded the motion. Upon the call of the roll the vote was:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

The Commission took a recess at 8:25pm. The meeting resumed at 8:30pm.

C. Program Brochure

Ms. Hanzel presented the survey results and memo proposing limiting the number of printed program brochures. The current process can take up to three months per guide and guides can be up to 60 pages, making them expensive to print and more time consuming the edit. During the COVID-19 pandemic, staff and the Commission decided to only make the guides available digitally. It is beneficial to be able to edit the guides and not create guides that may contain inaccurate or outdated information. Digital guides can shorten guide production by four weeks. Currently, it is difficult to receive cooperative information from neighboring districts. Ms. Hanzel presented a PDF version and the version currently hosted on the Joomag platform. The Joomag version is more interactive than the PDF version. Joomag also offers a text-only version for ADA compliance. The digital version is editable and makes it easier for staff to change as program information changes. Staff has not seen any enrollment changes since switching to the digital guides. Staff invited the community and local agencies to take a survey regarding this issue. The majority of residents preferred at least two digital-only brochures, and the majority of agencies were digital-only or were only printing their summer guides. Ms. Hanzel provided examples of what newsletters or postcards could look like. Based on the surveys and feedback, staff recommend printing the summer guide only or moving to digital-only guides with three mailed postcards. The Commission discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Pickleball Update
Ms. Bereckis presented the photo of the whiteboard. A resident offered their opinions about the current schedule and they recommended the whiteboard system to schedule court time. The Commission discussed and was in favor of moving forward with this idea during Open Play times.
- B. HPTA-Hut Update
Construction is moving along. HPTA will start using the hut this fall/winter.
- C. Next Meeting Date- November 9, 2021, 6pm
The next meeting will be November 9th at 6pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Moore motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Boruff seconded the motion. The vote was:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

ATTEST:

Maggie South, Administrative Assistant