

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, January 17 at 6:30 PM
MEMORIAL HALL BOARD ROOM**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6:43 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Curran, Commissioners Scott Banke, Mary Beth Dougherty, Kathleen Mulligan and William Otto

Members Absent: Commissioners John Deppe, Diane Griffin, Ed McCarthy and Ed Opler

Also Present: Don Grigus, Suburban Life; Dennis Jacobs, patch.com and Trustee Doug Geoga

Staff Present: Gina Hassett, Director of Parks and Recreation
Linda Copp, Secretary

Commissioner Banke moved approval of the November 15, 2010 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Mulligan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports

November 2010 Revenue/Expense Reports

Ms. Hassett presented the November and December revenue/expense report. Chairman Curran asked about the administration and support expense. Ms. Hassett stated that that is the staff charges for IRMA insurance and will be fully budgeted by the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Hassett did not know why there was nothing posted to previous years and suspects that it may have been in a previous month last year.

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated that Staff went to Springfield for the OSLAD Grant. Ms. Hassett stated that traditionally the awards are announced before the IPRA conference at the end of January. If no announcement is made by then, Ms. Hassett will investigate further after the conference. Design Perspectives has been retained for the KLM shelters and the documents have been submitted to Plan Commission for the next public hearing. The MWRD permit request has been submitted for the platform courts and the shelter. Village Manager Dave Cook wants to wait until the permit is received before construction begins.

The 5K race with RML Hospital has been delayed due to some staff changes at RML. The date is tentative for April 22, 2012 in conjunction with Earth Day. The race will start at KLM and then go across County Line Road. The proceeds will be a 50-50 split with fund raising opportunities for RML and the Parks and Recreation Dept. It will be a professional 5K race with the same caliber as the Rotary Run.

Chairman Curran asked if there are targeted numbers for participants. Ms. Hassett stated that 500 would be a great number to expect. There is talk of a pancake breakfast at the Lodge after the race. Ms. Hassett will send information to the Commissioners of the components of participation. Commissioner Banke mentioned that perhaps that there could be an opportunity for the Zook House to raise some funds as well. Ms. Hassett stated that it will be a 50-50 split between RML and the Village and not a fund raising opportunity for others.

Chairman Curran asked if Paul Moreta from Hinsdale Central has contacted Ms. Hassett for cross country maps. Ms. Hassett stated that the race will have to be on the turf and that Hinsdale Central is willing to help in the volunteering events.

Ms. Hassett stated that staff will be attending the IPRA Conference downtown next week. Ms. Hassett is preparing some bids for projects at the pool and the Lodge. The Lodge improvements include the roof and the retaining wall. The foundation at the pump house and the lap pool walls are the projects at the pool.

Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items

Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association Update

The Plan Commission has approved the special use permit for the new courts. It will go to committee next month and back to the board in February. The board also approved the selling of lifetime paddle memberships.

Other Items

Ms. Hassett stated that Dena Reetz, the lodge reservationist is working on the Wedding Walk. Chairman Curran asked if there was a date for the walk. Ms. Hassett stated that it will be in early May and it is being sponsored by the Chamber. Staff is looking at replacing the ballroom floor and also the roof.

Ms. Hassett commented that the pool audit is complete and overall the pool is in good shape. Mr. Lindemann is working on hiring the pool staff. The pool pumps will be going out for maintenance. The Board hopes to encompass some capital into the fees for this year. Chairman Curran asked how the response has been for the pool staff. Ms. Hassett stated that we have lost three assistant managers and the positions have been filled from previous staff.

Trustee Geoga was asked what the timeline would be for the Finance Commission meeting regarding pool fees and if a member of Parks and Rec would be included. Trustee Geoga stated that the recommendation should be made by February 2. The recommendation will go to the Village Board on February 8. Commissioner Mulligan will work with the Finance Committee on the pool budget issue.

Platform Tennis Court expansion update & lifetime memberships

Ms. Hassett reported that an IGA is being worked on with Burr Ridge. One of the Trustees from Burr Ridge attended the Plan Commission meeting and stated that they just want

them to be built and get the project done. The Board is expected to approve the motion in February and then HPTA can start with the fundraising. Ms. Hassett has talked to American Platform Tennis Association regarding grants to build new courts. She will work with them to submit our need. Chairman Curran asked what the timeline is. Ms. Hassett stated that the memberships would be sold for next year's paddle season and the construction will not start until the MWRD permit is received. That could take anywhere from one month to six months.

The plans will be ready to go once the MWRD permit is received. Commissioner Otto asked if the courts would affect the cross country track. Ms. Hassett stated that there will be some impact on the northern track, but the path can be changed to make the track still work for cross country. Chairman Curran asked about the timing for the IGA. Ms. Hassett stated that Village Manager Dave Cook is working on it with the Village of Burr Ridge. The hope is that it will go to the Board in February. Chairman Curran asked if that agreement can be forwarded to the Commissioners. Ms. Hassett stated that there will be some modification on some of the court times regarding the lights. She will share the Agreement with the Commissioners when she receives it.

Trustee Geoga stated that there will be some reviewing of the license agreement with HPTA. Commissioner Otto stated that a resident asked him if any trees would be removed. Ms. Hassett stated that very few trees will be removed and that one of the trees that are being removed is already diseased and there will be some others put in its place. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the process has worked out well with Burr Ridge and everyone seems satisfied with the outcome.

Chairman Curran requested for the IGA and license agreement be put on the February agenda.

Veeck Storm Water Project Update

Ms. Hassett stated that there is still dialogue on the dirt on the field. In addition to being an eyesore, there is a lit field that is still off line and Ms. Hassett has expressed her concern to the Village Manager. Commissioner Otto stated that there is a traveling team that is concerned about a lit field that is not available.

Chairman Curran stated that we are impeding a revenue opportunity to get this field online. Lit fields are hard to come by and premium price capable that will not be used for another year. There needs to be a time line and Ms. Hassett continues to ask staff each week for a time projections. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett for projections of the lit field revenue that is being lost.

Ms. Hassett stated that AYSO will have continued use and the field will still be off line in the spring. Commissioner Otto stated that spring is the best time for field use. Ms. Hassett stated it needs to be graded and debris removed before it can be seeded or sodded.

Skate Park Update

Ms. Hassett reported that she is trying to get pieces removed and some companies have contacted her about reconfiguring the park. She will reach out to the users in the future. Commissioner Banke stated that the group has stated that they would like some equipment removed so more space could be provided. They would like an indication of when they can approach the village regarding their ideas for redesigning the park. They would like to know if staff would like an inventory. Ms. Hassett will reach out to them for their feedback.

Lyons Township & OSLAD Grant projects

Ms. Hassett commented that she is still waiting on the decision on the grant. Lyons Township has the escrow account for the shelter funding and that will get paid from that fund.

Pool Audit

Commissioner Mulligan commented that she was pleased that the report was positive. Ms. Hassett stated that Public Services and pool staff could be thanked for the maintenance of the pool. There are some items to be repaired, some are luxury and some are more necessary, like the hair lint filter. Part time staff can't always do maintenance of some of the items. Two staff are required to clean and empty the tank in an 8 hour day. Trees on the east end are nuisance trees that cause a lot of pollen for the filters.

Chairman Curran asked about the 20 areas that the pool is deficient. He asked if they were due to code revisions from when the pool was built. Ms. Hassett stated that many are easy corrections to be brought up to code. Ms. Hassett stated the largest concern is having someone on the diving platform and the slide at the same time and that is an area that can't be changed.

Chairman Curran asked for a spreadsheet for the 20 items that are deficient and what the cost would be for each, including staff time. He would like more about the audit on the February agenda.

Pool Membership Rates and Fees

Ms Hassett stated that members of the Finance Commission are looking at including capital items in the pool fees. The board will have their recommendation in February.

Gateway Special Recreation Association

The Finance Commission has asked for details regarding the Gateway fees. A memo has been prepared for the Commission. A member of the Park and Recreation Commission will attend that meeting. Chairman Curran asked for a follow-up in February.

New Business

Dog Policy

Ms. Hassett explained that ACA has asked about reviewing the dog policy at the parks other than KLM. Currently dogs are not permitted in any other park in the Village. Ms. Hassett shared some concerns of residents and statistics from other villages. AYSO does not allow dogs at games and could still have their own rules.

Commissioner Otto stated that the school district does not have to abide by the Village rules, so even if the Village allowed dogs in the parks, they would not be allowed on any areas that the school district would use. Chairman Curran stated that it would be difficult to enforce.

Trustee Geoga was asked for his opinion and he stated that the request came from Trustee Schultz because of an incident that he had with his dog. Ms. Hassett stated that there are dog owners that are inconsiderate and they would spoil it for the rest. It would be costly to put the poop receptacles at the parks and there would probably be an increase in dog waste at the parks. There have been issues with people using the Burns Field tennis courts as a dog run and there is always a lot of dog waste to be cleaned up there in the spring.

Mr. Hassett stated that it is difficult for the police to enforce the ordinance at the parks. Commissioner Mulligan stated that there are issues with kids that are afraid of dogs and staff needs to be aware of the areas by the playgrounds. Commissioner Dougherty stated that there could also be liability issues. Ms. Hassett commented that there is that issue already at KLM.

Commissioner Otto stated that insurance doesn't cover dog bites by AYSO so dogs would not be allowed at any AYSO locations. There have been dog fights and it is not the right place for the dogs. Ms. Hassett commented on other Park District rules and how they were enforced. Ms. Hassett stated that there was a concern about dogs at Duncan but that is forest preserve property so the village policy doesn't apply.

Commissioner Mulligan stated that the AYSO rule is accepted and the dogs are not at the games. Commissioner Otto stated that the waste is a big factor and could cause significant issues at the parks. The recommendation to ACA is to keep the policy as it is, with reconsideration open for the future.

Other Business

Commissioner Mulligan commented on the popularity of the Melin Park ice rink. Commissioner Otto asked about the small rink at Burns and if the rinks were to be separate for hockey players and regular skaters. Ms. Hassett commented that the staff determines who is to be on the small rink depending on the usage.

Ms. Hassett commented that the hockey players are aggressive and take over the ice. One of the rinks should be open for the open skaters. Next year one will be designated for hockey and one for regular skaters. There has not been any vandalism at the rink, except for some aggressive adult hockey players after the warming house is closed. The rink has skaters all day long and all ages are enjoying it. The weather has been cold so the rink has had a long amount of time for usage.

Commissioner Banke requests for February about the status for next summer for travel baseball programs for Veeck and Duncan. Ms. Hassett is working with Little League for their participant usage. Ms. Hassett will apply for the Duncan Field permit in February.

Correspondence

None

Liaison Reports

Gateway SRA

Ms. Hassett included the full Gateway packet and it will be part of each package each month. Participation is remaining the same and the school district has now included the information on their virtual back pack.

Trustee Geoga stated that there has been ongoing discussion on the nature of the fee structure to member communities. The Finance Commission may have a revised rate structure and asked for members of the Park and Recreation Commission to be involved with them. Ms. Hassett stated that one of the concerns is the non-resident fees. A non-resident pays 125% but they don't pay the tax levy. There are usually only about 5 or 6 non-resident families that participate.

Chairman Curran asked for follow-up in February.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Dougherty moved to adjourn. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary