

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:30pm
Huron Boat Basin Marina Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Rene’ Franklin, Gordon Hahn, Jen Kilbury, Jodi Mast Tom Solberg, Julie Spitzley

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

Members Absent: Joe Dike, Tim Golling, Jodi Mast, Chuck Thompson

Community members in attendance: None

Meeting called to order by Mr. Solberg. Motion to approve minutes from the Nov. 7, 2017 meeting by Ms. Franklin, seconded by Ms. Spitzley; Motion to approve minutes from February 6, 2018 by Ms. Ms. Franklin, seconded by Ms. Spitzley – Motion to approve both meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Audience comments: None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Feasibility Study for Health & Wellness Center

Mr. Steinwart thanked Board Members who were able to attend the input sessions for the Feasibility Study. Jim Ellis, who ran the input sessions, offered positive feedback afterwards. Hopefully in about 30 days we will have some results back; Mr. Steinwart also stated that he was not yet sure how a public presentation of the Feasibility Study would take place – and then asked for any comments.

Ms. Mast stated that during their “small committee” meeting there was talk of possible public presentation during the State of the Community event in late April. Ms. Franklin stated that Mr. Ellis did not really ask questions of the group she attended – therefore needs, versus what we are willing to sponsor cost-wise, was not covered. Ms. Spitzley stated that he seemed to be on a “sales pitch.” Ms. Mast stated that was not the case with their group’s meeting, but their group had already visited Rootstown and were familiar with the concept ... she also encouraged individuals to contact him with questions. Board discussion followed of some facility features under consideration, as well as interest from potential community partners – including Firelands College, Firelands Hospital, and Firelands Montessori School.

B. Huron Historical Society / Huron Port Authority Markers – *The Legacy of Huron Docks*

Mr. Steinwart updated Board – our City Manager presented this to Council; positive feedback from them. We are moving forward with it. Ms. Kilbury stated that today she had received the color sample from the sign company and will deliver it to the Historical Society tomorrow. Mr. Steinwart again thanked the Historical Society and Port Authority for working with Parks & Recreation on this project.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Fabens Park Case Study

Mr. Steinwart distributed copies of the Fabens Park Case Study; as follow-up to “long-term planning” discussion a couple months ago. He continued ... in 2010 we did a master plan for Fabens Park and one for Nickel Plate Beach. These serve as our “blueprint” – at Fabens it allowed us to plan short-term maintenance as well as long-term capital improvement. A focus of the original plan was to serve a broader community group, more user diversity, and increase passive recreation; beyond athletic fields. He then reviewed the document and the site “needs” documented in the original master plan. Through general capital, grants, our

operations, and our HJRD partnerships, we began to address these issues. He used the Case Study document to review small improvements, as well as major site improvements, implemented over seven years – finishing with the Adams Ave. entrance project which is still underway; and the tennis courts as a future improvement still remaining from the plan. The tennis courts are also used by both the boys and girls High School Tennis Teams.

The Board expressed positive feedback on the Case Study. Mr. Hahn's inquired about a plaque for Mr. Ritzenthaler; Mr. Steinwart replied that we were able to include a 12" x 18" engraved plaque. Mr. Steinwart continued—we have discussed hosting our Board's May Meeting at Fabens Park, and inviting the Township Trustees; Mr. Hahn expressed support of that idea.

MANAGERS' REPORTS

A. Parks

Mr. Reinbolt reported that, between daily operations, we have been prepping the new Fabens Shelter/ Storage for the upcoming season – including assembly and placing eight new picnic tables in the shelter. In the “lean-to” portion, we installed three six-foot picnic tables as well as a new 4' x 8' mounted message board. On the interior of the storage area, we painted the plywood and have installed new workbench, cabinets and shelving to aid efficient operation during season. We also framed an area to create a small room for tournament directors' use, and ran wiring for laptops. Over that room we added a storage loft. We have also spent a substantial amount of time on storm clean-up; have cleaned-up debris and fish at multiple locations.

B. Recreation

Mr. Croucher reported that we are finishing up Indoor Soccer; it has been a successful season. Soccer at Shawnee is in the second session for Pre-K-K children. We did first through seventh grades at Woodlands this year; had about 30 kids enrolled and it will finish this Saturday. We have our Breakfast with the Bunny at the Presbyterian Church, again partnering with the Lions Club -- and our Egg Hunt at the Boat Basin on Saturday, March 24th. Money and donations of non-perishable food items, from the breakfast, goes to the Huron Food Pantry.

We just finalized our program brochure; it will go to the printer in the next few days. We have five tournaments booked at Fabens, three of them in May – so that is good news; brings a lot of people out to the Park.

C. Boat Basin

Mr. Steinwart presented an update on “lighting the Lighthouse.” Doug Green, from our engineer's office, hopes to have a memorandum of agreement from the Coast Guard in a couple weeks. They will be allowing access to the cable and terminals that run to the lighthouse; but not the solar beacon on top. We are working with All-Phase Electric on lighting options and re-lamping. We hope that will be a spring project.

At Nickel Plate, we are going into our second year with The Paddle Shack. Lori Hughes is the owner—she rents paddle boards, kayaks, beach gear—water-related inflatables, plus chairs and umbrellas. We are moving into food vending with her this year, limited since we do not have water or electric; but she has a couple of good concepts and it will be a consistent basis; so we are excited about that.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg asked for comments. Ms. Kilbury said that Fabens Park was quite a transformation—and great to see the presentation. She also thanked everyone for their returning sponsorships for Grow Huron. Ms. Spitzley asked if anyone would let the community know when the ship leaves. Mr. Steinwart stated that they will not let the city know as we have no formal connection; he said there is also a freighter website that publishes their manifest, but they may leave in the middle of the night, much depends on Coast Guard clearance.

Ms. Franklin gave a background of the Grown Huron program – she also asked about a potential raffle basket on behalf of Grow Huron during the March 24th Breakfast with the Bunny. Mr. Croucher stated that since it is a fundraiser event for the Lions Club, he would have to discuss with them. Ms. Franklin said Grow Huron also accepts “memorial” donations. Ms. Mast referenced the Indoor Soccer program, and that would be a good example of a program that could be run in a new recreational facility.

Mr. Croucher referenced the Fabens report; we do take pride in all the improvements. Looking back on it, it is funny to think about how we tried to make things work, and work around, the real challenges that existed at Fabens. I’m not sure we ever really believed all the needed improvements could happen; so it is really exciting for us—and we could not have done it without a lot of help, especially from the Township. As a department we take pride in serving the folks who go there every day to walk their dog, and the grandparents who take their grandchildren to the playground ... for us it is much more than just baseball and softball.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meeting is Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Huron Boat Basin Marina Building. Board member discussed that the date is during spring break; may be difficult to have a meeting. Motion to adjourn by Ms. Mast, seconded by Ms. Kilbury; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation