

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

Tuesday, July 29, 2014
Memorial Hall – Memorial Building

Chairman Banke called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

Members Present: Chairman Banke, Commissioners Baker, George, Keane, Owens and Mulligan

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

Others Present: Tod Stanton, Design Perspectives; Stu Seman, 138 S. Quincy, Hinsdale; Peirce Park residents: Mark Willobee, Merribeth Rhoads, Sean Cahill and Rob Tonn

Commissioner Owens moved approval of the May 13, 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Keane seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adopt-A-Park Discussion

Mr. Seman, 138 S. Quincy, commented on how he has taken care of Stough Park for years. Ms. Hassett commented on the Adopt-A-Park program and that it is a challenge to keep up with the debris in the parks. Ms. Hassett stated that the program has worked well in the villages that have the program. Some of the issues include signage; how much to let residents do; and how to handle if the resident doesn't live up to the expectations. The program is generally rolled out in the spring in conjunction with Earth Day.

Ms. Hassett shared the sample sign that would be posted at the parks. Participants can be residents or a community business. Ms. Hassett stated that public relations for the program will be done in the winter brochure. Chairman Banke asked if it would be a pilot program for all the parks. Ms. Hassett stated that all the parks need attention, but some of the bigger ones need more than others. Staff will pursue organizations if there is not sufficient initial interest. Chairman Banke asked if there is a budget for signage. Ms. Hassett stated that there is a small budgeted amount. Ms. Hassett also stated that she will be the liaison person for the project. Commissioner Keane stated that maintenance would also be needed and asked how that would be followed up on.

Commissioner Owens suggested adding a line for suggested improvements to the form. Chairman Banke mentioned that having a t-shirt for sponsors might draw interest. Ms. Hassett commented that volunteers can register on-line and the first 50 or so would get the free t-shirt.

Mr. Seman commented on Ehret Park and noted that a group had created a butterfly garden at the park. The residents that live next to the park maintain the butterfly garden.

Mr. Seman stated that commitment is necessary as to who will maintain the parks. He also commented that monitoring results is important and many things are required besides picking up trash. Mr. Seman suggested streamlining the paperwork to monitor the feedback. Ms. Hassett stated that the expectations of the community are high for the parks and a third party will probably have to be hired to take care of the plant beds.

Commissioner Keane asked about building a gazebo in other parks. Ms. Hassett explained the history of Ehret Park and that this would not generally be allowed. There are not enough staff and resources to maintain plantings.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Hassett commented on the Administration and Community Affairs (ACA) minutes from May 5, 2014 that were included for information. There were no “action items” on the agenda. Chairman Banke asked about Burns Field vandalism. Ms. Hassett explained that there was spray paint on the building and the vandals have not been caught. Commission Mulligan commented on the increase in revenue at KLM and asked if any of that revenue could be used for maintaining KLM Park. Ms. Hassett will check to see if that is possible.

Gateway Special Recreation Association

Ms. Hassett commented on the report. Countryside has decided to come back into Gateway because they have a resident that would not be able to get the door-to-door transportation service. The Gateway Committee welcomed them back, but some by-laws have changed to make it more difficult to rejoin.

Revenue Expense Report

Ms. Hassett commented on the report. June is the second month of the fiscal year. Program revenue has increased since last year, partly due to taking the tennis registrations in-house. Ms. Hassett stated that one of the challenges is that Tom Lockhart did not realize that he would not get paid as soon as expected.

Ms. Hassett stated that expenses for special events were down, primarily due to the parade participants being scaled back. Platform tennis memberships will begin to come in August and September. KLM revenue is down overall; weddings are strong, but business events are down. Ms. Hassett has asked the Lodge staff to help fill in the gap.

Recreation Program Report

Commissioner Baker asked about the repairs at the pool. Ms. Hassett commented that the swim club paid for installation of the starting blocks. The other repairs were tiles that were falling off. Commissioner Mulligan asked about the decline in resident memberships. Ms. Hassett stated that the decline is related to weather, high 10-visit pass sales and increased competition from private clubs. Ms. Hassett stated that the super pass loss of revenue cannot be made up.

Old Business

- Ms. Hassett stated that Staff met with Clarendon Hills Park District (CHPD) to ask their board not to offer the “friendly rate” to Hinsdale residents as it would be detrimental to Hinsdale’s pool sales. There was a meeting with Chairman Banke,

Ms. Hassett and a few of their board members about shared services. Clarendon Hills will talk to their board in the fall. The CHPD board members stated that their sales of Super Passes have declined.

