

**Huron Joint Recreation District  
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 6:30pm  
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 March 7, 2023 minutes as presented; by Mr. Hahn, seconded by Mr. Grieves. Approved unanimously.

**Audience Comments:** None

***NEW BUSINESS***

**A. Project Updates – presented by Mr. Steinwart**

1. Berlin Road – Staff met with City Architects to review the scope of work, a timeline and expectations for the property. A structural engineering inspection was done on the barn, findings were the renovations exceeded the value of the structure and demolishing was recommended. Erie County Land Bank covered the costs associated with tearing down the barn and Ed Burdue did the work while still being on-site.

City Architects plan to attend the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to review and discuss their concepts.

A PO was submitted for Leimeister Tree to clean up the trees and brush, particularly along Berlin Road and the southern portion of the property.

2. Tennis Courts – The project is out to bid with the bids due on April 26<sup>th</sup>. A public survey with approximately 10 questions will be available on-line. Once bids are in and data from the survey is collected, Council will review data and bids during an upcoming work session (potentially May 2<sup>nd</sup>) The completion of the project is projected to be late August to September. Lead time on fencing could affect the completion date.
3. Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning Station – have had several meetings with ODNR to wrap up this project. April 25<sup>th</sup>, ODNR and staff will test the units with fish to make sure everything is working properly prior to opening to the public. Staff has been working on lighting for the station. The goal is to have the station open 24/7 so motion sensors and lighting is important. Staff is currently working on signage for the station, the goal is to have the signs in place for the April 25<sup>th</sup> run-through. ODNR is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for the station for some time in mid-June. Council, this board and public will be invited to attend.

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

1. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny hosted by the Lion's Club was a great success this year. Nice to see so many people bring canned food for the Food Pantry and participate in this event. Unfortunately,

the Egg Hunt portion of the event had to be rescheduled due to weather. Thursday, April 6 at 5 pm at the Boat Basin is the new date and time.

2. City-Wide Clean-Up is returning again this year on Sat. April 29 in celebration of Earth Day. New this year is a partnership with Grow Huron, a local non-profit. The event has morphed into the City-Wide Clean-Up Green-Up. The event is held from 9 AM to 11 AM beginning at the Parks Office (110 Wall Street) The Green Bean Trailer from Erie County will be there full of supplies to assist with the clean-up. Refreshments will be offered.
3. 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. The program is about 75% full.
4. Summer programming for 2023 opened on April 3. Online registration is available.
5. Fabens Park is starting to see a lot of activity as the weather has been changing. Tennis is in full swing; the fields are being prepped and the batting cages are up.

**B. Misc. Parks & Recreation – presented by Mr. Steinwart**

6. Boat Ramps - are in and being heavily used.
7. Boat Basin - suffered some damage from the last heavy wind storm. Problems include: piling issues, which leads to electric and water line issues. Staff is working to fix these problems.
8. Holiday Tree – is in the works. The location and proximity to electric is being considered. The idea is to incorporate the lighting of the tree with the Winter Fest celebration early Dec.
9. Huron Pier – the Army Corp of Engineers has announced Huron will receive \$11.5 M for work to be completed on the Huron Pier. \$1.5M of that will be for dredging and the balance for actual pier work. As that become clearer the board will be updated.
10. Beach Cleaning – a two-year contract was signed with A-1 for continual services to clean Nickel Plate, Lake Front and the Pier beach. A-1 has been performing these services for the past 8 years.
11. Nickel Plate Beach – staff is looking to fill several part-time positions as gate attendants for NPB. These positions are great for semi-retired, retired and/students looking for summer work. Please have anyone interested have the call the Parks Office at 419/433-8487.

**B. Misc. Parks & Recreation – presented by Mr. Reinbolt**

12. Restrooms - are being prepped and cleaned for potential opening within the next week or two.
13. Beach Debris – three roll-off dumpster loads of debris from the winter has been collected and removed to this date. A fine combing of the beach will take place closer to the opening of the beach Memorial Day Weekend.
14. Fabens Park – along with field prep and batting cages, staff began mowing at Fabens yesterday.

**Upcoming Events –**

**Sat., April 29 – City-Wide Clean-Up Green-Up**, is scheduled from 9 AM to 11 AM beginning at the Parks Office.

**Sat., May 20 - City-Wide Garage Sale**, is scheduled from 9 AM to 1 PM in the Boat Basin Parking Lot

**Mon., May 22 – Water Safety Day**, a partnership between the between several city departments, including Parks & Recreation, the Fire Dept., and the Police Dept., along with ODNR and the schools.

**Mon., April 8, 2024 – Total Solar Eclipse**, The City of Huron and Parks & Recreation will be partnering with Shores and Islands and neighboring communities to promote the event. Thousands of tourists are expected to be in our area for this event.

***CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS***

Mr. Solberg thanked everyone for coming out and announced the next meeting is Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. There were no additional comments from the attendees.

***OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT***

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury  
Huron Parks & Recreation