

**Village of Hinsdale
Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
August 18, 2008**

Chairman Medick called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 7:35 p.m. at Village Hall.

Members Present: Keith Medick, Chairman, Commissioners, Jeff Curran, Diane Griffin, Jeff Finlay, Van Hutcherson & Bridget Quast

Members Absent: Commissioners Lubenow, Deppe, Witham & Usher

Staff Present: Gina Hassett, future Director of Parks and Recreation
Nick Troy, Manager of Recreation Services
Linda Copp, Parks and Recreation Secretary

Others Present: Ruta Jensen and Stu Seman

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Finlay mentioned that he did attend the meeting, but was shown as absent on the minutes. Commissioner Medick moved approval of the June 16, 2008 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Curran seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Lights Update

Chairman Medick gave an update regarding the lights at Peirce Park. Currently some lights are not within code and the Village cannot move forward with future projects with the existing Code. There are multiple park structures that don't meet code and the Village is working to change the Code so all existing lights and accessory structures are within Code.

Commissioner Finlay will review the accessory Code. Commissioner Griffin stated that the zoning code change should affect the past lighting as well as any future improvements.

Commissioner Finlay stated that he believes the current lights would be legal non-conforming and retroactive.

Chairman Medick stated that the police are 100% in favor of lighting the fields because it keeps kids busy in sports.

Resident Concerns

Chairman Medick requested to move Stu Seman and Ruta Jensen up on the agenda.

Stu Seman spoke regarding Stough Park. Mr. Seman stated that Stough needs cleaning up. The mosquitoes are bad, it is too dense and only the perimeter of the park is mowed.

Nick Troy stated that he has spoken with George Franco, Director of Public Services about cleaning up the park. Hopefully that will happen by the end of August. Mr. Troy stated that currently the land is designated R4 but it should be changed to open space. Chairman Medick will call Dave Cook regarding that.

Vi Smith from Yoga Teacher's Group was in attendance. She wants to come to the next meeting regarding Yoga.

Ruta Jensen passed out information regarding pesticide use on the fields. She explained how pesticides affect children's health. Chairman Medick asked if the pesticides were banned by the EPA. Ms. Jensen stated that they were not and suggested to use corn bluten instead since it is safer. Ms. Jensen stated that the fields are overused and misused. She felt that they should be rotated and taken out of use for a season. Chairman Medick stated that if there were more lighted fields, that fields could be rotated but that the fields cannot be taken out of commission at this time due to the needs of the users.

Mr. Troy explained about trying to work on taking a field out for a season, but other communities would need to cooperate and coordinate this effort. Commissioner Curran stated that efforts are being taken but capital infusion is needed. He stated that turf fields and more lighted fields could give rotation to some fields.

Ms. Jensen encouraged the Commission to look strenuously because what is being done isn't working. Chairman Medick stated that there needs to be a balance of the health aspect with the necessary use of the fields for athletic organizations. Chairman Medick encouraged dialogue with EPS.

Commission Curran asked about communicating with the sports groups regarding spraying. Mr. Troy stated that Dan Hopkins lets him know when the fields will be sprayed well in advance and then Mr. Troy sends emails out to all the organizations. Signs are also posted in all parks in advance. Ms. Jensen commented that it is requirement to notify the schools. Chairman Medick asked if it could be posted on our website and if there could be an email chain. Mr. Troy stated that he does currently send out emails to all organizations when the fields are unplayable and we could increase the signage. Commissioner Griffin stated that Bill Otto from AYSO does a good job of notifying the coaches.

Chairman Medick thanked Ms. Jensen for her input.

Director of Parks and Recreation Introduction

Chairman Medick introduced Gina Hassett, the new Director of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Hassett explained her background with the Village of Orland Park. She explained that she has a lot of experience with field usage, aquatics and is very passionate about parks and recreation.

AYSO Field Maintenance Donation

Mr. Troy talked about the potential donation from AYSO. AYSO wants to give a generous portion to field maintenance for potential resodding and/or drainage tiles. AYSO will work with Staff to choose the right fields to repair. Chairman Medick suggested it be used for active fields like Veeck and not the passive ones.

AYSO will meet with Staff to see what is the best scenerio and report in the next few months.

Mr. Troy stated that Hawks Soccer currently have one hour of practice time on various nights and that is not long enough. AYSO has requested usage until 8:00 pm. at Veeck Park.

Commissioner Curran asked what time AYSO currently starts using the fields. Mr. Troy stated it was 4:00 pm. Commissioner Curran asked if there are currently more players or more teams. Ms. Hassett will research the numbers. Mr. Troy stated that the issue is that there are not enough fields with lights. Chairman Medick suggested to get the organization heads together with the Commission to get a common ground. Commissioner Hutcherson suggested to work together to do the right thing for the kids.

Correspondence

Mr. Troy shared the letter received from Hinsdale Community Preschool thanking the Commission and the Parks and Recreation Dept. for usage of the Robbins Park Concession stand on July 4th.

