

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023, at 6:30 PM
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Gordon Hahn, Julie Spitzley, Matt Grieves

Present from HPRD: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher, Rick Reinbolt, Evans Michaels

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: Elizabeth Laffay

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve May 2, 2023, minutes as presented; by Mrs. Spitzley and seconded by Mr. Grieves. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Old Business – presented by Mr. Steinwart

1. Tennis Court Update: contractors have made great progress, about 90% complete, a walk through with the contractor and staff to create a punch list will be completed next. We are hopeful to have a soft opening this fall yet. Completion time is expected to be within the next week or so following the walk through. We are entertaining the idea of hosting a Grand Opening sometime in the spring.
2. Berlin Road Park: City Architect's Master Plan presentation was shared with the board. The presentation began with the state the property was in at the time of purchase and showed the evolution and proposed changes to create the park. The basic concept is to keep the park very passive in nature and focus on the pond and a potential pavilion. City Architect made suggestions of native plants with natural trails and play structures. Internally the budget process is taking place. The next phase is going to the Finance Committee then on to City Council. At this point we are looking at \$50 K budgeted for the capital for next year. This will allow us to focus on the basics, the driveway and parking lot area. Not looking for asphalt or concrete, just a permeable crushed aggregate and then working up to the a few of the small amenities (porta johns, dumpsters, landscaping, etc.). We will look for some potential partnerships to assist with the fishing piers, and possibly the pavilion. Using the City Architect's Master Plan as the blueprint, the park will evolve step by step, grant by grant, partner by partner over time.
3. Fish Cleaning Station: following a soft opening in early June, the fish cleaning station was officially open and dedicated on June 21, 2023. Mr. Steinwart thanked the board members who attended for their support and recognized the support from the state level with the Director of Wildlife in attendance. The station is open 24/7 and there has been a great deal of positive feedback from users. The punch list is wrapping up and being seasonal the station will eventually be winterized and closed for the season. We are submitting an award application through OPRA for the project.

B. New Business – presented by Mr. Croucher

1. Misc. Parks & Recreation: Mr. Croucher presented a recap of the summer programming. Fabens Park was heavily used by the Huron Baseball/Softball program. The new board was great to work with and provided great communication. They had over 300 local kids in their program this year. In addition to the Huron Baseball/Softball Program – we hosted four outside tournaments (three in June and one in July.) Each tournament represented 50-60 teams at a time. Our 23rd Annual Dawg Daze Tournament was held on Aug 4-6. We hosted 40 teams this year and were very fortunate the weather held out.

Thanks to the Huron Softball team for their help with parking. Our Fall Ball program hosted 40 teams over the course of four weekends. Baseball on Saturday and Softball on Sunday for a total of four weekends. (two weekends in Aug and two in Sept.) We heard lots of positive feedback on Fabens Parks this year. Rick and Evan are currently working on some upkeep projects at Fabens that are difficult to get to during the seven months of play. Youth Sports Camps went very well this year. Thank you to both Huron Schools and BGSU Firelands for offering up additional facility space this year due to the track renovation and also a big thank you to all our coaches and teams who helped with all the sports camps. We had 60 students in our Safety Town program. This year with the re-districting of the school buildings there was a lot going on. Many thanks to Mr. Kucibel and the maintenance staff at Woodlands for still allowing us to host our Safety Town program, Art Camps and Summer Youth Camps there.

Looking ahead - Pumpkin Fest is on Sat. Oct. 14 at the Boat Basin. Again, this year, there will be pumpkin painting, petting zoo, family games, a magic show, an animal show and of course, the pumpkin drop scheduled for 230 PM. It is a great family event!

Following the Pumpkin Fest comes Winter Fest. This year this day long festival will take place on Sat. Dec. 2, 2023, all along Main Street. Again, this year, we will be partnering with the Huron Chamber.

Mr. Steinwart introduced Evan Michael as the newest member of the Parks & Rec team. Evan has joined our team filling Dan's position. Welcome Evan!

Mr. Steinwart shared the Lakeland Boating magazine feature on Huron.

Huron Parks & Recreation was approached by the Lion's Club looking for a partnership late summer. After several meetings - we landed on them helping us with our Safety Town Village. The four houses we currently have are in desperate need of a facelift. The Lion's Club has committed to working with us to rehab those four and build four new ones. The Lion's Club will be reaching out to EHOVE to assist with the project. We will be looking at replacing some of the signage, accessories, and traffic lights.

Mr. Steinwart commented new this year for Winter Fest will be a tree lighting ceremony. A 12-15-foot blue spruce has been purchased and donated to the City by Grow Huron. The tree will be located at the Boat Basin and this tree will be our official "Holiday" tree.

Fabens Parks will be seal coated starting this week. Following the seal coating the parking lot will be re-stripped. Due to the nature of this project the parking lot may be closed off and on until completion.

The dredging project has resurfaced following years of being on hold. Our application was caught up in the Army Corp court battle. Recently we received our open dump permit to move forward with the dredging. Soundings will take place this week, then we will pull our bid package together late fall. Based on weather this winter we hope to be dredged and finished by March 15, 2024, with an extension of April 15, 2024, should the weather not cooperate. The soundings will let us know how

much will need to be removed. General fund and Boat Basin carry-over dollars will pay for this project.

The Kedas Memorial fishing tournament took place this past weekend. Lots of community support for this event. HPRD was a proud partner along with Fish Huron for the fishing tournament and Grow Huron for the Kedas Memorial Mural on South Main Street.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg thanked the board for attending and thanked the staff for their hard work throughout the summer. Mr. Grieves thanked the staff for their work and a special thank you to the boat basin staff for their help this past weekend with the fishing tournament. Mr. Hahn also thanked the staff and welcomed Evan to his new position. Mrs. Spitzley is very excited about all that has taken place this year and all that is to come. Mr. Reinbolt welcomed Evan and acknowledged his efforts during our busy season. He looks forward to working with him as the seasons transition.

Mr. Solberg announced the next meeting to be Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Grieves; second by Mrs. Spitzley

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury
Huron Parks & Recreation