

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, February 14 6:30 PM
MEMORIAL HALL OLD BOARD ROOM**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6:40 p.m. at the Memorial Hall old board room.

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

Members Absent: Commissioners John Deppe & Ed Opler

Also Present: Trustees Doug Geoga and Bob Schultz

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

Commissioner Dougherty moved approval of the January 17, 2011 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports

January 2011 Revenue/Expense Reports

Ms. Hassett presented the January revenue/expense report. Ms. Hassett stated that an upgrade has been purchased for on-line renewals for pool passes and will be installed on Tuesday, February 15. She thanked Public Services for the great job with the snow plowing. The ice rink is now done due to the warm weather.

Ms. Hassett stated that the KLM shelter plans are still waiting for grant approval and the latest the grants have been awarded is April. The 5K race is on target for 2012 and Veeck park skate boarders have received a survey about the pieces at the park. Ms. Hassett stated that she has not received any of the surveys back regarding pieces that could be removed. Commissioner Banke will be sure that the users respond to the survey.

Ms. Hassett stated that the summer brochure has four sponsors for the back inside cover and a quarter page sponsor for the back outside cover. Chairman Curran asked for the names of the sponsors for the brochure. Ms. Hassett commented on who the sponsors were and that all of them are members of the Chamber of Commerce. There is no duplication of type of companies.

The two new paddle courts have been approved with the Plan Commission and ACA and will be before the board tomorrow. Replacement of the KLM ballroom floor will also be at the board meeting. The Finance Commission will be looking at ways to generate revenue at KLM.

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated what the risk management line item was and that there will be expenses for KLM in the upcoming months. The floor needs to be totally replaced and can no longer be fixed. ACA had discussion as to whether we should still put money into KLM. The cost will be \$17,000 and it will take 2 full weeks to fix the floor. Our programs can be moved elsewhere for that time. Ms. Hassett will be going to ACA in March for KLM roof repairs.

Ms. Hassett stated that the floor is not on plywood and all needs replacement. The alcove and some ceilings and the ice room floor are all being repaired. The cost for these items is approximately \$11,000, not including the floor. The floor and roof comes out of the capital fund and that is about \$50,000. There will not be money next year for these repairs.

Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items

Dog Ordinance Discussion

Chairman Curran opened the discussion. Trustee Schultz commented on the current Ordinance. He would like a recommendation for ACA that would allow for dogs on a leash in any park with some exceptions. One exception would be playground areas or during team practices and games. He believes that it makes sense if the park is empty that dog walkers should be allowed. He stated that chief Bloom stated the issue would be dogs that are not on a leash.

Commissioner Mulligan stated that most people are walking dogs in the parks anyway and that is why the Ordinance should be reconsidered. Most residents don't realize that they are doing something wrong with walking dogs in the parks. Commissioner Griffin asked if the rules were given when the village tags are purchased. Ms. Hassett stated that dog owners are not given any rules when the tag is purchased. Commissioner Griffin is against changing the Ordinance and believes we are opening ourselves to problems. Trustee Schultz mentioned that this would strictly be dogs on a leash under the control of the owner and would not allow dogs loose in parks.

Commissioner Dougherty agreed with Commissioner Griffin that it could be dangerous even with dogs on a leash. She believes it is not a good idea and not all dog owners are responsible. Commissioner McCarthy believes that the Village would have to be diligent with dogs off leash but it would be difficult to enforce. Ms. Hassett stated that the police are not out looking for violators. She is concerned with the increased risk and read some other rules from other towns. She stated that there would have to be perimeters. She believes that allowing dogs on leash during non-dog hours at KLM will be confusing.

Trustee Schultz did not think that it would be confusing at KLM because most of the users know the off leash hours. Ms. Hassett stated that there would need to be more signage. Commissioners gave their opinions and examples good and bad. Trustee Schultz stated that it would not be a village liability issue if there was a dog bite. Commissioner Dougherty disagreed with Trustee Schultz that all dog owners are responsible and that if someone was bit, the village would be sued. Ms. Hassett read some letters that wanted to keep the policy the way it is.

Chairman Curran stated that if a motion is to go forward the motion needs to be very specific as to where and when dogs would be allowed. The police would need a plan that is enforceable and he would want Chief Bloom's input. ACA wants the recommendation and Chief Bloom wants the simplest plan as possible. Chairman Curran reviewed the survey of neighboring communities and it is split with dogs and no dogs permitted.

Chairman Curran asked the Commission if they are comfortable with on path regulations. Dogs would not be allowed in playground areas or picnic areas, but only on paths or sidewalks. Commissioner Banke asked Trustee Schultz why the ordinance is set the way it is. Trustee Schultz did not know. Ms. Hassett also stated that permitted use fields should not have dogs on it. If active athletic fields are in use, then no dogs would be allowed.

Commissioner Banke made a motion to change the Ordinance with the exceptions. Commissioner Mulligan agreed with rules added. Ms. Hassett stated that the rules would be dogs have to be on leash and under control of the owner, may not run loose in parks and would not be allowed by playgrounds, athletic fields when in use or picnic areas. Commission McCarthy seconded the motion. Chairman Curran stated that any parks on school district property would need to be made aware of any Ordinance change. The Commission voted 4 ayes and 2 nays to recommend changing the Ordinance. Commissions Dougherty and Griffin did not agree with changing the Ordinance. Chairman Curran stated that public opinion that the Commission has received have been against having dogs in the parks.

Chairman Curran read the email from Chief Bloom regarding the issue of safety. Commissioner Otto asked about writing a letter to the editor regarding this issue asking for public comments. Chairman Curran suggested posting something on the website or Facebook page. Commissioners shared their ideas pro and con. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett to get information on how many dog licenses are issued and what the fee is. He suggested that perhaps the fee could be doubled in order to pay for new signage in the parks.

KLM Shelter Updates

Ms. Hassett stated that the shelter plans went to the Plan Commission and will now go to the board. She hopes the plans will go out to bid in late March. Everything is waiting for the OSLAD grant. Picnics are being rented with no guarantee of having a shelter after June 1st. Ms. Hassett stated that the construction should take approximately 3 months. The north shelter may not be refurbished, depending on the grant funds available. Ms. Hassett stated that tents are allowed but they must be marked by JULIE.

Pool Membership Rates and Fees Update and Discussion

Ms. Hassett stated that ACA approved the pool fees with the Finance Commission recommendations. The daily fee revenues and 10 visit guest passes were changed. The 10 pass visit was suggested for any visitor without having to buy a membership and it will be transferable. Ms. Hassett presented the challenges that this will create for pool staff.

Ms. Hassett stated that it will be difficult to sell any non-resident memberships. Ms. Hassett commented that the non-resident rates will continue to be reviewed. All sales are weather driven as well. The additional fees will bring back the hours until 8 pm and will restore one extra week before school starts.

Commissioner Mulligan commented on how there needs to be a way of increasing revenue without raising rates. Ms. Hassett stated that the budget has no marketing dollars but there will be a full page ad in the Hinsdalean and some marketing for this summer. She stated that memberships have decreased and part of that is due to the Hinsdale Swim Club patrons not having to purchase memberships and the country clubs in the area. The Swim Club participants now just pay a flat rate to use the pool. The contract will be negotiated when their contract is up next year. Commissioner Dougherty stated that the swim club members need to be pool members as they have been in the past. Ms. Hassett commented that most of the master swimmers are non-residents and they have been included under the Swim Club. The Commissioner commented that the policy needs to be brought back that swim club members need to purchase a membership. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the Commission needs to be more pro-active for who we are trying to target in marketing.

Chairman Curran stated what was discussed with the Finance Commission and who we want to target in the marketing. He also stated that we should look at estimates for a zero depth pool in order to compete with other communities. Commissioner McCarthy asked Ms. Hassett if she has seen the pool used for other things after the summer. She stated that we did rent out the pool for private rentals a few times last summer. This year the lap swimmers will not be guaranteed evening lap swimming time.

Pool Audit Discussion

Ms. Hassett shared the deficient items with the prices. The pump house repairs will be done before May 1. It will be shored up where it is at and some wall repairs will also be completed. The lint strainer for the diving area will be in next year's budget. It will be done at the end of the 2011 pool season. Commissioner Banke asked if the passes are being sold yet. Ms. Hassett stated that the fees will be reviewed at Board on Tuesday and start being sold on Feb. 28.

New Business

Spring field Use

Ms. Hassett stated that she hoped the process would be done last year and that staff is still working with Little League on use of open field time. She has asked for space at Duncan and Veeck Park will be back on line. Ms. Hassett will be discussing the usage with Little League on March 1st. There are three organizations looking for field space, preferably at Veeck. Ms. Hassett stated that Monday and Wednesday nights are for men's softball.

Commissioner Banke stated that the rationale should be revenue driven and not fairness. The other activities and facilities of Parks and Rec could suffer and we need revenue for all facilities. Ms. Hassett stated that travel leagues could generate as much as \$9000 per year.

Budget Capital Items

Ms. Hassett stated that she has submitted a draft budget to the Trustees. She commented that all capital items will need to be addressed in October. The items included will be a walking path at Veeck Park, tuck pointing at KLM and some repairs to Burns and Brook tennis courts. Ms. Hassett stated that the total capital will be around \$280,000. She stated that the Peirce playground will not be in the 2011/12 budget.

Veeck Park Soccer Revenue

Ms. Hassett stated that Village Manager Cook has gone on record in the paper that the dirt will be moved next spring and the restoration will begin. Ms. Hassett will push for sod rather than seed.

Correspondence

None

Liaison Reports

ACA Committee Report

Ms. Hassett encouraged Commissioners to attend the next meeting regarding revisiting Gateway.

Gateway Special Recreation Association

Trustee Geoga believes that it is not a cost efficient way to operate. If Hinsdale pulls out, the Village would have to reimburse residents out of the operating budget and that difference is \$36,000 and the tax could no longer be levied. Channel 7 is featuring a volunteer program at the end of the month that will be featuring Gateway. The Commission agrees that Gateway would be a loss if it was not offered and it is the right thing to do for these participants. Chairman Curran stated that the closest SRA would be in Naperville. Ms. Hassett stated that many people are taxed for services that are never used, but they are there if you need them.

Ms. Hassett stated that the majority of participants are over age 12. We don't see a lot of requests for younger because they are usually mainstreamed in the school system. The Commission strongly recommends a member of Gateway SRA to support the families in Hinsdale and we want to be a village that takes care of the residents. Commissioner Dougherty approved motion for the Village to stay a part of Gateway. Commissioner Mulligan seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms Hassett is concerned that ACA will wait until the final hour to make their decision.

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 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary