

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:30pm
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Bryan Edwards, Matt Grieves, Gordon Hahn, Jen Kilbury, Elizabeth Laffay, Jonathan Merckens

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

Members Absent: Rene' Franklin. Julie Spitzley

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve Feb. 1, 2022 minutes as presented by Mr. Merckens; seconded by Ms. Kilbury. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Fish Cleaning Station Bids

Doug Steinwart provided update: Bid opening was last Friday; had three qualified bids. Being reviewed by our engineering group, OHM—then will go to Legal. Construction bid estimate from engineering firm was \$500,000. If everything checks out, lowest bid was \$497,965. We are meeting with ODNR this Friday, to review. After pre-construction meeting, we will know more about process and timeline. Response to Board question: Mr. Steinwart said early July completion was original goal; will know more after the meeting.

B. Ice Rink at Fabens Park

Mr. Steinwart reported that the Ice Rink is officially closed for the season. Weather forecast has been up and down; we are in the process of pumping water out right now. We acquired a trailer from the Fire Department which we are using for Ice Rink equipment/supplies storage. The Rink usage was about 16-18 days this season. We have learned a lot, also been in contact with Sandusky and Lorain. Dan and Rick traveled to Lorain; compared notes with their rink maintenance crew. Had a lot of time invested in it this year; and we will apply what we learned in the future. Have had a lot of positive feedback; really positive about the skate loaner program that Mr. Edwards initiated.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Boat Basin Dredging

Mr. Steinwart referenced handout from KS Associates, our marine engineering firm. This reports the chemical testing of the dredge samples. The red numbers of some specific chemicals indicate higher levels than we would anticipate the Corps to allow for open lake disposal – which is the most cost-effective. The next column compares our 2021 results to our 2018 samples. We, and our engineers, were not expecting higher levels. We then contacted the Corp for the results from their prior samplings at the Boat Basin entrance, for the Huron River dredging (last column on the right). Mr. Steinwart stated that this data caused our engineers to question the change from 2018 to 2021; and it is worth doing a second test, to determine the most cost-effective disposal method. We have authorized the second testing.

B. Anchor Project

Ms. Kilbury reported: She recognized the Memorial Committee: Mr. Merckens, Mr. Hahn, Mr. Steinwart, and herself. As background, Ms. Kilbury said that in the Fall of 2020, this Board saw a need to honor some people who were prominent in forming this board, and played a significant role in our parks/public spaces. During a short period of time, we lost three outstanding people: Dr. Dreffer, Mr. Solberg, Sr., and Don Ritzenthaler. All three were founding members of HJRD, served on the Board for 25-plus years, with significant contributions to the parks and community. She presented their accomplishments to the Board, and added that the committee had identified and included a fourth person, Mr. Mike Tann, former City Manager as being equally pivotal. After consideration of many

locations, the committee chose the “top of the Amphitheater” -- representing “center-stage” for our community. The committee considered a variety of symbolic representations of their contributions; deciding upon an anchor. The honorees “anchored” this Board, and many improvements throughout the community. She referenced photos included in Board packet, including the anchor to be used. The anchor was donated by a local business owner. Potential timeline is late summer to early fall. The Group has obtained several quotes for the project – stripping and painting the anchor and chain, building the hardscape base, and markers for the individuals. Estimated project cost is \$16-\$18,000. Mr. Steinwart said, using \$16,000. as estimate, the Township has committed \$5,000. and the City has committed \$5,000. The remaining \$6,000. could be a funding mechanism established through HJRD; perhaps allowing for donations from various organizations. Nothing yet formalized. Mr. Steinwart thanked the committee members for their time, and pointed out that we are honoring the individuals, but also creating public art to be enjoyed. The plan is to paint the anchor black. Discussed adding up-lighting, but there are two overhead lights that illuminates the area, which includes a walkway.

C. Misc. Parks & Recreation

Mr. Croucher updated Board: Still finalizing Summer programs, Current program--Indoor Soccer is finishing up, in partnership with Schools. Shawnee soccer Session Two is underway; at Woodlands (grades 1-7) we have two more weeks. Upcoming programs prior to summer: Breakfast with the Bunny and Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 9th - in partnership with the Huron Lions Club—they provide the pancake breakfast at the First Presbyterian Church, 8am to noon, for cash donations. We provide the Bunny and Blinky during the Breakfast, and then the Egg Hunt at the Boat Basin at 1pm. Thanks to the Lions Club and the church for being part of that event. City-Wide Clean-up is Saturday, April 30th, 9am-11pm.--meet at Wall Street, providing breakfast and then assigning areas for clean-up. The Erie County Soil and Waste agency provides their trailer with all supplies; we thank them. Next: City-Wide Garage Sale in Saturday, May 21, 9am-1pm in the two parking lots (ours and the hotel’s) across from the Boat Basin. Registration for vendors already about half-full.

Mr. Croucher continued: coincidentally we have been approached by another resident interested in signs on Fabens Parks fields – positive message. They are interested in presenting to the Board, we will provide more specifics as this develops. Mr. Steinwart pointed out that the Boat Basin/Schedule 2022 brochure is included in Board packets; thanked our sponsors. He also provided updated on HJRD agreement: it went to the City early in February and passed; also to Township, and passed. It went to the Schools mid-February. It was rescinded from their agenda; requested more information. Our Finance Director and staff has provided additional information. Meeting is upcoming, hopefully move forward in March.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg thanked all for attendance. Mr. Merckens said he has enjoyed working on the Memorial, looking forward to the finished project. Mr. Edwards thanked the staff for work on Ice Rink; he noted community-wide use. Mr. Hahn thanked Jen and Doug for presentation on Anchor project. Mr. Grieves thanked staff for recent snow removal. Mr. Solberg: Next meeting is April 5th.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation