

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021 at 6:30pm
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Christine Crawford, Bryan Edwards, Rene’ Franklin, Gordon Hahn, Jen Kilbury, Scott Slocum

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

Members Absent: Tom Solberg, Jonathan Merckens, Julie Spitzley

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve Sept. 7, 2021 meeting minutes by Mr. Edwards; motion seconded by Mr. Hahn; approved without change.

Audience comments: None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. ODNR Fish Cleaning Station

Brian Croucher updated the Board: City Council authorized the contract with ODNR for the construction of the Fish Cleaning Station at the Huron Public Boat Ramp. We are excited to continue to work on the project, now in the engineering phase. There will be updates in future meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Pumpkin Fest / Program Update

Brian Croucher reported that during the last Board meeting, we were half-way through Fall Ball. We did make some changes this year, which we had discussed. We finished up the season; had incredible weather. For the first time ever, no rain delays nor rain-outs. The changes of a shortened season, focusing on younger age groups, and no tournament – we thought went really well.

In the past with the longer season, we were working on the fields daily for play. With the season shortened, it allowed us the time to really do improvements on the fields. We have now brought in our third load of infield mix, a 60-40 sand/clay mix. We have seen improvements, from this work, in the fields as the weather comes through. We continue the winterizing schedule of pulling bases, taking down banners, etc. Mr. Edwards commented that Fabens looks gorgeous. Mr. Croucher thanked Rick, Dan, and our part-time staff. Mr. Croucher replied to Board question about fall army worm damage-- We did treat all the fields, but #8 and #9 were hit badly. We have seen it begin to grow back on those fields.

Mr. Croucher continued: We closed down Nickel Plate from a very successful season—working on all of our standard tasks there - cleaning out the hut; storing the ADA mat; volleyball nets; shut-down the outdoor showers, which were a great addition this year. We have removed two of the portable restrooms; will keep one as long as weather allows. We have noted increased use of all parks in the Fall, so we accommodate that as much as practical. As we move to mid-late October, we will do final winterizing. Then we will get into projects.

Pumpkin Fest: This Saturday – we are excited to bring back the festival. It will be held 11am to 5pm at the Boat Basin. We have a lot of great things planned: inflatable rides, kids’ games, balloon artist, pony rides, petting zoo, face painting. Nice to have the Huron Library back—their staff handles the Pumpkin Painting tent. The Huron Police Department and Huron Fire Department will also be there.

On the Amphitheater stage, we have the Jungle Bob Animal Show and a new Magician Show. And, of course, the Pumpkin Drop. The Boat Basin and Amphitheater look really good. The weather forecast looks good, hope to see a lot of people come out.

B. Con Agra Public Space

Mr. Croucher stated: Council approved a recommendation from the staff to approve partnering with the Toledo-based the NAI Harmon Group on transforming the Con Agra site. This will be a long-term process; nothing is finalized yet. As the community engagement happens, this Board will be an important vessel for that. He referenced the concept drawings, and continued – we will have involvement since public spaces are planned. He invited Ms. Crawford to share her input. She emphasized that what the Board was viewing was just a concept. There were three developers who submitted concepts. This concept is from the developer that the committee recommended choosing to Council. Ms. Crawford stated that her understanding was that the perimeter would be maintained as public space. She continued: This particular developer has maintained about 90% of the properties they have developed—so they are not, typically, a “come, build it, sell it” developer. It’s a family-owned business, that has expressed interest in becoming part of the community. Mr. Croucher stated that Mr. Steinwart has been involved to date in the process, and he will have updates going forward.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Ms. Kilbury thanked Board members for their time. Mr. Hahn commented on Fabens Park, had visited and saw young families enjoying the facility; and that is what Parks are all about. He said he is proud of Fabens Park and thankful it is so well maintained. Ms. Crawford reported that Council had approved the grant application for the Ice Rink. Mr. Edwards said he drove through Nickel Plate, the facility looked great, and there were many people enjoying the beach—in October! Mr. Slocum stated that the School District values this relationship through the joint recreational district. Ms. Kilbury invited Mr. Biddlecombe to introduce himself; since he was in attendance as a guest; he said he will be joining City Council next year.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hahn; second by Mr. Slocum. Next meeting is November 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation