

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

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

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

Members Absent: None

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve Feb. 2, 2021 meeting minutes by Mr. Edwards; motion seconded by Ms. Kilbury; approved without change by unanimous vote.

Audience comments: None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Potential Fish Cleaning Station - Update

Doug Steinwart presented updated: We met last week with ODNR. We provided them with site utility layout and cost estimate. Electric will be able to come from existing restroom building, water from the “island” –and we are able tap into the main from the south. The engineer’s cost estimate is \$450,000. to \$500,000. A large portion of the cost is the grinders and stainless-steel apparatus, plus the utility hook-ups. ODNR called the next morning to schedule a follow-up meeting with us next week. Mr. Steinwart stated that he would like to think we have proven ourselves through maintaining the Boat Ramp facility during the past 10-11 years. The State is also looking at Ottawa County and the Mazurik state ramp; so we will see where this goes. Originally, the State indicated that they want to do two stations.

B. Commendation from the Ohio Senate on Andrew L. Fabens Park

Mr. Steinwart stated that this was a bit of a surprise. It is very nice recognition; copies of commendation distributed to Board members. We also were recognized last week at the City Council meeting, which our staff attended. He continued: this is a perfect example of a Huron Joint District accomplishment. Without the Township’s support, this would not have been possible. At the same time that we received this, we received word of Don Rizenhaler’s passing. Without him, many of these improvements would not have happened at Fabens Park. He asked Mr. Hahn to share the recognition with the Township.

C. LSET signs

Mr. Steinwart reported follow-up: We have not heard from Mrs. Gallagher concerning verbiage and producing the signs, so we are not sure if this is moving forward. To Ms. Spitzley’s point, these additions would mean more maintenance – so we are looking into adding the proposed signage to our existing mile markers at Lake Shore Electric Trail. We are waiting to see what is proposed. Mr. Rinehart stated that he thinks the new signs could be added to existing posts; and some of the posts need to be replaced; so we could potentially upgrade those. Board also discussed signs/markers being incorporated into pavement.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Text Alert System

Mr. Steinwart referred to packet hand-out; we are piggy-backing off of the City’s Text program. He encouraged Board members to sign-up. He explained that we will have several segregated lists, to send info to specific audiences (example: seasonal boaters, youth program participants, etc.). We are trying to keep our residents and users updated – for instance, for program changes due to weather. In

response to discussion about potential use for Nickel Plate, Mr. Steinwart noted that we are updating our phone system at Parks to provide general Nickel Plate information.

B. Discussion on Outdoor Skating for 2022

Mr. Steinwart stated that when we get long, cold snaps, we revisit our discussions on outdoor skate rinks. We hope to get Board feedback over next few months; site to be determined. Mr. Edwards did a home rink this year, so he can share his experience. Our goal is to potentially apply for a grant. We could also do an in-house version. We did try that for a couple years at the Boat Basin many years ago, and the weather did not cooperate. We are also researching synthetic ice. Two potential locations: under new shelter at Fabens, or the Boat Basin. For use during Winter Fest, would prefer to have at Boat Basin. Must be flat surface. The real ice needs protected water source. We are getting feedback from other organizations that have experience both options.

Board question on whether staff would have time to maintain an ice rink in addition to snow removal responsibilities. Mr. Steinwart said that is a consideration. We have also discussed ice rink volunteers. Mr. Edwards discussed his personal experience; has to be maintained all the time; but his kids loved it. Also discussed long-term “real” sledding hill. Ms. Spitzley said she felt the synthetic ice would be a novelty, but not used long-term. Mr. Steinwart stated, for comparison, a public real-ice kit in the size we need would be \$5,000-\$10,000. Synthetic would be \$20,000-\$30,000. If synthetic worked well, then it’s a good investment. If it is an un-used novelty, then it is a bust. Mr. Steinwart encouraged future Board thought and feedback.

C. Amphitheater Events

Mr. Steinwart said this is an ever-changing situation. We do have 2021 entertainment booked, but not advertised. We think there is still revised guidance coming out. The Rotary Fest Food Truck/Art event was cancelled. We are awaiting a River Fest decision. An option would be to kick-off our season July 15th and still have an 8-week season. In response to question, the Classic Boat/Car show still going forward as scheduled in mid-August.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg mentioned sidewalk unplowed on Mudbrook Rd. bridge, pedestrians on the road. Mr. Steinwart said he would mention it to the Street Dept. The group welcomed Mr. Slocum back to the Board. Ms. Crawford congratulated group on Fabens Park citation. Mr. Merckens thanked the staff. Mr. Steinwart mentioned that we did get out “ice signs” as requested by Ms. Kilbury. He also said we are advertising for part-time staff. Mr. Solberg reminded the Board that the next meeting is April 6th.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Franklin; second by Mr. Merckens - motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation