

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

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Gordon Hahn, Rene’ Franklin, Jonathan Merckens, Julie Spitzley

Present from HPRD/City of Huron: *City*--Matt Lasko; *HPRD*--Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher, Rick Reinbolt, Dan Weaver.

Members Absent: Christine Crawford, Bryan Edwards, Jen Kilbury, Jody Mast

Approval of past minutes: Mr. Solberg introduced November 1, 2020 meeting minutes; approved without change by unanimous vote.

Additional comments: Mr. Steinwart introduced Mr. Matt Lasko, Huron City Manager, to the Board. Mr. Lasko addressed comments to Board, that he was pleased to attend the meeting, and looking forward to working with the group.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Winter Day on Main

Brian Croucher recapped: We worked with the Chamber to have Winter Day on Main; we wanted to have Santa and fireworks, and local business involvement. We submitted plans to the City administration and the Erie County Health Department. As cases spiked, those plans were scaled-back. We ultimately had a small version. Our portion was to do a parade-style through town with Santa. The route started by Woodlands, and ended at Shawnee. Thank you to the Huron Police Department, the Huron Fire Department – and a special thanks to South Shore Marine. They provided the boat, trailer and truck for Santa and Mrs. Claus. While it was not the event that we wanted, the community came out for the Santa parade. We hope to bring back the Winter Fest next year.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Potential Fish Cleaning Station Update

Mr. Steinwart recapped: ODNR reached out to us; considering installation of a public Fish Cleaning Station at the Huron public boat ramp. Board packet included map of possible location. The State would fund the facility, and then ask us to do the maintenance. We have been in contact with South Haven, Michigan, which provides a good cleaning station model. They have been very open with us; we have talked with their administration, maintenance and engineering staff. They actually sent us their engineering plans and numbers. There is a real need here, and we often are asked by boaters. We are gathering information on maintenance and utilities, which will represent costs. The project is a good fit with our first-class Ohio boating facility. Just watching the number of boat trailers at local hotels/rental properties speaks to the economic boost from fishing. The subject is still in the “fact gathering” stage.

The Board discussed costs and maintenance; which will be quantified further. Mr. Steinwart stated that we are discussing with the State how we could recover some of the costs, possibly by updating the existing Boat Ramp agreement, or through the potential Cleaning Station agreement. All of this information will ultimately go to Council.

B. Second Peace Path Proposal by resident, at Lake Front Park.

Mr. Steinwart presented correspondence from local resident, Sharon Gallagher, and provided photos of the signs we installed for her at Fabens Park. He asked for Board input. Board discussion supported the general concept, but did not believe the location at Lake Front was appropriate. Alternate suggestions included changing out/adding messages at Fabens; or considering the Lake Erie Electric Trail.

C. Programs, Events, Planning

Mr. Steinwart interjected information on the Sports Event “Readers’ Choice” award for Fabens Park. The award application was submitted by Lake Erie Shores & Islands. We will begin promoting the award in conjunction with Lake Erie Shores & Islands. He stated that it was an honor, and thanked the Parks & Rec staff. The City, and Huron Township for their support of Fabens.

On programs, events, planning...Mr. Steinwart stated that we are moving forward, working on dates, contracts and sponsors. Obviously, we know that the health situation can pivot quickly. We have “broken down” the planning, and are moving fully forward in selected areas, like outside tournaments, and the Dawg Daze tournament, at Fabens Park. On the other side, we do not have the Cleveland Boat Show this year to promote our area, so we are adjusting to hurdles as we can.

Mr. Croucher continued--For youth programs, many of our most important programs require school facilities, so we will meet with school officials, and plan to follow their guidelines. He said that we are already receiving Dawg Daze registrations.

Board question about Nickel Plate – Mr. Steinwart stated that it was a banner year, which helped us with revenue because we lost most of our programs. But it was overwhelming and required many additional services on our part; including a part-time police officer on weekends. We anticipate repeating the police officer service. He reminded the Board that we are installing the “outdoor” shower at Nickel Plate; and the “Paddle Shack” rental program is returning. Board also discussed the beach at the pier—Mr. Steinwart stated that we have added beach cleaning and maintenance there, especially since Lake Front beach is smaller due to high water.

There was also a question about additional signage for the bikers on the Street Bike Lanes. Mr. Lasko said that, if permanent, there would be additional signage; at entry paths, and additional along the biker lanes – some of that is underway now. Mr. Lasko asked for continuing feedback to June 1st.

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg asked for Board comments. Ms. Franklin expressed support for the Bike lanes. Rick Reinbolt pointed out how positive new sidewalks have been for snow removals; Dan suggested checking out improvement of the fence removal at Show Boat property. Mr. Steinwart mentioned how good the Lake Shore Electric Trail looks with recent clearance of brush, and thanked Rick. Mr. Hahn thanked staff for hard work. Mr. Merckens said he has received several positive park comments from people that do not live in Huron.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Franklin; second by Ms. Spitzley - motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Irvin, Administrative Coordinator
Huron Parks & Recreation