

**Huron Joint Recreation District  
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes  
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30pm  
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

**Members Present:** Tom Solberg, Gordon Hahn, Rene’ Franklin, Jonathan Merckens, Matt Grieves, Elizabeth Laffay

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

**Present from City of Huron:** None

**Members Absent:** Julie Spitzley, James Brown

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve Dec. 6, 2022 minutes as presented; by Mr. Hahn, seconded by Dr. Laffay. Approved unanimously.

**Audience Comments:** None

***OLD BUSINESS***

**A. HJRD – Email Resignation – Bryan Edwards**

Mr. Solberg announced the email resignation of Mr. Bryan Edwards and thanked him for his service. Further inquiry was made regarding Mr. James Brown representing the schools, there has been some difficulty in contacting him. Dr. Laffay offered to help connect with him. As for Mr. Edwards seat, he has represented the City. Mr. Steinwart will contact the Clerk of Council to begin the process of recruiting someone.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**A. HJRD Discussion**

Mr. Steinwart provided a recap of the past month’s conversations regarding the HJRD. He refreshed the board on Cory Swaisgood’s presentation from the December Meeting – Contributions being City 65%, Township 25% and Schools 10%. Several meetings with School and Township Officials have taken place since to get all entities up to speed. The HJRD agreement presented by the Superintendent during the School Board Meeting December 20, 2022 failed 3-2 votes. Discussion followed the vote, the school board agreed to continue to meet to discuss the agreement further. Members of the School Board, Superintendent, Council, City Manager, Finance Director, the Township and the HJRD met January 30, 2023 to begin the conversation of where the HJRD board is headed. The take away from the meeting was positive and left to the schools to provide an updated agreement for consideration. Dr. Laffay confirmed the schools have had furthered discussions internally during a work session. Mr. Steinwart thanked everyone who attended the meeting and felt the conversations regarding the partnership were positive. Mrs. Franklin confirmed the agreement was regarding the schools 10% contribution equating to \$49,000. Mrs. Franklin further inquired about the members of the HJRD board representing the township being present during the meeting. It was explained overall numbers had to be considered due to the Sunshine Laws and representation was selected based on people representing multiple entities. Mr. Grieves inquired about the conversations regarding a potential levy. Mr. Steinwart addressed the levy conversation giving a brief history of Huron levies as well as potential levies in the further.

**B. Project Updates**

1. Berlin Road – clean-up process has continued. The house is down, some tree work has been completed and old tires have been removed. Aqua Doc results came in in January. The water quality appears to

be pretty good and the depth is 18+ feet at the deepest with the majority of the pond ranging between 6 and 13 feet with the edges about 4 feet. A contract was signed today (February 7, 2023) with City Architects to begin working on a Parks Master Plan. The HJRD board will be called upon to help with this process. There will be three public meetings, one of which will be during the HJRD meeting, one during a City Planning meeting and the third during a City Council meeting.

2. Field House – meetings have continued, gathering feedback, and setting up a meeting towards the end of the month to further discuss thoughts, ideas and financials.
3. Tennis Courts – Staff has met with the engineers to go over a few questions that have surfaced. The plan is to go out to bid around April with the hope of a summertime project. Pickle ball will be included in the tennis courts plan. Conversations with the schools have been made to alert them of the potential timeline for the reconstruction of the courts. The plan is to hopefully have some renderings for the March HJRD meeting.
4. Mr. Croucher gave a quick update on the Ice Rink. The rink had been set-up, filled and ready for cold weather prior to the holidays. The weather has simply not cooperated to completely freeze. A combination of sun, wind, rain, and temperatures have interfered with skating this year. Mr. Reinbolt discussed the timeline and temperature of setting up the rink and discussed monitoring the weather throughout the past two months. The recommended safe thickness to skate is 3 inches. He explained how the thickness has varied due to wind and sun. With all of the rain throughout January the rink had to be pumped out several times to keep the water level as close to 3 inches as possible to allow for best freezing opportunities. Potential thoughts regarding future use of the ice rink were discussed.

Dr. Laffay shared with the HJRD board the schools have hired an architect to review long term plans of the district and their properties. The schools requested a pause on the Field House process for six months to allow them time to figure out how their plan may affect the Field House concept. Mr. Steinwart pointed out how the Huron Community Field House is truly a perfect example of the Joint Rec, including City, Township and Schools.

### **C. Misc. Parks & Recreation**

Mr. Croucher updated the board about the Indoor Soccer program at Woodlands, 50 kids are registered and the program is at its half way point with 4 weeks left.

During the off-season the HPRD office time is spent working on getting the dates, contracts and schedules lined up for the 2023 playing season. Mr. Croucher has been working with the Huron Baseball/Softball board to prepare their contract for 2023 as well as five weekends of independent tournaments in June.

The Fabens Park Banner program for 2023 has been launched. This program has continued to grow over the years. New this year, a “sponsorship menu” has been organized by grouping different opportunities together with the hopes of bringing awareness to the programming as well as an opportunity for businesses to get their name out into the community.

Mr. Steinwart discussed the booth at the Cleveland Boat Show as a good investment and a great way to promote the Huron community as a whole.

It was announced that Huron City Schools will be extending their 2024 Spring Break schedule to accommodate the Solar Eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The expectation is there will be a great number of people in town to view the eclipse. The HPRD will be working with other local entities to highlight this event.

Fish Huron is sponsoring a fishing expo March 4 from 10AM to 6 PM at Mesenburg's. This expo is a way to promote Huron in general and fishing opportunities. It is open to the public and has a \$5 charge to enter.

***CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS***

Mr. Solberg thanked everyone for coming out and announced the next meeting being Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There were no additional comments from the attendees.

***OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT***

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Greives; second by Mr. Merckens

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury  
Huron Parks & Recreation