

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

Monday, December 5, 2016
Katherine Legge Memorial Lodge
7:00 PM

Chairman Waverley called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. at the KLM Lodge.

Members Present: Chairman Waverley, Commissioners George, Keane and Conboy

Members Absent: Baker and Owens

Staff Present: Suzanne Ostrovsky, Management Analyst
Brad Bloom, Assistant Village Manager/ Director of Public Safety
Emily Wagner, Administration Manager
Hilary Poshek, KLM Lodge Manager
Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Baker moved approval of the October 11, 2016 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Conboy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Gateway Special Recreation Association Report

Ms. Ostrovsky gave the report. They are still working on the website. Hinsdale has the second highest amount of users at 26.

Recreation Staff Report

Ms. Ostrovsky commented on platform tennis memberships. The memberships are down and not all league players have paid, but revenues are still stable because of the fee increase. Chairman Waverley asked how the followup is done for the memberships. Staff explained that we follow up with players that we have emails for. Those that are new, staff has to rely on Marty Brennan and Mary Doten to contact. Commissioner Conboy commented on the league players that have joined private clubs, but that it is good that we are financially okay.

Mr. Bloom commented on the lifetime members and how those numbers could change with people moving out of the area or not playing for a year and then returning. Chairman Waverley commented on possibly giving a prorated rate for mid-season players for new players. Commissioner Conboy stated that we need to rely on the membership information in order to get the revenue needed to maintain the courts. Mr. Bloom stated that there are key FOB's that can't be renewed unless they have a valid membership. Mr. Bloom explained what all the repair issues were and that there are no more outstanding capital issues. HPTA does still have a wish list for the hut that are not budgeted and costly amenities.

Ms. Ostrovsky reported that the KLM lodge revenue is down over last year primarily due to change of staff and lack of marketing. The patio is being expanded and the landscaping will be done in the spring.

Holiday Express and Santa Breakfast were this weekend and both events were well received. Commissioner Conboy asked if they were mostly Hinsdale residents. Staff reported that they are. The 11 am train for the Holiday Express does have some non-residents on it.

Ms. Ostrovsky reported that the winter/spring brochure went out today and registration begins Dec. 12. The ice rink is being set up this week and it will hopefully be ready by holiday break. The tennis courts at Robbins and Stough will be completed in the spring, which includes the pickle ball striping at Robbins.

Recreation Financial Report

Ms. Ostrovsky commented on the financial report for October. Field revenue and picnic revenue have increased in the first six months. Program revenue decreased 7% primarily due to competitive programs from other organizations. Revenues and expenses are related.

Katherine Legge Lodge Revenues

Mr. Bloom commented on the drop in revenues. Spending less on marketing and change in staff are the primary reasons. Staff is trying to be proactive to have a better understanding on revenues for the future. Commissioner Keane asked about the rates being considered. Chairman Waverley mentioned about how the years are not comparable to other years. Ms. Poshak stated that staff is doing everything they can to get bookings. Fall 2017 is very booked and summer is getting better.

Old Business

Update on Capital Project Progress

Ms. Ostrovsky mentioned that the fiscal year ends April 30th so some items are being delayed. Roofs are being delayed so that a roof study can be done for all village roofs. Chairman Waverley asked for an update on the HCA building. Mr. Bloom stated that there were a number of items that had to be updated because of being a school. The village had to make significant changes and classes are now being held there. There was some delay at the Community House so the delay at the HCA building worked out okay.

Commissioner George asked about the damage to the fountain. Mr. Bloom stated that the estimate to repair it the same as it was is \$24,000. Some changes had to be made to make a design that is less prone to vandalism. There is the option to restore it to the original look or one that is less prone to vandalism. There is \$30,000 in the budget for the repairs. Glorious Gardens donated the original fountain. If there is a group that would like to make a donation, it would need to be about \$30,000.

Update on KLM Lodge Pricing

Ms. Poshak commented on the pricing that was given to the Commission. Staff is suggesting removing the outside wedding ceremony fee and the fireplace fee. The new rates for an 8 hour rental would be \$2,800 for Saturday, \$2,300 for Sunday and \$2,300 for a Friday. The weekday rate would remain the same. There were 28 outdoor ceremonies in 2016. Per hour costs were discussed per the memo. Ms. Poshak discussed the costs per hour and the optional all inclusive rate and what it would include. It would include the one hour rehearsal fee, audio fee and removal of the furniture for \$3,200. This would be an option to the normal fees.

Chairman Waverley asked for an explanation of some of the costs. Ms. Poshak explained the rest of the memo was a breakdown of other venues for comparison. Chairman Waverley asked about the caterer license fees. There was discussion about caterers that have not renewed. The biggest reason for not renewing is because they did not get enough business from the marketing. It was not an issue of paying the annual \$1,000 fee.

Ms. Poshak explained how the new fees would streamline the process. Weekday rates would stay the same, only weekends would change. There was some discussion about shorter rental times, but Ms. Poshak stated that most events can't be done in a shorter time period. Ms. Poshak commented

on the differences between the competitors. Mays Lake is the closest competitor and Ms. Poshak feels that we would still be competitive because Mays Lake primary focus is not on events and there is limited availability.

The Commissioners agreed to the fee increase. Commissioner Conboy stated that we should try to get a celebrity there to bring in a lot of people to the lodge. Ms. Poshak stated they hosted the Chamber meeting in November and that brought in a lot of new people. Chairman Conboy stated that he liked the all inclusive idea and thought word of mouth could help promote KLM. Chairman Waverley mentioned about extending an invitation to local photographers for taking photos to promote the facility. Commissioner George made a motion to recommend the new fees to the board, Commission Conboy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Waiving of fees for picnic rentals

Ms. Ostrovsky explained about the history of our rentals and comparison to other communities. Non-profit organizations get the resident rate. Staff has researched neighboring communities and there are no other villages that waive fees. Only Clarendon Hills has no fee to rent a picnic shelter and they must be a resident of Clarendon Hills. Commissioner George mentioned about volunteering time in order to reduce or waive a fee. Commissioner Conboy mentioned that we should respond to Mr. Craig about participating in a volunteer activity.

Commissioner Conboy commented about marketing our events to the boy scout age group since most of our programs are geared to the younger kids. Commissioner Keane commented about having work that could be done by boy scouts to offset the expense. Mr. Bloom stated that he will ask the boy scouts to come up with an idea to present to the board.

New Business

Update on Capital Budget Planning

Ms. Ostrovsky commented on the 2017 capital budget plan that has been issued to the Village Board and Finance Commission. The projects for the next five years were included in the memo to the Commission and anything over \$10,000 is in the capital plan. The Village Board will meet in January to go over the budget in detail and they look very carefully at the projects and where they are and where they might be in 5 years to help in capital projects.

The significant items are a parks maintenance truck, tennis and basketball court resurfacing, repairs to gutters and soffits at KLM, and maintenance schedule for the pumps at the pool to ensure that there are no failures. Ms. Ostrovsky asked the Commission if they had any questions regarding the budget. Chairman Waverley asked about the projected cost of the tot park at Robbins. Ms. Ostrovsky stated that it is full renovation of the equipment. Mr. Bloom stated that the Village insurance company has recommended to fence in the playground at KLM primarily because of the dogs in the park.

Commissioner Conboy asked about the pool and the walking path around Veeck Park. Ms. Ostrovsky stated that the bids for the walking path came back too high so it has been out of the capital plan. It was in the original plan when Veeck Park was redone. Commissioner Conboy also asked if there is something that can be done for the bikers in town. He asked why there isn't anything in the capital plan for the pool except for the pumps. Ms. Ostrovsky commented that it is a planning tool and the village board welcomes the Commission ideas on the future of the pool. Mr. Bloom stated that any change to the pool will be very expensive and will only be attractive for so long. The Commission needs to look at if amenities are added, will we receive any increase in attendance because of them. The Village does not have revenues for the capital improvements to the pool.

Commissioner Keane commented about looking at the trends for the next 10 years. Commissioner Conboy stated that we need to look at the vision for the future. Mr. Bloom commented that it is difficult to compete with the private clubs because of the all inclusive amenities that they offer. Mr. Bloom stated that we need to identify who the target is and who we want to serve. Mr. Bloom stated that a huge capital amount will need to be invested in the near future just to maintain it. Chairman Waverley stated that sometimes it just needs a facelift and it is a service that we provide to the community.

Chairman Waverley asked about the renovation design amount and if that can be moved up in the budget year. Ms. Ostrovsky commented about the issues with the bath house and how the items are in the capital plan and what things can be done. Ms. Ostrovsky explained what the \$20,000 is for in regards to the design. The Village needs time for design options etc. Mr. Bloom commented that one option would be to partner with S/D 86 if they build a new pool. The Commission discussed options and how decisions have to be made as to the future of the property.

Concepts for proposed benefit at KLM of a Dog Park

Mr. Bloom explained that the developer at 55th and County Line has proposed to build a dog park in the SW corner of KLM. He wants to add a fenced dog park on one acre south of the entrance. Cook County dog park rules would apply and there would be a tremendous amount of staff time involved. Staff is not recommending the dog park at this time. There would be significant regulations, users have not been contacted regarding having a one acre site for the dogs and most users are not Hinsdale residents. The village does not feel it is a tangible benefit. The Plan Commission thought this area could be set aside for small dogs and the larger area north of the creek could be for the large dogs. The police would have a challenge with getting users to comply with the rules, especially with the times dogs are allowed.

Ms. Ostrovsky commented on high the fence would have to be and it would not be attractive as the first thing you see when entering the park. Commissioner Conboy thought the current usage works well for dog users. Village staff is involved but there is not enough staff to enforce the rules. Chairman Waverley commented about the complaints that we would get and the work that would be involved for staff to maintain it. Commissioner Conboy suggested giving out tickets for the violators to get notice to the dog owners. The Commission agreed unanimously not to recommend installing the dog park area.

Other Business

Next meeting date

Next meeting will be scheduled for January 10, but that could be a village board meeting. If the village board meets, the meeting could be January 17.

The Commission thanked Scott Banke for his service. There is a vacancy on the Commission because Mr. Banke is now a Village Trustee.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Keane moved to adjourn. Commissioner George seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was declared adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Administrative Assistant