

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

Members Present: Joe Dike, Rene’ Franklin, Gordon Hahn, Jodi Mast, Tom Solberg, Julie Spitzley, Chuck Thompson

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

Members Absent: Tim Golling, Jen Kilbury

Community members in attendance: None

Meeting called to order by Mr. Solberg. Motion to approve minutes as presented from the October 2, 2018 meeting by Ms. Franklin, seconded by Ms. Mast; motion approved.

Audience comments: None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Property Donation

Mr. Steinwart updated the Board: Property location map provided to Board members, as well as the Dreffer family letter, including stipulation that property be used for educational/recreational purposes. Ms. Spitzley has informed City Council of her family wishes. The City Law Director has some related items to present to Council, and it will ultimately be their decision; but feedback has been positive. Ms. Spitzley also commented positively on progress and clarified property boundaries.

B. Fabens Park Tennis Courts

Mr. Steinwart recapped: the Fabens Tennis Courts are at the end of their life-span and surface repairs are no longer effective. We advised the Board that this may be a true Joint Rec. District project – with use by the Schools’ Tennis Teams; as well as City and Township residents. Since the last meeting, we met with the Perkins Coach who developed their seven-court system in 2011. That project was about \$80,000 per court in 2011 – which validated our prior cost research. Hopefully our Board members will speak with the School District, and Trustees, as we consider how to tackle this expense in the future. We realize that this project will not happen by next Spring.

C. Parks Property Survey

Mr. Steinwart stated that the City hired surveyors to stake-out City-owned properties; Board packet includes survey maps of some of the park properties (or those we maintain) – including Gazebo / Flemmond’s Landing on North Main, and the Showboat property, as well as Nickel Plate Beach. This information will be a component of many conversations at the Council-level, staff, and our Parks Board.

MANAGERS’ REPORTS

A. Parks

Mr. Reinbolt reported: We are in “winterization” mode –with Street Department assistance, we have closed plumbing/water lines at all parks. We are keeping porta-pot at Boat Ramp for fishermen. Water at Boat Basin docks will be shut-down tomorrow. We added a concrete pad and installed another memorial bench at Flemmonds Landing. At Fabens, we had tree trimming done, removed batting cages and the speed bump for winter plowing. At Nickel Plate, we put the ADA mat and the Adirondack chair in storage. We will begin leaf clean-up as soon as it is dry; we also did storm clean-up on the pier. It is amazing how many people are still using the pier, for walking and fishing.

B. Recreation

Mr. Croucher reported that we completed our biggest Fall Ball season, in number of teams. He thanked Mr. Reinbolt and his staff –including on-site supervisors Rich DeVerna and Rick Roldan, for their hard work and long hours. The 10th Annual Pumpkin Festival was October 13th –very successful; fortunate to have good weather.

Santa event is December 8th – as part of a multi-year plan to expand the event, we are working with the Chamber of Commerce to involve more businesses along the North Main corridor. The idea is to grow it into a true Winter Festival. He thanked South Shore for bringing in Santa across the river this year. We will have carriage rides again, hopefully with “drop-spots” at participating businesses. We hope to budget for fireworks next year. Ms. Spitzley suggested working with Old Platt to decorate area homes – additional suggestions included luminaries, fire-pits, ice sculpting, snow sculpting, cross-country ski races on roads. Mr. Croucher stated this is a transition year and these good suggestions could be used in the future.

C. Boat Basin

Mr. Steinwart stated we are beginning winterization; we do hold off for fishermen. We are also working on sponsorships for 2019 concert series, and our event schedule. The Rotary Festival will be changing dates, and it is the 20th anniversary of our All-Classics Event, which will now be on the first weekend in August; discussing have fireworks with them.

For the Lighthouse Passport program, we have filed our paperwork and stamp design. We are also working with “Dockwa” – an online dock reservation app for transient dockage. It is no cost to us beyond what we already pay for a credit card transaction; hope to increase transient revenue.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg asked for comments. Ms. Mast stated she would bring-up the tennis court project at the School Board work session. Ms. Spitzley asked to re-visit the idea of Dr. Dolbeer as consultant to increase “birding” here – she also offered to talk with the Old Platt Association about decorations/luminaries. Ms. Mast offered to contact EHOVE concerning ice sculpting. Mr. Hahn commented concerning Tennis Courts, on behalf of the Township, we have a big project in 2019 with our new Fire Station. The Township takes a lot of pride in improvements at Fabens, but the Fire Station is our priority for 2019. Mr. Steinwart stated we appreciate that.

Mr. Thompson announced his resignation from the Board due to his planned move to Denver; assume this will be his last meeting. He thanked all for the 17-year experience. Board members and staff all wished him the best, and thanked him for his guidance and hard work.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Huron Boat Basin Marina Building. Motion to adjourn by Ms, Franklin, seconded by Ms. Spitzley; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation