

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Gordon Hahn, Julie Spitzley, Elizabeth Laffay, Jonathan Merckens, Rene' Franklin, Matt Grieves

Present from HPRD: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher, Rick Reinbolt, Dan Weaver

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: James Brown

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve April 4, 2023, minutes as presented; by Mr. Grieves, seconded by Mr. Merckens. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Project Updates – presented by Mr. Steinwart

1. Berlin Road Park / City Architecture Presentation with Alex and Julia - City Architecture (CA) is pleased to be working with the city on the Berlin Road Park project. An update on the property's status was presented with before and current images. The barn structure had a complete analysis, and it was determined not to be a viable option to keep the structure. With the structure gone, the property presents a clean and unobstructive site. City Architecture presented an open-air structure (ie: pavilion/shelter) with small seating areas clustered around the pond, and a modest fishing pier at the northern-most end. The pond could serve a catch and release program, as the habitat is conducive for fish breeding. Alex from CA described the feel of the property as natural, using native plant material, simple and modest amenities that are very low maintenance. Alex reviewed their thoughts on site-lines for the property and discussed their justification for their design. Overall, the park is a beautiful natural setting for picnics and play, a walking trail, fishing opportunities and an open space for future use/expansion. The presentation concluded with looking for feedback on the structure and design. A key component will be forming a budget and establishing the next direction. The board offered some positive feedback and asked a few questions about amenities ie: restrooms, shelter, kayaks, and liabilities, etc. The department is currently reviewing ways to obtain a list of potential names for the park, ie: contest, on-line survey, school project, etc.
2. Tennis Courts – bid openings took place this morning at 10 AM. OHM will be the engineer of record for this project. Two bids were submitted, Industrial Surface Sealer and Erie Blacktop. The tennis courts survey closed today as well. Almost 400 responses came in, responses will be reviewed and presented to Council next Tuesday.
3. Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning Station –the final punch list is being reviewed with OHM this week. The tables have been tested by ODNR, OHM, administration, and staff. A few minor adjustments will be made prior to a soft opening phase and a Grand Opening sometime early to mid-June.

B. Misc. Parks & Recreation – presented by Mr. Croucher

1. City-Wide Clean-Up Green-Up took place this past Saturday, attendance was down due to the weather, however, the group that did participate accomplished a great deal between the Pier, Lake Front Park, Nickel Plate Beach, and the new Berlin Road Park.

2. The City-Wide Garage Sale will be held on Sat., May 20, 2023, from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Boat Basin Parking Lot. Only a few spots available.
3. The 2023 Summer Program Guide is out in the community. Online registration opened on April 3rd and programs are filling up.
4. A big thank you to Brian Kucbel and the school for accommodating our program needs during their building transition.
5. We are grateful for Akzo Nobel and their commitment to the Huron community. On May 20th, they will be donating time and paint to paint the Paddle Shack building at Nickel Plate Beach.
6. A Field House meeting took place with the Schools, Township, HJRD, Boosters, and Administration. The committee is at the point of creating sponsorship levels for philanthropic, corporations, businesses, and individuals.
7. Thank you to Dan Weaver for the past four years at HPRD as he is moving on to the Huron County Engineers Office as a Business Administrator. Congratulations and best wishes to him. Thank you for your service to our community and Parks & Recreation. Early May is a critical time for the HPRD. An updated job description has been released to local newspapers, websites, and social media sites.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg announced the next meeting is Tuesday, September 5. He along with other members of the board thanked Dan for his service. Mr. Hahn thanked the staff for all the upcoming foreseeable work about to take place. Mrs. Spitzley commented on how she enjoyed participating in the City-Wide Clean-Up. Mrs. Franklin commented on the Shores and Islands award presented for the Fish Cleaning Station. Mr. Reinbolt thanked Dan for his four outstanding years of service, he has greatly appreciated having him as a co-worker and wishes him the very best at Huron County.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Grieves; second by Mrs. Spitzley

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury

Huron Parks & Recreation