

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, April 18, 2011 6:30 PM
MEMORIAL HALL BOARD ROOM**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6:47 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Curran, Commissioners Scott Banke, Kathleen Mulligan, Ed Opler, and William Otto (arrived at 6:45)

Members Absent: Commissioners John Deppe, MaryBeth Dougherty, Diane Griffin & Ed McCarthy

Also Present: Trustee Doug Geoga; Bridget Doyle, Trib Local;

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

Commissioner Mulligan moved approval of the February 14, 2011 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes with corrections. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports

March 2011 Revenue/Expense Reports

Ms. Hassett stated that there still is no word on the OSLAD grant. She is submitting the bid information to Village Manager Dave Cook this week. Ms. Hassett hopes the project will go out to bid in June so construction can start by July. Chairman Curran stated that the governor's office has borrowed money from this grant fund and thanked those on the Commission who called the governors office regarding that matter. There has been no commitment on when the funds will be returned or what impact it will have on the grant award.

Commissioner Otto stated that he saw on the IAPD website that no funds would be distributed for 2011. Ms. Hassett will research on the funding for 2011. Chairman Curran stated that if the funds are not available, that the Lyons Township funds would be used for the south pavilion.

Ms. Hassett stated that a teen egg hunt was held on Friday, April 15 and was successful. This event did not go last year, but was well attended this year. This weekend will be the bunny bash and egg hunt. There will be a new t-ball league starting this week and coached by parent volunteers.

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated that the KLM painting and floor are finished. The retaining wall project will start this week. Pool memberships are on target and the on line renewals are working

well. She is working with the Chamber regarding pool and recreational programs and Uniquely Thursdays to advertise in the local papers.

Ms. Hassett explained that even though our non-resident rates are high, they are cheaper than Western Springs because of a one-time enrollment fee that is added to any of their memberships. Ms. Hassett explained about the pool foundation repairs. The project had to be abandoned because of the gravel that is back filled around the foundation. A change order has been drafted but the recommendation is that it may not be able to be done at this point in the season. It is too close to the opening of the pool.

Chairman Curran asked the risks of foregoing the project. Ms. Hassett stated that the project was budgeted for this year but feels that the pool could be at risk of opening on time if the project continues in this fiscal year. Chairman Curran asked if the work can be done at the end of the season. Commissioner Otto stated that if the money isn't used, it should be rolled over to the next fiscal year. Ms. Hassett stated that staff will have to request an increase from the board. Trustee Georga explained how the budget process works and that unused funds in the budget do not carry over to the next fiscal year.

Chairman Curran asked what the new bid would be. Ms. Hassett stated that the company hired for the current project would do the new project for the same price but the foundation sinking would be a more important project.

Ms. Hassett commented on some other repairs and maintenance issues that will be done at the pool. There will be some expenses still being paid out for KLM.

Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items

Spring Field Use

Ms. Hassett explained about the Duncan Field situation stating that the annual permit had been permitted to Western Springs little league. Hinsdale Little League has asked Western Springs why they were requesting the field now. Hinsdale Little League will have the field Friday – Sunday. Ms. Hassett has told the Forest Preserve that Village staff will no longer mow the property or collect the trash there since it is not permitted to the Village during the week. Chairman Curran asked what the seasonal costs are for maintaining it. Ms. Hassett will research this. Commissioner Banke commented on why he thinks Western Springs requested the field.

Commissioner Banke asked if there has been an increase of requests for Veeck. Ms. Hassett commented that she is still not at the communication level with Hinsdale Little League that she would like to be. Ms. Hassett stated that men's softball will again be back at Veeck. The Village still needs a contractual agreement with Hinsdale Little League. Commissioner Banke commented that the demand for fields will probably escalate, especially for the fields with lights.

Gateway Update

Ms. Hassett stated that Dave Cook attended the March meeting with her and the Gateway board voted to have no more than a 5% increase. Village Manager Cook suggested that

Gateway buy gas from the village to save on gas expenses. Ms. Hassett explained some other options that would reduce costs.

Skate Park Update

Ms. Hassett stated the skate park is open for the season and a sign will be posted with the non-emergency police number on it. Some equipment may be removed with the help of the users. A turnstile costs \$7200 and there will be skateboarding lessons offered this summer. Commissioner Banke stated that the users were disappointed with the ACA decision to not invest any money in the park. The users were appreciative of the opportunity to speak to the Village Board and Commissioners.

Chairman Curran stated that he talked with some adults about the disk golf that could be built at KLM if the grant funds are received. Chairman Curran will continue to follow up on this issue if the funds are available.

Veeck Park Update

Chairman Curran asked for an update of the dirt removal. Ms. Hassett stated the village is working on a solution for the majority of the dirt being hauled off. The process will probably not start until June when the ground is dryer. The west field is in bad shape but Commissioner Otto commented that it is not being rested and is still being used. Ms. Hassett stated that the field is booked five nights per week.

Commissioner Otto stated to Trustee Geoga that the field does need a lot of work. Ms. Hassett stated that the soil is clay and needs good top soil in order to be restored.

Chairman Curran asked what the time frame would be for use of the field once the dirt is removed. Ms. Hassett stated it probably could be seeded and be off line for the fall. Revenue would be down for that period. Commissioner Otto stated that he recommends to play on it for the fall and then close it down around November 1st. He stated that Veeck is needed in the fall because of the lights and that Falcon football also uses the park. Ms. Hassett stated that travel teams have been lost because of the condition of the park. Chairman Curran asked what could be gained by using the baseball outfield in the fall for soccer. Commissioner Otto stated that AYSO could get through 4th grade with the outfield.

Ms. Hassett stated that all fields would need to be torn up at the same time. She mentioned that temporary lights could be used. The lights would be good enough for practices and this issue will continue to be reviewed with AYSO. Chairman Otto asked Ms. Hassett to get quotes for options and any ordinances that would need to be considered for the temporary lights.

New Business

2012 5K Run

Ms. Hassett explained about the meeting on May 18 for the 5K Run with RML. The village will be primarily responsible for the logistics of the event. It has a lot of potential to be a

good event. Ms. Hassett suggested having the May Parks and Rec meeting after the kick off meeting on May 18.

HPTA

Commissioner Mulligan stated the fund raising amount of \$150,000 has been committed. Letters are being sent out for the donations. One of the donations is an in-kind donation of landscaping of approximately \$10,000. The goal is to have the courts on line by the fall. Commissioner Mulligan requested HPTA fees to be on the agenda for next month.

Commissioner Opler asked if fund raising is the way to go for funding projects. Ms. Hassett believes that the paddle is a unique situation and fund raising would not work for all things. Ms. Hassett stated that the unique thing about the paddle courts is that they are unused during the warm weather and that they are not damaged during that time. Staff costs would go up if other venues would be staffed. Commissioner Opler stated that we should pursue that option if there are users willing to do it. Ms. Hassett stated that a Parks Foundation could be established for this reason.

Commissioner Banke mentioned that he hopes the Village is open to others who want to raise money.

Trustee Geoga mentioned that HPTA pays capital expenditures as well for the courts. Chairman Curran stated that the parking lot is getting very crowded and asked Ms. Hassett what options are available for expanding the parking. Ms. Hassett stated the problem is that lacrosse program keeps growing and from 4-7:30 there are a lot of cars dropping off or picking up the girls in the program.

Registration forms for July 4th are being prepared and there will not be any judging of categories. The theme is America's Birthday. Staff is encouraging family participation. Ms. Hassett is looking for volunteers from the Commissioners. There will be different inflatables at the craft fair. Chairman Curran asked about sponsoring the craft fair internally. Ms. Hassett stated that we would take a hit to do it and we don't have the staff to run it. She will report next month what the revenue is for the craft fair

Correspondence

None

Liaison Reports

ACA Committee Report

Ms. Hassett stated that there is nothing except for a special use permit use fee to be waived from Hinsdale Hospital. Chairman Curran asked if there is any communication with 181 before summer. Ms. Hassett stated that we send flyers in the virtual backpack every few weeks.

New Business

Commissioner Opler requested follow up for a model for fund raising. Chairman Curran suggested the Commissioners come up with ideas for fund raising. Trustee Geoga will take

up the idea with ACA for partnering opportunities. Commissioner Otto stated his frustration about trying to give money to the village for 4 years. Commissioner Opler stated that if HPTA can raise \$150,000 he believes that others could do the same for other opportunities.

Commissioner Opler asked if there is a way to secure landscaping services in exchange for a small sign designating the donation. Ms. Hassett stated that we have a contractual agreement for mowing once per week and that we only pay when they mow and there is a year left on the contract. Ms. Hassett stated that the painting and manpower to stripe the fields has become very expensive.

Gateway Special Recreation Association

Ms. Hassett and Sheila from Gateway will be meeting with the Superintendent of the school district to discuss Gateway and how it can be coordinated with the school district. Ms. Hassett stated that staff did attend the Green event at CHPD a few weeks ago and passed out flyers there.

Commissioner Opler stated again about fund raising opportunities that could be explored and that a policy should be established so there could be a process to follow.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Otto moved to adjourn. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 18 at KLM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary