

**Village of Hinsdale
Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
May 19, 2008**

Chairman Medick called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 7:30pm at the Katherine Legge Memorial Lodge.

Members Present: Keith Medick, Chairmen, Commissioners, Sandy Usher, Jeff Curran, Bridget Quast, Van Hutcherson, Diane Griffin, John Deppe, Tish Lubenow, Katie Witham

Members Absent: Commissioner Finlay

Staff Present: Carrie Hauptert, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ryan Miller, Recreation Programmer
Dena Reetz, Sales and Event Planner
Robert Marshall, Parks and Recreation Intern

Others Present: Alice Mansell, Parade Committee, Luke Stiffler, Tim Vessler, & Joe Kinahan

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 21, 2008. Commissioner Usher moved approval of the April 21, 2008 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Curran seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Medick moved to have audience comments first, prior to other agenda items. Commissioner Usher seconded.

Luke Stiffler, 227 Justina Street, asked what the plan is for the lights at Peirce Park. Chairman Medick explained the need for these lights. He explained that Hinsdale Little League would contribute the financial donation for the lights. He also explained that these lights were needed because there had been a cut back in games due to lack of lighting and this would help the Hinsdale Little league to continue to expand its services. Mr. Stiffler asked why there were not other organizations that use these athletic fields and if the bases or the fences could be moved. Chairman Medick stated that there is a separation due to our land locked community. The fence poles are extremely expensive to remove due to them being placed in concrete.

Tim Vessler, 222 Justina Street, had numerous questions in regards to the lighting at Pierce Park. He asked “why we need these lights at Peirce?” “Will this be excessive lighting for a small area?” “What is going to happen with the limited parking?” “Is there a safety issue with streets and children?” Chairmen Medick stated that many of these issues need to go through the Zoning and Public Safety Board. He also stated that the traffic would be the same as a normal night due to the same time slots for games.

Jason Edgewater, 208 Phillipa, voiced his concerns for the neighbors trying to sleep. He also was concerned with the end of the year tournaments with many traveling teams coming in to our community. He also stated that he feels that the alcohol use at these activities will also increase due to the new lights. Chairman Medick stated that he has never seen alcohol consumed at the Hinsdale Little League activities and he urged Mr. Edgewater to contact the police if he notices any occurrence. Mr. Vessler raised the question of “why can’t we put these lights at Brook Park?” Chairman Medick explained that the field at Brook Park is much larger than the one at Peirce Park and that there are more participants in the younger leagues. He also stated that HLL accommodates over 800 participants with very limited field space. Mr. Vessler asked “why in our neighborhood?” Chairman Medick explained that the Park and Recreation Commission has intention to put lights at Robbins Park but the cost is too much at this time. Hinsdale Little league has offered to finance this project and the Commission feels that this is the right choice. Chairman Medick stated that if you made the choice to live near a park you must be willing to accept change at this park. Mr. Vessler disagreed with this comment. Commissioner Hutcherson stated that we have a wonderful facility to have these lights installed. The children deserve these upgrades at their park due to all their tremendous accomplishments. We need to endorse Hinsdale and be proud of what we have. Commissioner Usher stated that we have conducted strategic planning and the field lighting budget is struggling. Hinsdale Little League has approached the Village of Hinsdale and offered to provide Hinsdale with these additions to our already beautiful park. Mr. Stiffler asked the question “What does a new field cost?” Chairman Medick explained that it doesn’t even matter how much a new field costs because we are land locked in our community. There is nowhere else to create a new field. Mr. Vessler raised the question, “Who pays for the electric bill?” Chairman Medick stated that the Village pays the electric bill but Hinsdale Little League and all the other athletic groups pay and donate large sums of money to the Village for these purposes. Tim Vessler asked, “Why they were informed after this a final decision?” Ms. Hauptert stated that she sent letters out to the homes that were directly abutting the park and once issues arose the rest of the neighbors were notified. Tim Vessler stated that the Park and Recreation Commission should take in consideration the neighbors and collectively this commission is doing a horrible job.

Deborah Lazar-Pearl, 108 N. Garfield, informed everyone that there were better lighting techniques. There is new technology that exists that would help the environment. Standard class 3 lighting would be ideal for these ball fields.

Joe Kinahan, 323 Phillipa, stated that the HLL program is outstanding and that he is in favor of the lighting and he lives one block from them. He does not have children in the program but supports it completely. He also wanted to commend the Park and Recreation Commission and staff on a tremendous job.

Chairman Medick closed audience comments.

4th of July Parade

Chairman Medick introduced Alice Mansell. Alice Mansell stated that her committee and the Parks and Recreation staff have been working hard to pull this 4th of July Parade together. She feels that we are in terrific shape as of now. At this time we have 12 floats in the parade. Ms. Mansell feels as if we need the participants to follow the rules for this event to be a success. Ms. Mansell is pushing for more neighborhood groups to join in the parade. She feels that these groups have diminished over the years. Ms. Mansell has declined the honor of being the Grand Marshall of the parade. She recommends that local hero, Major Andres, be the Grand Marshall. Ms. Hauptert stated that the parade is coming along nicely, and that we have hired a craft show coordinator. At this moment we have 25 crafters scheduled to attend the festival and there seem to be more interested.

Correspondence

Ms. Hauptert stated that Stu Seman would like the park at Stough Park improved and be zoned "Open Space" and be made official park land. Ms. Hauptert stated that George Franco and his crew are cleaning up this area.

Liaison Reports

Chairman Medick introduced ACA report for the month.

AYSO's proposal was tabled until we receive notice from Bill Otto.

The Plan Commission had questions in regards to the lights at Peirce Park. They went over the issues with these lights.

Ms. Hauptert stated that the Gateway annual meeting would be held May 29 at 6:00pm. Hinsdale is the 2nd highest user of Gateway's services.

Monthly Reports

Ms. Hauptert stated that Katherine Legge Memorial Lodge did better than break even at year-end. In the past the facility has lost money, and this year has been a drastic improvement. Pool passes have reached over \$125,000.00 in revenues. The overall department has improved its revenues by 20%. Ms. Hauptert would also like to change the breakdown of account 3421 that has been a General/Administrative account.

Chairman Medick commends the staff for increasing revenues for FY '07-'08.

Ms. Hauptert does not have an update on the Brook Park project because the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District has not issued a permit yet. Ms. Hauptert stated Sean Pelletier, Village Engineer, is pushing to get this done.

Ms. Hauptert introduced the new Sales and Event Planner, Dena Reetz, and the Parks and Recreation Intern, Bob Marshall.

Ms. Hauptert stated that Mr. Troy has been in contact with Walt, from Thorguard, trying to get this system functioning properly. Walt has been in contact with the president of the company trying to figure out the problem.

Chairman Medick asked staff if we are still in a warranty period and stated that Walt sold our commission on safety and reliability and we are not getting either right now. Chairman Medick asked what our next step is.

Ms. Hauptert stated that the Skate Park opened April 1, 2008 and we have reported limited vandalism. Over the fall season, a lot of in-house maintenance work was performed on the skate park. Ms. Hauptert will have Bob Marshall (Intern) conduct a skate park usage survey.

Chairman Medick stated that the idea of relocating the Hinsdale Middle School is not moving forward at this time due to a variety of constraints.

Ms. Hauptert stated that she is attending a meeting Mr. Cook, Village Trustees and Liz Gorman from the Cook County Forest Preserve to discuss the Duncan Field project.

Proclamation

Ms Hauptert introduced Chairman Medick to the Park and Recreation Proclamation. Changes are able to be made to fit our community. The designated month is July.

Proclamation was tabled until the June 2008 meeting.

Strategic Plan

Ms. Hauptert stated staff is looking to offer more unique programs and find the holes in the community where services are lacking. This may not happen in one meeting. Chairman Medick feels that we have focused on capital projects as of late. Chairman Medick would like staff to speak with The Community House decrease duplication. Ms. Hauptert stated that staff has been in contact with The Community House in the past for this purpose. Ms. Hauptert stated that we need to look at all of our Village service organizations.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Finlay moved to adjourn. Commissioner Usher seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 9:25pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Miller
Recreation Programmer