

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 at 6:30pm
Huron City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Bryan Edwards, Gordon Hahn, Jennifer Kilbury, Jonathan Merckens, Tom Solberg

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

Members Absent: Christine Crawford, Rene’ Franklin, Jody Mast, Julie Spitzley

Community members in attendance: None

- 1. ROLE CALL OF MEMBERS:** See above.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve Oct. 6, 2020 meeting minutes by Mr. Hahn; seconded by Mr. Merckens; minutes approved.
- 3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Fall Park Improvements

Mr. Steinwart presented Board with updates: Water line at Nickel Plate Beach is installed, located by Changing Room building, thanks to help from our Water Department. He referenced graphic on the “shower tower” which includes foot washing station; the concrete pads for the towers was installed on Saturday so we should be ready to go next spring. We will have two towers. Mr. Steinwart also said we are about half-way through the “touchless conversions” to park restrooms. He continued: we also finished the shelter upgrade and new roofing at Fabens Park “quad” shelter. He also updated Board on ODNR Public Fish Cleaning Station—he and Mr. Spafford had their second meeting with ODNR last week. Still working on potential locations, with another meeting scheduled the first week of December.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Fish Huron Ohio – National Walleye Tournament

Mr. Steinwart reported that Fish Huron Ohio is a non-profit group, our department is active on the committee. They were able to secure a contract with the National Walleye Tour for their National Tournament, which took place Oct. 14-17, 2020 at the public boat ramp. It was a 47-team tournament; these are professional fishermen. Huron benefits from the national exposure, in addition to the economic impact of having the fishermen here for the tournament. They are also here for 7-10 days prior to “pre-fish.” Fish Huron obtained a grant from Lake Erie Shores and Islands to produce a video featuring the event which can be used long-term. The Board viewed a two-minute clip of the video, and Mr. Steinwart stated that we would email the link to Board members tomorrow. Mr. Steinwart said we have received positive feedback from local businesses; and Fish Huron was able to book another Walleye Tour event for the end of June 2021. Mr. Solberg asked if they all stayed locally; Mr. Steinwart said they mostly did, but we were surprised how many stayed in Airbnb’s.

b. Fish Huron Ohio -Public Art

Mr. Steinwart reference hand-out graphic of public art concept, to be sponsored by Fish Huron and potentially located at the Boat Ramp. As a project concept, it will be about \$30,000. The fundraising has just started. We presented it to ODNR, they have tentatively approved. It will probably be funded through Fish Huron, then donated to the City; and we will reach an agreement for

maintenance. At some point we will be looking for a motion from this Board to positively represent this to City Council. Fish Huron’s optimistic goal is to unveil it next June.

c. Winter Day on Main

Mr. Croucher updated the Board – He stated it is a moving target; we were trying to shift this event to “Winter Day” with adjustments to avoid encouraging crowds. We have presented it to the Health Department, but that conversation is changing daily. Our goal was to have some presence with Santa, and possibly with fireworks. We realize that we are now down to a month, but have shifting guidance daily—so we hope to have some resolution quickly so we can formulate a plan to move forward. As of now, the event is scheduled for December 5th. We will get an email out to our Board to update you.

6. CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: Mr. Solberg asked for Board comments. Ms. Kilbury stated that since the topic for memorials came up at the last meeting, she has had a few ideas. Mr. Steinwart suggested that a group from our Board form to explore some of concepts/questions. Ms. Kilbury said she would be pleased to work with others on this subject. Mr. Hahn thanked the group. Mr. Steinwart said that we will pull the docks at the Boat Ramp the first week of December, closed some of the restrooms today. Mr. Edwards thanked Fish Huron for the partnership on the Walleye Tournament video; he said they heard many good comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Kilbury; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation