

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

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Gordon Hahn, Julie Spitzley, Elizabeth Laffay

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

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: Rene' Franklin, Jonathan Merckens, Matt Grieves, James Brown

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve Feb. 7, 2023 minutes as presented; by Mrs. Spitzley, seconded by Mr. Hahn. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

OLD BUSINESS

A. HJRD Update

Mr. Steinwart updated the board on the status of the HJRD agreement. Since last meeting the School Board had met, no further action was taken on the agreement and no vote was held regarding their financial contribution. Moving forward, an agreement with the Township will be created and the school's deficit to the HJRD will be covered through reserves. The city and staff are open to ideas and further discussions. Discussions led to a potential levy. Mr. Steinwart commented a levy would benefit the City and the Township from a General Fund standpoint, however, what other entities could be looking at a levy in the near future?

Dr. Laffay provided an update from the School Board point of view. Dr. Tatman was charged to rework the agreement, after spending quite a bit of time on it, the board reviewed the changes and agreed there was not enough change and no further action is needed for this year. Dr. Laffay would like to continue conversations for next year.

Mrs. Spitzley presented a brief history on the evolution and purpose of the HJRD Board as her father was a founding member. The original Board's goal was to pull everyone together as a cohesive group with all in mind and to offer the community recreational opportunities. Moving forward it is unclear how it would work being an independent district. From a legal perspective this would need to be investigated. Mrs. Spitzley is hopeful a good solution will come of this.

Dr. Laffay emphasized finding a solution is very important to the Huron community.

Mr. Hahn shared the Township's support of Huron Parks & Recreation and offered his thoughts on a levy and the timing of additional potential levies in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Huron Community Field House

Mr. Steinwart provided a recap of the latest Field House Committee meeting. During the meeting Dr. Tatman shared the schools facilities plan and requested a six month slowing to allow for that plan to come

into focus. The Field House committee agreed knowing the information findings could benefit this potential project. Three important take-aways from the Field House meeting were: 1. Continued work on the marketing effort ie: a brochure outlining the potential project. 2. Discussion of forming a fundraising group within the Field House Committee and 3. Generating potential renderings to use as sales and marketing tools.

B. Project Updates

1. Berlin Road – contract was signed with City Architects for a Parks Master Plan. This board will be involved with the Master Plan during either the April or May meeting.
2. Tennis Courts – project is nearing the time to go out to bid. Work would occur over the summertime and be completed in the Fall. Graphics included in the packet describe options to include Pickleball Courts in the bid package as there have been a number of requests received. An online survey will be completed to find out preferences across the community. Hopefully the May meeting there will be data from the survey responses and numbers to discuss further.
3. Boat Ramp Fish Cleaning – tables are installed and are waiting on the VFD part. This is an important sensory that reverses the blades and shuts down the machine for safety. The part is due in at the end of March and will be installed then. There will be a “grand opening” event scheduled for the end of May.

C. Misc. Parks & Recreation

Mr. Croucher updated the board on the completion of the Indoor Soccer program and the success of that program over the years.

Upcoming events –

Sat., April 1 - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt. Pancake breakfast (8 AM to noon) is a partnership with the Huron Lion's Club. This year a magic show is included. The Egg Hunt is at the HBB beginning at 1 PM.

Sat., April 29 – City-Wide Clean-Up is returning this year from 9 to 11 AM at the Parks Office. Participants will head out to clean up the green spaces of Huron.

Sat., May 20 - City-Wide Garage Sale, is scheduled from 9 AM to 1 PM, registrations are coming in and the event is filling up.

The finalization of the summer camps and programs is currently taking place along with finishing up the community guide. Registrations for the programs will go live on the city website – Monday, April 3rd.

Mr. Croucher updated the Board on the status of Ice Rink for this year. Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not cooperate and provide ice for skating this year.

Mr. Steinwart referenced the enclosed Schedule of Events brochure and thanked the 2023 sponsors for their support of our programs.

The department is in the process of securing the part-time staff for the season, currently taking applications and prepping for the beginning.

The City of Huron will be partnering with Shores and Islands and neighboring communities to promote the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024.

Water Safety Day is returning - May 22, 2023. Water Safety Day is a partnership with the Fire Dept., Police, ODNR and the Schools.

Huron Boat Basin & Marina had representation at the Ohio Marina Conference at Sawmill

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg thanked everyone for coming out and announced the next meeting is Tuesday, April 4th, 2023. Mrs. Spitzley asked a question regarding the dockage. Dr. Laffay inquired about part-time seasonal employees. There were no additional comments from the attendees.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury
Huron Parks & Recreation