

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 at 6:30pm
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Jen Kilbury, Rene’ Franklin, Jonathan Merckens, Scott Slocum, Julie Spitzley

Present from HPRD/City of Huron: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher, Rick Reinbolt, Dan Weaver

Members Absent: Christine Crawford, Bryan Edwards, Gordon Hahn

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve Oct. 5, 2021 meeting minutes by Ms. Franklin; motion seconded by Ms. Kilbury; approved without change.

Audience comments: None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Con Agra Public Space

Doug Steinwart updated the Board: He referenced the NAI Harmon Group site plan, which is conceptual, subject to change. Mr. Steinwart stated that we are excited about the planned public spaces. On their proposed plan, #1, #3, #5, and #9 allow for public spaces. This Board will have input in the future. Board discussion included public parking spaces, the central public space, the walkways. Future negotiations will determine who is responsible for the initial costs, and who maintains those spaces. Initial conversations indicated the docks would be private. Discussed that some public docks may be good to support retail/restaurants. The developer is open to public programming. Also discussed opportunity for “iconic” visual.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Winter Fest Program

Brian Croucher updated the Board: Winter Fest will be Saturday, Dec. 4th, 1-6pm. This event has grown out of our Santa event that we did for many years. In 2018 we started partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, and have added more attractions. He recapped the plans: Santa & Mrs. Claus, Carriage Rides, animated characters, story time for kids, luminaries through the area, family photo locations, food trucks, shopping, fireworks at 6pm. The goal is that families will stay in the Main St. corridor area after fireworks, and patronize local businesses. Mr. Steinwart pointed out that the Chamber is able to get “buy in” from the businesses.

B. Huron Parks Foundation Fund

Mr. Steinwart updated the Foundation Fund, a special revenue fund within our budget. It is segregated by “restricted” and “unrestricted” funds. We want to update the marketing effort this winter, and hope to grow this. As we continue to explore ways to honor past Board members, this may be a way to fund some of that project. We have been “overloaded” with donations for benches at Lake Front. It’s a good thing, but everyone is attracted to the water, and we don’t have more space at Lake Front for benches, and very limited openings on the pier. Discussed people buying “bricks” or some type of family remembrance – also discussed the wall at the Boat Basin.

C. Dredging Boat Basin

Doug Steinwart stated that approximately every 10 years we need to dredge the Boat Basin. The current process was started in 2019, then we had several years of exceptionally high water. Now we need to start the process again. We have entered into an agreement with K&S Associates for a professional proposal. It will begin with preliminary survey and dredge material sampling, then permit applications. The

sample testing for metals, pesticides, pcb's, will dictate if we are allowed to open-lake dump. Our samples have been "clean" in the past. Will then go out to bid late spring/summer—would be a Fall 2022 project. The last three dredging cycles began in the Fall, ended the following Spring.

We are doing our budget cycles now; and Cory, our Finance Director, will be attending at some point to discuss budget. We are planning for 50% of the dredging cost to come from our Capital Fund, and 50% from General Fund, pending Council approval. Doug responded to questions about the docks—the docks are 33 years old; also mechanical, electrical, needs to be updated at some point. Typical life span is 30 years. We are planning to replace the "unlock" blocks along the ADA walkway.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg asked for input: Mr. Merckens asked about Ice Rink. It is moving forward, have had some meeting with residents interested in helping out. We are looking at Fabens Park, installed on the 2 court system. It is new for us, so we are working through how it will be maintained. Discussion of donating used skates. Mr. Steinwart stated we are still interested in synthetic ice, and will go see Sandusky's system which they are renting. Mr. Reinbolt wished all a good Thanksgiving. Mr. Steinwart recognized Dan Weaver for getting his pesticide license. He also said we are winterizing parks; exceptionally busy with Fall Fishing. Mr. Steinwart thanked Mr. Slocum for his positive partnering comments. Also thanked Ms. Crawford and Mr. Slocum for their time, and their support. Ms. Spitzley asked about fill site—Mr. Steinwart stated he believes they will put in two more cycles. Discussed Army Corp of Engineer's plan for future; he will email their report to Board members. She also discussed NASA transport using the ore docks. Discussed options for sludge used as soil; cost-prohibitive due to labor. Ms. Kilbury thanked Grow Huron sponsors, and thanked Parks staff for help on special project on Main St. Next meeting is Dec. 7th.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Spitzley; second by Ms. Kilbury - motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation