

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 6:30pm
Huron Boat Basin Marina Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tim Golling, Gordon Hahn, Jen Kilbury, Julie Spitzley

Present from HPRD/City of Huron: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher

Members Absent: Joe Dike, Rene' Franklin, Jodi Mast, Tom Solberg, Chuck Thompson

Community members in attendance: None

Meeting called to order by Mr. Golling. Motion to approve minutes as presented from the March 6, 2018 meeting by Ms. Spitzley, seconded by Ms. Kilbury; motion approved.

Audience comments: None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Huron Historical Society / Huron Port Authority Markers – *The Legacy of Huron Docks*

Mr. Steinwart followed-up with Board – dedication of plaques took place the end of June. The event was attended by some members of this Board, as well as representatives of the Huron Port Authority and Huron Historical Society. Seven markers are now installed; we have received positive feedback from visitors. It was a good partnership with positive results.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed public parks space at former Con Agra site.

Mr. Steinwart distributed copies of the presentation from Liberty Development and AECOM, which was presented during City Council work session last week. The proposal is the result of input from two public forums. There are about 1.7 acres of proposed park lands; with concept features from pedestrian, boater, and driving perspective. The last page shows cost estimates in two project phases. Board concerns were expressed about the proposed kayak launch area; also questioning whether freighter slip would still exist. General discussion included input on potential recreational programming in the space – examples: boating lessons, a shelter house. Mr. Steinwart stated that we will ask for additional Board feedback during future meetings. Ultimately it will be up to City Council to decide what to do with this proposal.

B. Potential land donation

Ms. Spitzley stated that her father would like to donate 7.5 acres of his farm land, originally he thought to the Huron City School District; but they do not have an interest/purpose for it. So they thought the “Park Board” could use it. She also stated that the property makes money because it is leased as farmland. The property is located at Woodlands, along Maple Ave. Mr. Steinwart stated the Park Board – Joint Rec District – does not own any property; the participating entities of the City, Township, and Schools own property. The Park Board thanked Ms. Spitzley for the offer; and she stated that they would like to have it donated by the end of the year.

MANAGERS' REPORTS

A. Parks

Mr. Steinwart reported: At Fabens Park we finished crack seal/seal-coated the entrance, and added a speed bump, as suggested by the Board. At the Lighthouse: The City did a pilot lighting program, changing different effects/colors. While that was ongoing, someone stole one light and vandalized the second light. We are awaiting Coast Guard formal approval to proceed with permanent lighting. The Integrated Wellness Rec Center concept: they are presenting next Tuesday at the City Council Meeting. We are working on a

partnership with Old Woman’s Creek; installing monofilament receptacles at the Pier and Boat Basin; they want to do some clean-ups at the Pier and the Beach. The City hired surveyors to boundary/stake some public properties; including Nickel Plate Beach, Showboat property, Flemmond’s Landing, and the beach/right-a-ways of South Street, West Drive, the water-plant beach. Faben’s Park Tennis Courts: they are at the end of their life-cycle. We are working with City’s engineer firm, to do layout plan and costs. From that, we will report to the Park Board. We have five courts—which is what is needed by the Schools; we have seen an uptick in use by the community, and the potential for pickle-ball courts.

A. Recreation

Mr. Croucher reported it has been a good year, to date. As an overview of Youth Programs, our numbers were on-par or slightly up. We have our second City-Wide Garage Sale coming up this weekend. On swim lessons: our new registration program allows us to collect “wait lists” – so we increased our registration numbers for swim this year; for the first time had over 100 kids in swim. I do not know that we can duplicate that in the future, need to have the right instructors in-place. At Fabens, the Park & new Shelter are consistently in-use. We had five tournaments this year, in addition to our Dawg Daze Tournament. We have also seen gradual growth in the Huron Baseball-Softball program. Mr. Steinwart added that we monitor Sports Force, and they have affected us in some things, but we have found other niches to grow. This next year will indicate where some of those tournaments will go. Mr. Croucher added that for the first time, we have over 70 teams for Fall Ball at Fabens. Ms. Spitzley to provide birding/Smithsonian contact.

B. Boat Basin

Mr. Steinwart stated after the Garage Sale, we will have the Pumpkin Festival here on Oct. 13th. We are in the permitting process for dredging for the Huron Boat Basin. Mr. Golling requested the “Do Not Enter” sign be knocked down to eye-level. Board also discussed “drop-cams” for security.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Golling asked for comments, he also thanked Ms. Kilbury for the Grow Huron plantings, and again thanked Ms. Spitzley. Mr. Hahn stated that we should recognize Dr. Dreffer in some way. Ms. Kilbury distributed Grow Huron literature, and offered thanks for help in watering – Grow Huron is also working on 501C.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meeting is Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Huron Boat Basin Marina Building. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hahn, seconded by Ms. Spitzley; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation