

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE  
MINUTES  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Monday, November 15 at 6:30 PM  
MEMORIAL HALL OLD BOARD ROOM**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6.38 p.m. at the Memorial Hall old board room.

**Members Present:** Chairman Jeff Curran, Commissioners Scott Banke, MaryBeth Dougherty, Diane Griffin, Ed McCarthy and Kathleen Mulligan

**Members Absent:** Commissioners John Deppe, Ed Opler and William Otto

**Staff Present:** Gina Hassett, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Kurt Lindemann, Recreation Supervisor  
Linda Copp, Secretary

Commissioner Dougherty moved approval of the October 18, 2010 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Monthly Reports**

October 2010 Revenue/Expense Reports

Ms. Hassett presented the October revenue/expense report. Ms. Hassett stated that we are half way through the budget year and staff is doing well on capital expenses. Ms. Hassett commented that the retaining wall at KLM may not have to go out to bid. The cost is about \$25,000 but the labor costs would be under \$10,000. Chairman Curran asked about the revenue for parks maintenance. Ms. Hassett stated that last year we didn't meet our targeted revenue and that we will be over budget this year with the AYSO payments.

Chairman Curran asked about the general interest category being short of budget. Ms. Hassett stated it could be the way the activities are coded and that all expenses are in line with the budget. Chairman Curran stated that the numbers are much lower than budgeted. Ms. Hassett will check and report next month.

Commissioner Mulligan asked if paddle memberships had increased. Ms. Hassett stated that only class participation has increased, not paddle memberships. Ms. Hassett stated that many non-residents have not renewed because of the cost.

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated that proposals have been received for a shelter at KLM. She stated that the big concern will be storm water detention. Engineering is working on a plan for the shelter and the paddle courts. Ms. Hassett stated that the other issue is that the Zook House has an open application for storm water management and she hopes that will be treated separately.

Ms. Hassett stated that the state has not moved on the OSLAD applications so the bid items will be ready to go once that is announced. She stated that the athletic fields are closed for the season. The Turkey Shoot had one participant this past Saturday. The event was weather driven and the weather was rainy and cold. Ms. Mulligan stated that the schools have an

electronic newsletter that we could use for advertising. Ms. Hassett stated that we do already send news items and flyers to the school district.

Ms. Hassett reported on the Fall Fest. The organizations decided that it will stay at the same time and format for the future. The Polar Express lottery was held on Friday November 5 and this is the first time that it has not filled. Ms. Hassett stated that non-residents can register beginning November 15. Staff is confident that both trips will fill. Commissioner McCarthy asked if there was any profit from the event. Ms. Hassett stated that it is more the service to the community but it does make a little money if we sell 150 per trip. The food costs \$22 per person and then you have to add the cost of the crafts.

Ms. Hassett reported that the Winter/spring brochure went to printer today and will go in the Hinsdalean the first week of December. Ms. Hassett reported that the department now has a Facebook page and is up and running. Make a Difference Day was held with the Community House.

### **Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items**

#### Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association Update

Ms. Hassett stated that she is working with Bill O'Brien for league memberships. Ms. Hassett stated that late last week the preparation for the new paddle courts began and is being finalized to go to the Plan Commission with the final costs to HPTA. Ms. Hassett stated that there will be additional costs in addition to the courts, including landscaping and additional parking spots that will be required. It will probably be on the Plan Commission agenda for December.

Ms. Hassett commented that the storm water detention is a question with MWRD. The idea is for a large swale area east of the shelter and north of the road where the new shelter would be and would be enough detention for the courts as well. Ms. Hassett stated that after the Plan Commission it may go to MWRD and that could be 3 – 4 months.

Chairman Curran asked about the water movement proposal in the OSLAD grant and if that could be included. He would like the groups to come together for the projects.

The number that goes to HPTA will include the additional costs and there may be a minimum of two additional parking spots that have to be added. Commissioner Mulligan mentioned that there have been a lot of new players and it is a growing sport. There are many leagues and new ladies taking lessons. Chairman Curran asked about the Salt Creek programs membership was like. Ms. Mulligan stated that there is waiting list for the memberships. Ms. Mulligan stated that you have to be a member and pay a fee. Commissioner McCarthy stated that Highlands golf course is installing courts next year. Commissioner McCarthy stated that there is talk of separating the men's league between north and west because there are so many men in the league.

#### Veeck Storm Water Project Update

Ms. Hassett reported that drawings have been submitted to leave the dirt on site. The plan is to spread it around and it is a frustrating experience. The cost is more now than it would have been when the trucks were on site. Staff will not compromise on the size of the athletic fields. Ms. Hassett stated at least half of the dirt needs to be removed. Dave Cook is talking with Clark Dietz and the construction company regarding this matter.

Commissioner Banke asked if the village attorney can determine who will pay for what. Ms. Hassett stated that the attorney did not notice that this cost was not in the bid specs. Staff continues to ask for an update of the situation. The parks staff has staked the fields and more topsoil is not the answer. The residents want answers as to what is happening with the dirt since the plans did not call for that dirt hill to be there.

Ms. Hassett stated that the baseball field is finished, but does not know who is restoring the east soccer field and that will probably be off line all of 2011. Commissioner Banke mentioned that we could reach out to AYSO to fix the field. Ms. Hassett stated that they should not be on the hook for this expense and that staff wants to be aware of drainage issues before any discussion is made with AYSO. Ms. Hassett stated that if the fields are raised, then Highland residents could flood. Ms. Hassett stated that the dirt needs to go away.

### Skate Park Update

Ms. Hassett stated that the kids were asking questions about if an amount of money can be included in next year's budget to fix the park. Some Trustees will have a problem with spending any money on the skate park. She will keep the dialogue open with the users of the park. Commissioner Banke stated that the kids are waiting to see what the village is going to consider so they have a better understanding of what is going to be done.

Chairman Curran asked what the price would be to rebuild or reconfigure the park and who can research that. Ms. Hassett stated that a design firm would have to be hired. Chairman Curran asked if the group could be contacted to find out the pieces that would be comparable to what they would like and how much it would cost.

Commissioner Mulligan asked if there would be other items that could be substituted that would be cheaper. She suggested giving them a limit and approach the companies that make the pieces. Ms. Hassett stated that the companies are interested in reworking the park and selling all new pieces. Our public services could not handle most of what needs to be done. Ms. Hassett suggested coming up with a survey for what the users would want. Perhaps an open meeting could help with moving the pieces. Most firms that want to design the park are inclusive and you are not able to buy just certain pieces.

Commissioner Banke stated that the layout of the park is the problem, not necessarily the pieces of equipment. Ms. Hassett and Kurt Lindemann will work on a short survey and perhaps an evening meeting with the users in January. Commissioner Banke also stated that bikes need to be kept out of the park and that would keep out a lot of the damage. Ms. Hassett stated that the board will have an issue with any cost because of the maintenance issues that are there.

### Pool Audit

Ms. Hassett stated that the firm doing the pool audit spent hours at the pool and the report shows that the pump house is the biggest problem. There should be a full report next month to make full plans for the capital plan. Commissioner Dougherty asked why the pump house is sinking. Ms. Hassett stated that it could be the soil but does not know why.

Chairman Curran asked what the next step is. Ms. Hassett stated there should be a full report in December. Some of the concerns are maintenance issues like tuck pointing and cracked

concrete and that some are obvious due to the life expectancy of the equipment. There is no water loss which is a good thing.

### PARC Grant Update

Ms. Hassett explained that many of the projects don't comply with what the state is looking for. The Lodge and HCA don't qualify because it is a remodel grant, not repairs. The electrical service and the pump house repair do qualify but most of the money will be given to additions. The deadline is November 26. Ms. Hassett stated that the estimate for the electrical service upgrade on the former school district is \$80,000 and it is 75% reimbursed. Chairman Curran asked if staff has approached ComEd on this issue. Ms. Hassett stated that contractors have reached out to them and it is at least \$30,000 for them to come and move it and since it is on Village property, it is our responsibility.

### **New Business**

#### Pool Report

Kurt Lindemann presented the pool report. Most of the survey results revealed that the users want the hours restored and most are willing to pay for it.

#### Pool Membership Rates and Fees

Mr. Lindemann explained the options for membership rates. These options would allow staff to get to the choices wanted by the pool users. Ms. Hassett stated that the non-resident fees would be more in line with the program fees of being one and half times the resident amount. Ms. Hassett stated that increasing \$30 is still marketable with other communities. In order to bring back the hours, the increase would need to be that amount. Commissioner Griffin asked about the comment regarding Hinsdale factor and are there too many lifeguards. Ms. Hassett stated that there is a ratio depending on bathing load.

Mr. Lindemann stated that last year the number of lifeguards was reduced from 15 to 12 per shift. Chairman Curran asked if Kurt felt that was sufficient. Kurt stated that is where we needed to be and it was sufficient. Chairman Curran asked what options there are if not all of the staff is needed. Ms. Hassett stated that more often than not staff will want to go home.