Platform Tennis

Mr. Troy stated that the ACA approved \$15,000 for resurfacing the platform tennis courts. Work is scheduled within the next couple of weeks. No one will be allowed to play during that time. Chairman Medick commented that the paddle academy is in mid-September. He stated to check with HPTA regarding the colors for the resurfacing.

Monthly Reports

Chairman Medick asked about the Zook House. Mr. Troy stated that there are still issues with MWRD. Commissioner Deppe will be attending meetings with them.

Chairman Medick questioned the field fees on the Revenue/Expense report. Mr. Troy will check to see if finance coded them incorrectly. Mr. Troy stated that revenue is down on the programs in the Park and Recreation Dept. as well as at The Community House and other organizations. The economy may be to blame. He stated that the pool numbers have been okay. Commissioner Finlay questioned the major outlay expenses. Mr. Troy explained that all major expenses have been deferred except for the pool heater.

Commissioner Curran asked about the contractual services for special events. Mr. Troy will research this.

Fourth of July Report

Chairman Medick stated that he had very positive comments regarding the parade and thought it went great. However, this year the entries were too close together and too quick.

Commissioner Finlay suggested to have all the participants come from either east or west of Garfield so they would be lined up in the right direction. Commissioner Curran thanked Alice Mansell and volunteers for their help.

Hinsdale Fall Festival featuring the Great Pumpkin Patch

Chairman Medick asked about the Fall Festival. Mr. Troy stated that it will be different this year and explained that the event will be at Burlington Park with other community organizations. Mr. Troy stated that there will not be Haunted Hinsdale due to the cancellation of the event last year.

End of Summer Bash

Commissioner Hutcherson asked how the ticket sales were going for the concert. Mr. Troy explained the sales are going very well. Mr. Troy also stated that Harris Bank is the sponsor and their logo and name will be included on all promotional materials and the banners. Mr. Troy explained what is included in the VIP tickets and that there are only 40 left.

Brook Park Follow-Up

Chairman Medick asked about Brook Park. Mr. Troy commented that he had received a memo from Village Engineer, Shawn Pelletier, stating that an Amendment was approved at the special board meeting that evening for Copenhagen to finish the job by September 1 for the storm sewer.

Chairman Medick asked about the landscaping. Mr. Troy said the landscaping will not be finished until the sewer line is fixed but the field is okay for football to use. Mr. Troy stated that Falcon Football doesn't practice there and is aware of the situation.

Chairman Medick asked if there is a completion date. Mr. Troy stated that the asphalt should be finished by the week after Labor Day. Commissions Curran stated that the field is usable but that work is still needed.

New Business

Chairman Medick asked about the letter regarding Ehret Park. Mr. Troy stated that the homeowner wants to purchase a portion of the park for the current market value. Chairman Medick asked Mr. Troy if the Commission needed to make a recommendation. Commissioner Finlay asked what the conditions of the donation were. Chairman Medick stated that it is a passive park and wants more information regarding the park's history and size.

Stu Seman gave a history of the park and how the Village obtained it. He said the gazebo was built about 6 or 7 years ago, but otherwise nothing has been done to it. Chairman Medick thanked Mr. Seman for his information. Commission Curran asked if the Village would be able to acquire more land to expand the park. Ms. Hassett will bring back information at the next meeting. She will also check to see if there is a covenant or conditions on the donation.

Chairman Medick stated that park walk arounds by Commissioners have not been done. Ms. Hassett will work with Commissions on getting this done.

Thorguard Lighting Prediction

Mr. Troy stated the Thorguard Lighting Prediction was replaced on July 4th and is functioning. He also stated that the system at the pool will stop on September 1st when the pool closes. Commission Curran asked if the warranty is reset with the new unit. Mr. Troy will look into this.

Brochure Sponsorship

Mr. Troy explained that he has had requests for sponsorship in the Parks and Recreation brochures. He explained that it could be a good marketing tool for businesses to offset the costs involved with design and printing of the brochure. The Commissioners stated that they had no problem with the idea, but that we should focus on Hinsdale businesses.

Other Business

Commissioner Finlay stated that the newspaper had an article stating that the Commission had plans to convert parks to soccer fields. Mr. Troy said he did not have a conversation with Public Services regarding this. Commissioner Finlay suggested that we need to be aware of statements before making them public.

Chairman Medick thanked Mr. Troy for his time with Hinsdale and wished him the best in Rolling Meadows.

Commissioner Hutcherson commented on the dogs at KLM Park. They have been running up to track runners and others in the park. The Commission suggested making a sign that clearly states the dog hours only. Commissioner Curran suggested that the rules also be published on the Village website.

Mr. Troy stated that KLM is now strictly for lacrosse and not soccer. Chairman Medick suggested to have dialogue with Hinsdale Central regarding use of their field for field usage.

Commissioner Curran asked about the irrigation at Robbins Park. Mr. Troy stated that the storm sewer has no affect on the fields and that the project is complete.

Commissioner Quast stated that she had a resident tell her that a portion of the fence at Burns Field is broken near the playground. Mr. Troy will look into this.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Finlay moved to adjourn. Commissioner Quast seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp
Secretary