

Village of Hinsdale
Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
December 15, 2008

Chairman Medick called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall.

Members Present: Keith Medick, Chairman, Commissioners, Jeff Curran, Jeff Finlay, Diane Griffin and Sandy Usher

Members Absent: Commissioners Deppe, Lubenow and Quast

Staff Present: Gina Hassett, Director of Parks and Recreation
Linda Copp, Secretary

Also Present: Newly appointed Commissioner Bill Otto

Commissioner Medick made a motion to approve November 17 minutes. Commissioner Curran seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Medick welcomed new Commissioner Bill Otto to the Commission. Chairman Medick also commented that Commissioner Quast has resigned her position due to personal family issues.

Expense and revenue report

The November expense and revenue report was reviewed. Chairman Medick asked about the refund for lawn services. Ms. Hassett explained that it would be a credit of services to the Village and not a refund. Commissioner Curran asked what budget year this credit was in. Ms. Hassett stated that most would be in FY 08/09. She explained that the paperwork would now be managed by Public Services and that the credit would probably be used in the spring for extra services.

Commissioner Usher commented that the Village should be able to get the cash back since we were over billed. Ms. Hassett will check to see if we can receive the cash instead of a credit on the account. Commissioner Usher asked Ms. Hassett to add a summary page to the report to show the capital expenditures.

Activity Report

Ms. Hassett explained the activity report. The Polar Express was held on December 7 and went well. She stated that a new event, Dinner With Santa would be held on December 17 at KLM. 44 people are registered for the event.

Staff Report

Chairman Medick explained that the text amendment was separated into components at the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission did vote to recommend the Amendment to ZPS. The component to treat lights, as special use did not pass. A motion was made at Plan Commission to delete that language. This will not allow for future projects such as Peirce. The Text Amendment will now go to ZPS and the Board in January.

Commissioner Curran asked if Veeck Park would be out for all of 2009. Ms. Hassett explained that it would be and that she is looking at alternate locations, possibly Duncan Field. She would like to be able to have some spots at Hinsdale Central High School, but so far the athletic coach has not been receptive to that idea.

Commissioner Curran asked how much of the Veeck sports groups can Brook pick up. Ms. Hassett stated she would need to know how much it would cost to do that. Chairman Medick explained that it is the older kids like the Red Dogs that use Veeck Park. Ms. Hassett explained that a path would be put in across the outfield that will be used to access the water treatment facility construction. Commissioner Finlay encouraged Ms. Hassett to talk to School District 181 regarding field space for 2009. Ms. Hassett stated that because Veeck is a lighted field, there would be an issue for night games. There probably will not be men's softball, since they play in the evening. There also will not be travel teams this year. Ryan Miller checked into renting temporary lights and they would be too expensive.

Chairman Medick stated that Duncan Field could be an option for men's softball on Sunday afternoons. Commissioner Otto asked about using Oak Brook or Burr Ridge fields. Ms. Hassett stated that she has contacted them and they were not favorable. Chairman Medick stated that if there were funds for Duncan upgrades, they would be used for multiple seasons. He also stated that travel teams would have to have more away games since Veeck would not be available. Ms. Hassett commented that a long time lease for Duncan Field is still under discussion. The cost would be \$10,000 per year for forty years.

Ms. Hassett stated that the timeline for Veeck is for construction to start after Christmas and be finished by the end of May. Commissioner Curran asked to be kept informed monthly of the progress. Ms. Hassett stated that the park must be completed to our expectations before it will be useable.

Commissioner Otto stated that there is a small piece of parkland in the Woodlands that could be used for practice. Ms. Hassett will ask Chief Bloom to do a traffic study to see if the park could be used for the 2009 season. She stated that there is a resident that is concerned about that park usage. The neighbors could be invited and notified of the possible use of the park. Commissioner Otto stated that the trees there are used for deflection and are strategically planted.

Commissioner Finlay commented on the budget concerns. Ms. Hassett stated that Ryan Miller would oversee field usage and camps. She will hire a seasoned pool manager that will work various hours. She will be seeking out qualified candidates soon.

Ms. Hassett commented that the Park and Recreation Department should remain as it is with three staff members, but we may need to provide less services. Some of the services cut may be no End of Summer Bash and reduced pool hours. She will give a report to Village Manager Dave Cook on how these cuts would affect the budget. Chairman Medick commented that those numbers should come before the Commissioners before going to the Board. Ms. Hassett will communicate with the Commission members via email since the Village Manager needs this information quickly.

Chairman Medick asked if all improvements for FY 09/10 and FY 08/09 would be deferred. Ms. Hassett commented that all expenditures would be reassessed in February. Some work is being done at KLM and she is getting quotes on plastering. Commissioner Curran asked the status of pool information for the summer brochure. Ms. Hassett explained that the pool fees and hours are in the winter/spring brochure and that if the hours change, the department would notify any pool members of the change.

Commissioner Usher asked about looking at the programs with low attendance. Ms. Hassett stated that we do add 25 – 30% on to our fees to be sure that the programs are affordable but our true cost is covered. The field fees were new last year, so they are okay. Commissioner Finlay commented that he thought some fees were to be increased in the second year. Ms. Hassett will check old minutes to see if that is true.

Sports Summit

The Sports Summit will be January 28 at KLM. It will be advertised as a public meeting.

KLM Summit

The KLM Summit will be held January 13 after the regular Park and Recreation meeting at KLM. It will also be advertised as a public meeting.

Peirce Park pavilion

Chairman Medick asked for an update on the repair of the Peirce Park pavilion. Ms. Hassett stated that it will be March or April for the repairs to be done, depending on the weather. The insurance company will cover the cost.

July 4th Parade

Chairman Medick asked about the status of the July 4th parade. Ms. Hassett stated that there would need to be a new route this year due to construction on Garfield and the feeder streets. The route will need to be finalized in January. She has talked to Alice Mansell and Patty Dolan for their feedback. The previous craft vendor has contacted Ms. Hassett regarding doing the Arts and Crafts Fair again. A contract has been received from the company who ran the Fair last year, but has not been returned yet.

Commissioner Curran asked which craft group was more profitable. Ms. Hassett will look at the financials. She stated that with the parade route changing, the Fair might need to move to Burlington Park.

Capital Projects

Chairman Medick asked Ms. Hassett to put the actuals in the report to know when and if the improvement was done. Chairman Medick also stated that these items need to be prioritized. Ms. Hassett commented that the overall Village budget for capital projects in FY 09/10 is \$400,000. Approximately \$146,000 of that would be for Parks and Recreation improvements. Commissioner Usher stated that we will not be able to rent KLM if improvements are not made and that pool memberships will also be affected. Commissioner Finlay agreed that revenue would be down if improvements are not done.

Chairman Medick commented that items such as pool lockers and floor continue to be maintenance items, not capital outlay. Commission Finlay asked if funds are being withheld for maintenance items. Ms. Hassett stated that maintenance items like mulch are not even in the budget and that cost is \$7,000. She gave her list of items in need of maintenance and the approximate cost.

Commissioner Usher commented that the Village assets of KLM and the pool would be useless if they are not maintained and that these assets need to be protected. Chairman Medick stated that if the basketball court at Burns is not going to be repaired, and then it needs to be roped off so that it can't be used. It has become a

safety issue to use it. The Commission is not comfortable with FY 08/09 items being deferred until FY 09/10. Items that can be eliminated are the detection system and the Burns Field warming house. Chairman Medick asked Ms. Hassett to get prices for tuck pointing and the copper roof at KLM. The Commission needs prices for those items to get a better feel for them being deferred.

Ms. Hassett stated that the kitchen upgrade could be deferred and the cabinets could be painted in-house. The plaster will be fixed in January. Chairman Medick stated that these issues would be addressed in January at the Summit.

Commissioner Finlay asked if there are any concerns with the fields that need maintenance. Commissioner Finlay also stated that the Burns Field warming house renovations should go before the Preservation Commission. A professional evaluation should be done of the building to take a comprehensive look at the structure. Commissioner Usher commented that the Commissioners would like to see what are the recurring items that are being deferred.

Chairman Medick asked Ms. Hassett to put together a list of the last time major improvements were done to all of our facilities. After having this information, a comprehensive job can be done for field rotation.

Commissioner Usher asked Ms. Hassett for a schedule that would show regular maintenance items and the amount of years it should be done. Commissioner Curran asked Ms. Hassett to come back with grant opportunities so that the Commissioner can tell the Trustees that they have explored all options.

Commissioner Otto commented on the Hoops for Life event. He commented that this could be a great fundraiser for Parks and Recreation. The organizers of the event have stopped sponsoring it. He stated that perhaps the proceeds could be split between the organization and the Village.

Chairman Medick commented that the Trustees may be uninformed regarding the issues and that the Commissioners need to be creative with fund-raising. He asked if Ms Hassett could look into getting corporate sponsors for the park issues.

Commissioner Griffin asked if we knew when Lyons Township would make their decision regarding the money to be distributed. Ms. Hassett explained that November of 2009 would be the latest they would make their decision.

Chairman Medick asked the Commission if there was a consensus on the projects that needed to be done this fiscal year. The Commission agreed that the warming house at Burns could be deferred, the lightning prediction could be eliminated and

that we need the status of the usefulness of the KLM roof. Commission Finlay asked what is not budgeted. Ms. Hassett commented that the floor and lighting at KLM are not budgeted items. Chairman Medick once again stated how the locker rooms at the pool need attention and cannot be deferred another year.

Commissioner Usher requested Ms. Hassett to find out how many times items have been deferred. Commissioner Finlay stated that the history of client complaints could be used as a tool for maintenance.

Chairman Medick commented that the items to be completed for this fiscal year are:

- Hire a consultant for the Burns Field Warming House
- Take pictures of Burns basketball court
- Get prices for roof at KLM
- Have a snapshot by April of when playgrounds need to be redone so the new Commissioners and new Board will have that information

Correspondence

Ms. Hassett reported that there was no correspondence.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Hassett reported that ACA is reviewing budget options. The options for the Village are reducing staff and services and reducing pool hours. A first draft of the budget will be ready by the first of the year. Chairman Medick suggested a Commissioner attend the ACA meeting to give the Commission and residents opinions. Ms. Hassett passed out a calendar for Commissioner's to pick a date to attend an ACA meeting.

There was no Gateway report.

Commissioner Curran asked when the pool concession stand would be going to bid. Ms. Hassett replied that the bid contract expires this year. A new bid will be going out soon. She will be looking for improved quality food and reasonable prices.

Commissioner Usher commented that the park evaluation reports showed parks that were being underutilized. Commissioner Griffin suggested putting the park evaluation forms on the next agenda. She also asked about the budget the End of Summer Bash. Ms. Hassett commented that the 2008 concert was \$20,000 over budget and that would probably be cut from the budget due to budget constraints. Commissioner Usher asked about the status of the ice rink. The weather is going to stay cold and ice should be made so it is ready for the winter break. Ms. Hassett stated that we do hope to have ice, but Public Services has not been available due to snow plowing. She will talk to Public Services and Village Manager Dave Cook.

Commissioner Curran congratulated the Hinsdale Central football team for their accomplishments this year.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Curran moved to adjourn. Commissioner Otto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Recreation Committee meeting was declared adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp
Secretary