Chairman Curran commented that this past summer should be used as the starting point and how much was saved when the pool was closed. Ms. Hassett stated that the pool is generally not closed for a whole day. Commissioner McCarthy asked if the \$30 increase could accommodate the extra hours. Mr. Lindemann stated that with the proposed hours Sunday night would still close at 6, but weekdays and Saturday would close at 8 instead of 6.

Commissioner Mulligan stated that the mindset is once you pay the membership, most residents don't want to have to pay anything more. Ms. Hassett stated that we will try to stay open until the high school goes back to school. Ms. Mulligan stated that the week before school is a good time to be open because families are back in town and want to use the pool before going back to school. Commissioner Dougherty stated that it is not a good idea to be open Memorial Day weekend since it is always bad weather. Kurt stated that the proposed plan would still call for the weekdays to be closed until school started.

Ms. Hassett asked the Commissioners what their feeling was for closing times. Mr. Lindemann stated that statistics show that there was very low attendance between 8 and 9 pm so it would

not be fiscally responsible to stay open until 9 pm. The Commissioners felt that 8:00 pm would be sufficient and wanted Sunday night included.

Commissioner Banke asked Kurt if he broke down statistics by day. Mr. Lindemann stated that he didn't have those statistics with him, but he did not notice any real difference. Mr. Banke stated that perhaps there could be some days that could be closed earlier if statistics show there are slower days. Ms. Hassett stated that having different times of being open for different days would not be a good idea because people would be too confused when the pool was open. Ms. Hassett also stated that town team also factors into when they swim. Commissioner McCarthy stated that he would like to see that the senior rates don't get increased since they would be the users of the pool during the slow times of the day.

Ms. Hassett stated that the fees should have gone to ACA last month and asked the Commission to look at each option. Commissioner McCarthy stated that he thinks the Western Springs pool fee is \$750. Ms. Hassett stated that Western Springs is \$560 for residents and \$610 for non-residents and Clarendon Hills is \$315. Ms. Mulligan stated that \$30 is a reasonable increase for a family. Chairman Curran suggested asking for visits greater than 30 for a survey for next year. Ms. Mulligan suggested \$40 increase and have the hours be until 8 pm every day and \$25 increase for individuals. Ms. Hassett commented on the non-resident fees. She suggested leaving the nonresident fees where they are and leave the seniors at the current rate.

Ms. Hassett commented on the nanny pass. This would be a new pass that is offered for families and could only be purchased with a family membership. The fee for this pass would be an additional \$60. Chairman Curran asked what the ages are of the individual passes. Mr. Lindemann stated that they are primarily in the 20 – 30's age range or older adults that are not seniors yet.

The Commission proposes an increase of \$40 for families, \$5 for seniors and \$20 for individuals for both residents and non-residents. The proposal for non-residents is one and half times the resident rate to be in line with our programs. Ms. Hassett stated that there could again be a lap swim pass that was used years ago. This pass would only be good during the early morning hours for the lap swimmers. Hinsdale Swim Club has a nice arrangement with the Village. They pay \$4,000 and she encourages them to review the contract when it is due in two years. Ms. Mulligan stated that it is the Hinsdale community that would be on the swim club teams. Ms. Hassett stated that the pool would probably not be open if the swim club was not using the pool.

Commissioner Griffin made a motion to approve the new pool hours and fees. Commissioner McCarthy seconded and the Commission approved the motion unanimously, including the hours of 8 pm everyday. The motion will now go before ACA for approval.

Chairman Curran asked about the radio. Ms. Hassett stated that at this time there will not be any music.

Commissioner Dougherty asked about training of the swim lesson instructors. Mr. Lindemann stated that preference is given to those that have taught lessons before. The Commissioners suggested more training in the first few weeks. Ms. Hassett stated that it is not required for all lifeguards to teach lessons. Mr. Lindemann reported that 33% of the lifeguards teach lessons.

Chairman Curran asked if there is a way to evaluate the instructors. Mr. Lindemann stated that each instructor goes through an in-service for every level.

Mr. Lindemann stated that any new staff and returning staff can teach the lessons and that overall the residents were happy with the lessons. Ms. Hassett stated that private lessons are very popular and they are taught by choice. Mr. Lindemann stated that there are about ten instructors that taught private lessons.

Chairman Curran commented on the amenities requested. Ms. Hassett commented that many of them are not attainable at a community pool and the diving well would have to be removed to have a water slide. She commented that Kurt is working on some new ideas for special events for next year. Most of the resident requests are not feasible for a community pool. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the survey was helpful and she believes that the pool was better run.

Ms. Hassett stated that one of the complaints is the locker room. Patrons complain that it is not clean enough. Chairman Curran asked about the concession contract. Ms. Hassett stated that the Village has the option to renew the contract and revenue is usually \$7000 for the summer. That is a constant number for budget purposes and works better than a percentage since the pool is weather dependent. Chairman Curran asked if a percentage should be added in addition to the contracted amount. Ms. Hassett stated that she likes the flat rate option and doesn't know if the concessions would like the additional option.

Mr. Lindemann mentioned that the CPR guidelines have changed and he is investigating how to implement them in the training. Chairman Curran asked if there would be retraining. Kurt stated that the lifeguards all got trained last summer but they must be recertified.

### Sports Summit Update

Ms. Hassett stated that she did not find the Sports Summit beneficial. She feels that it is better to meet with the organizations individually and feels that it is an open forum to come and complain. Each organization has their own individual needs and Ms. Hassett tries to address those with each organization. Since there is no more money in the budget, she feels dealing with them on an individual basis is better. Chairman Curran felt there would be opportunity for discussion of the limited resource of the fields.

Ms. Hassett stated that the Sports Summit normally coincides with the January Parks and Rec meeting. The Commission agreed that the Sports Summit was not necessary at this time.

### Gateway Special Recreation Association

Ms. Hassett reported about the options Trustee Geoga is questioning. She explained the special tax levy on resident's tax bills of about \$17 per household. If the special rec tax was not levied, it would cost the Village money from the general fund. Ms. Hassett stated that there are about 25 users of the services and the user fees are about \$25,000. If they had to pay the non-resident fee the fee would be another \$30,000. She believes that it is very important for the people that do use the service. She is working with Gateway to be sure that the residents are paying what they are supposed to pay.

Ms. Hassett stated that the situation is still an open dialogue with the Trustees. Commissioner Dougherty asked how many additional groups could pull out before Gateway could not exist. Ms. Hassett commented that the next closest organization is Seaspar which is in Naperville and if Hinsdale pulls out, Gateway could probably not survive. She is trying to get S/D 181 to cooperate and a director is reaching out to families about Gateway to become more aware. Commissioner McCarthy asked why the fees can't just be charged to the user and what are we getting back from it. Commissioner Mulligan stated that it should be something that the community provides for these children that need assistance. Ms. Hassett stated that no resident has ever questioned the fee on their tax bill.

Commissioner Banke stated that he feels that it is a bargain for the users. Chairman Curran asked if there is a way to monitor registrations and if the virtual backpack at the school is helpful. Ms. Hassett did include some money in the budget for some advertising for Gateway. Chairman Curran commented that if the participants are paying an unfair amount, is there a better model and what other options are there for consideration.

Chairman Curran stated that what needs to be done is educate the Trustees on what Gateway is, what Gateway offers and how it operates. Chairman Curran said that we need to educate ourselves and find out how we get to the model being used today. Commissioner Mulligan stated that there could be more people using it and the money could be used more efficiently with increased participation. Ms. Hassett presented the participation numbers. Some agencies pay more than \$5,000 and only have one participant. No matter how many participants Hinsdale would have, the price would not go up.

#### Budget Discussion

Ms. Hassett commented on the lighting for Burns Field. She has not heard back from Musco Lighting with estimates. She commented on the old five year master plan. When the pool audit numbers are finalized, the numbers will be updated. Chairman Curran asked what the priorities are for next year. Ms. Hassett stated that Brook Park tennis courts would need repair.

Mr. Hassett stated that the new platform tennis courts should be paid for by money from HPTA. The existing courts need maintenance and screens need to be replaced. The cost estimate is about \$40,000 including the cost of the resurfacing.

The retaining wall at Burns basketball court can wait and she is still waiting on the costs for Brook. The tennis/basketball court renovation at Burns and Highland Park don't have to be done next year but will stay in the capital plan.

Ms. Hassett stated that the KLM parking lots should be repaved and Peirce Park Pitchin' Kitchen needs replacement. The Lodge needs tuck pointing and she is waiting for the pool audit for any pool repairs. Commissioner Banke mentioned that there is nothing in the budget for Veeck Park Skate Park and asked Gina to redo the budget so Veeck Park would be included. There is also nothing in the budget for Duncan. The application has come from the forest preserve and it is much more detailed than prior years.

#### **Correspondence**

None

**Adjournment**

If a meeting is necessary in December, it will be held on December 20. Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Mulligan moved to adjourn. Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Copp, Secretary