- Ms. Hassett thanked the Commissioners that helped with the parade. The Rotarians do the turtle races each year at the festival.
- The fields are being prepared for football, and additional maintenance will be done at Brook and Veeck Parks, including rolling of the fields. Some of the parks will have insecticide spraying. Weeds have been a challenge at the parks and some alternatives are being looked at.
- The capital budget includes road resurfacing at Brook Park. Estimates for the Veeck Park multi-use path came in over budget, so the path will not be constructed this fall. It is more costly to do when the park has been fully restored. The bid will be rejected at the Village Board meeting.
- Staff is still looking for a tenant for the former arts center. There has been a water leak in the basement that the Village will need to repair before any tenant can use the space.
- Ms. Hassett stated that the town swim team performed very well this year and the new coach was a welcome addition. Coach Joe will be returning next year. Our team received 3rd place at the conference. Commissioner Owens stated that the coaching staff was hard working and did a fantastic job. There were over 400 swimmers in the conference. Commissioner Owens also stated that A conference is held the same weekend as the regional meet and the swimmers have to choose. She asked if the date could be changed. Ms. Hassett stated that Hinsdale is not well liked in the town team conference and didn't know if the date could change.
- Commissioner Owens asked about the electrical issues at the pool with ComEd. Ms. Hassett stated that she has met and talked to ComEd multiple times. The voltage drops when there is high usage. It is challenging and is being addressed. There is no danger to the pool patrons.
- Chairman Banke commented on the weed growth on the tennis courts at Burns. There needs to be a big focus placed on resurfacing the courts. Ms. Hassett stated that it is not in the capital plan, but they can be power washed to remove the sap from the courts. Tom Lockhart and the high school have never mentioned how bad the surface is. Ms. Hassett stated that the high school has offered to pay for half of the cost of resurfacing.

New Business

Peirce Park Playground Review

Tod Stanton from Design Perspectives presented the plans for the park. He showed where the current playground is and where the new one will be. All trees will be maintained. It

will be a wood chip surface with one main structure, with separate units and at least two tot swings. There will be a sitting area with the possibility of another sitting area. The main play area will be smaller, but there will be new play features.

The project will be at budget of \$140,000. Mr. Stanton showed the three equipment designs that have been submitted. The three companies were Landscape Structures, Game Time and Little Tikes. Mr. Stanton explained the structures of each one and what some of the differences are. Mr. Stanton explained that the colors can be chosen, but blues and tans are the most popular.

Peirce Park residents asked some questions regarding the components of the park design and expressed some concerns. Chairman Banke asked why there is such a significant distance between the paths to the equipment. Mr. Stanton stated that the area has to be excavated, so there has to be room to dig and then restore.

Ms. Hassett stated that there could be engineering issues if there was a shorter distance, and Staff does not want to remove trees. One resident stated that he liked the idea of separate play structures, one for tots and one for older kids. Another resident mentioned a desire to improve the bathrooms. Ms. Hassett explained that the restrooms are not currently ADA accessible, so the cost would be tremendous to upgrade them.

Ms. Rhoads, 615 E. Walnut, was concerned about having a concrete loop because of kids with scooters. Ms. Hassett stated that there has to be some cement in order to be ADA accessible. Chairman Owens asked about the concrete loop around Robbins Park and the one proposed in this plan. Ms. Hassett stated that Robbins is not comparable to Peirce. Mr. Stanton mentioned that there could be a rougher system on the concrete to keep scooters off.

Commissioner Mulligan asked the residents if there was anything they would like to see in the park that is not currently there. Residents seemed to like the plan from Game Time but wanted to keep the spider web apparatus. There was discussion about removing the bathrooms at the park since the residents believe that they are in bad condition. Ms. Hassett stated that it is very unusual to have a bathroom facility in a park. They are usually port-a-potties.

Mr. Stanton mentioned that lights could be put in for security if the bathrooms were torn down. Mr. Stanton mentioned some of the options for restrooms, including what could be done if they were removed. Commissioner Mulligan asked if any equipment was worth saving. Ms. Hassett stated only the spider web is worth saving.

The residents and Commissioners indicated that the plan from Game Time is their preferred plan. Commissioner Keane asked what the life span is for the equipment. Mr. Stanton stated that the max is generally 20 years if they are maintained.

Commissioner Mulligan asked if any neighbors would be upset if the bathroom was removed. They all stated that most would be happy if it was gone.

The Commission recommended the proposal from Game Time, including demolition of the bathrooms and replacement with a shelter with about 4 picnic tables. Some concrete will be removed on the loop, which will allow for more green space.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner George moved to adjourn. Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was declared adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary