

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

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Christine Crawford, Bryan Edwards, Gordon Hahn, Rene’ Franklin, Jen Kilbury, Julie Spitzley

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

Members Absent: Jonathan Merckens, Scott Slocum

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve Jan. 5, 2021 meeting minutes by Ms. Franklin; motion seconded by Ms. Spitzley; approved without change by unanimous vote.

Audience comments: None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Potential Fish Cleaning Station - Update

Doug Steinwart updated Board: We have met with ODNR since our January meeting. We have chosen “Option B” (to the East of restrooms) for the location. The next step is to get cost estimates. We are working with OHM, our engineering team. We pulled all plans from original Boat Ramp construction in 2009. We found a main parallel to Cleveland Road—option is to bore into that, or if the City decides to put utilities on the north 10 acres, could use that service. Submitted all information to the engineers for their feedback.

We also reviewed the agreement that the City has with the State on the original Boat Ramp, which provides for the State to pay for water, electric and sanitary. We’ll be able to discuss this at our next State meeting. In reply to Board question about the State budget for this project, Mr. Steinwart reported the State said \$250,000 to \$275,000. He continued: We’ve done rough numbers, based on the Michigan cleaning station, and they were in the \$450,000. range. The discussed proposal would be the State pays for the facility, as we work with legal on agreement to the utility and maintenance costs.

We have had good conversations with the State; we have also been able to discuss bank erosion at the Boat Ramp, and the State is moving forward to address that. They have also agreed to evaluate the LED lights at the Boat Ramp. Both are positives that have come from our dialogue with them.

B. Peace Path Proposal by resident

Doug Steinwart was in contact with Mrs. Gallagher to give her the feedback/opinions expressed by our Board during the January meeting. She still likes the Lake Front Park location, but was really appreciative of the offer to use the Lake Shore Electric Trail for the signage. She thanked the Board. She is going to get us verbiage and some sign options.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Dockwa / Marina Reservations

Mr. Steinwart: Dockwa is a reservation app, accessed through cell phone or our website. It is a popular service in our area. Our transient now is primarily through small groups/yacht clubs. We are trying to increase individual transients. They can find our marina/location, and the system generates a text/email to check availability. The cost is about \$100. per month – if we get ten reservations during the season, we will break even. In September we will analyze the results; to see if we pick up new customers. We did not do the Boat Show this year, so it is another way to market ourselves and our area.

B. Gov.deals Equipment

Mr. Steinwart stated that Gov.deals is an online marketplace for governments to liquidate used equipment. We had listed 12 items; the largest being a 2003 truck and a 10-year-old four-wheeler. Other items included weed whips, blowers, etc. We did really well, selling the items for a total of about \$9,700. He thanked Brian, Rick and Dan for the work they did to make this happen. We will probably put the funds towards capital equipment purchases. We do need a covered trailer for Nickel Plate, for all the warning/safety items. We also had a landscape trailer scheduled for capital improvements.

Mr. Steinwart continued ... while discussing budgets, we want to get the Board more involved in budget in the future. Our Finance Director wants to attend our meeting in March or April to give a presentation – to show where our dollars come from. During the pandemic we did have to cancel programs – but we also had record number of people using the parks. The City did receive CARES Act funding, and an unexpected Workman’s Comp refund. They did “spread” that across different departments – and we would like for the Board to have input going forward; maybe can pick-out some projects and see what the Township Trustees and the Schools want to do. We are excited to have Cory come to the meeting, and for the Board to have more involvement in that area.

As a recap of snow maintenance, Mr. Steinwart said Rick and Dan maintain lots and sidewalks at the Parks office, the Boat Basin, the west parking lot of the hotel, the boat ramp, Fabens Park walking path, the walkover bridge, Lake Shore Electric trail, the Pier, sidewalks at intersections around the schools, down Cleveland Rd. and over the bridge, new sidewalks on Main St., Showboat, and Nickel Plate. We hear from residents how important access is to them throughout the winter.

In response to questions, Mr. Steinwart said that we are way up on Seasonal dockage. We are working on our programs and staffing. We are working on entertainer contracts, but added verbiage in case we would need to cancel. Mr. Croucher stated that our Dawg Daze Tournament is almost filled, and the Huron Baseball Program is moving forward this year.

In response to question about Festivals, Mr. Steinwart said that he has not heard anything “positive” yet. He and Mr. Croucher continued...we are working on the requirements of each Rec. program individually. We will adjust as needed, but some “high contact” programs like Swim may not be feasible.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg asked for Board comments. Ms. Kilbury suggested signs to remind kids to stay off the ice. All Board members expressed appreciation for snow removal on walkways. Mr. Solberg stated that the next meeting is March 2nd.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation