

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:30pm
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

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

Present from HPRD/City of Huron: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher, Rick Reinbolt, Dan Weaver

Members Absent: Christine Crawford, Jen Kilbury

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve April 6, 2021 meeting minutes by Mr. Merckens; motion seconded by Mr. Edwards; approved without change.

Audience comments: None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Program Update

Brian Croucher updated the Board: City-wide Garage Sale will be May 22nd at the Boat Basin. We have cut the vendor spaces in half to allow extra spacing. We have Beach Yoga returning at Lake Front Park, and trying a new program, Tai-Chi also on the beach. Tournaments are returning to Fabens -we expect to have seven “independent” tournaments renting our facilities. Safety Town is returning this year, and we are working with the schools on that. The change is that we have expanded the enrollment to children entering kindergarten and first grade – since we did not have Safety Town last year. We have split it into two one-week sessions. We already have 100 kids enrolled. We are also doing the “Extended Safety Town Camp” – one of those weeks is already filled. We are also doing our Arts & Crafts Camps – then our Junior Fun Camps in July, which are four one-week sessions for 6-8 years olds, also held at Shawnee. We are also doing our 4-day Sports Camps this year.

Doug Steinwart discussed the Boat Basin entertainment schedule, with Boppin’ starting later, on July 17th. We will also have Arts at the Amphitheater, and Movies by the River. He distributed a proof of the 2021 brochure. This brochure will be distributed with July 1st City water bill mailing.

B. Nickel Plate Beach Operations

Mr. Steinwart reviewed NPB operations: last year we instituted some new systems – we did the sirens and electronic notifications based on a wind odometer, which we were able to set to North, Northeast, East-northeast at 15mph. At that point, it triggers our “response team” – safety services personnel – who institute the “red flag warning,” the beach is cleared, and an automated recording repeats the warning. We also instituted a “designated swim area” but have had trouble keeping buoys marking the area. Rick and Dan, over the winter, did a lot of research and we came up with our own forms—we have placed those to see if our new theory will work. He thanked them for the extra effort.

Also, the Erie County Health Department provides us with data on water quality/e-coli from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They use daily test results to classify each beach with “good, fair, poor, or advisory” status. The data is posted on their website, linked from our website, and they also update a sign at the entrance daily. It is really helpful as we get a lot of questions from visitors.

We have renewed our agreement with The Paddle Shack, which operates from one of our buildings on the beach--renting kayaks, paddle boards, and beach gear. They are really a positive representation for us. He also passed out the hand-outs distributed to visitors at the gate; and reviewed the parking pass

system. He thanked the Pied Piper for their sponsorship of the parking tickets, which includes their coupons.

New this year, our waterline installation will allow us to install “water towers” for foot washing, outdoor shower and drinking fountains combined. To respond to the many phone calls about Nickel Plate, we revised our phone system to include answers to the “top 10” questions which will hopefully help inform visitors, especially those calling on weekends.

Our 2022 Budget/Long-term Capital, as of now, will include a new play structure (replacement) at NPB. We will review that in the Fall.

C. Manager Update

Doug Steinwart updated Board: He said, as a prime example of our HJRD partnership, Nickel Plate is hosting the High School Prom this year – on May 22nd. On May 28th the Amphitheater is hosting Kindergarten Graduation. We also partnered with the Woodlands Reading program for the month of May, designating four parks where the kids take a photo with the book they are reading. Mr. Steinwart also reported that they have started the rip-rap project at the Boat Ramp.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg commented that our Parks trucks neatly backed in at the maintenance garage looked professional. Mr. Hahn recognized the staff for the upcoming season work. Mr. Merckens stated the memorial committee had been meeting – and chosen an anchor as the memorial. Mr. Steinwart added that they are considering the top of the Amphitheater as the location; and have identified those to be honored, initially – past Board Members Dave Dreffer, Tom Solberg Sr., Don Ritzenthaler, and Michael Tann. Mr. Tann was instrumental in the initial forming of our Rec District. The anchor is symbolic for these individuals who were an “anchor” to our Parks Board, as well as an “anchor” to our community. Mr. Reinbolt reported that in mid-April, we worked with the Service Department to fill in the area in the north area of the Showboat property, with good sized rocks to hopefully withstand the water force. Mr. Croucher reported that we are evaluating our Fall Ball Program—which is 20 years old and has been successful. It has become a “monster” in size – the landscape of youth sports is changing. We are evaluating it to keep it manageable and still offer a quality program. The real challenge is obtaining umpires. We value the program and the positive economic impact on our community, but will make some adjustments going forward. Ms. Franklin asked about signage for the bike lane; Mr. Steinwart said it is being directed at Council level. She also asked about Tennis Courts – Mr. Steinwart said it will come up at budget time; and will hopefully be a partnership project. It is a large capital project; board also discussed project timing. Ms. Spitzley thanked the Board for working on the memorial. Mr. Slocum recognized the collaboration with the schools and thanked the staff.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation