

**Village of Hinsdale
Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
March 16, 2009**

Chairman Medick called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 7:37 p.m. at Memorial Hall 2nd floor Board Room.

Members Present: Chairman Keith Medick, Commissioners Jeff Curran, John Deppe, Jeff Finlay, Tish Lubenow, Ed McCarthy and Sandra Usher

Members Absent: Commissioners Diane Griffin and William Otto

Also Present: Jim Audet, Hinsdale Swim Club; Trustee candidates Bill Seith & Craig Chapello; Bridget Ellsworth, 5304 Woodland Ave, Western Springs; Cathleen Miles, 924 S Vine Street, Hinsdale; and Jason Edgewater, 208 Phillipa, Hinsdale

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

Chairman Medick welcomed Ed McCarthy to the Commission. Ed will replace Bridget Quast. Commissioner McCarthy stated he has lived here for seven years and his three children are involved in AYSO. Commissioner McCarthy was very excited to be able to serve on the Commission.

Commissioner Finlay moved approval of the February 16, 2009 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes with corrections. Commissioner Deppe seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Hinsdale Swim Club Agreement

Jim Audet from Hinsdale Swim Club was present. Ms. Hassett explained that there would be a 5% increase per year in the Agreement. The current agreement expires this year so the new contract would be for 2010, 2011 and 2012. All other arrangements would remain the same. Commissioner Finlay asked if 5% increase per year could be reviewed in for the future. Commissioner Deppe moved approval to move to ACA for approval. Commissioner Finlay seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Hassett stated that she was able to secure time at Hinsdale Central High School for lifeguard training. Commissioner Deppe wanted to know how long Mr. Audet had been involved with Hinsdale Swim Club and thanked him for his service.

Expense and revenue report

Ms. Hassett discussed the contractual expenses. Ms. Hassett said the last page of the report has that statistical information. Commissioner Curran mentioned that 50% of the expenses are contractual and that is a plus. Ms. Hassett mentioned that this is only the second year that they were broken out in categories. Prior to that all expenses were combined in one general account. Commissioner Finlay asked about rec services and what that involves. Ms. Hassett explained that most of the services are set up contractually. Commissioner Finlay stated that he doesn't want the rec services expenses put together with contracted services. Commissioner Finlay stated that from a budgetary view, we should know up front what expenses we are committed to. Ms. Hassett stated that the costs are related according to how many are registered and includes all of 3420. Details are only contractual like landscaping, trash, buildings and grounds etc. and the report shows more detail.

Commissioner Usher wanted to know what 3428 expenses are. Ms. Hassett stated that Ryan Miller's salary was under rec administration. It also includes the data software expenses and Ryan Miller's seminar or membership fees.

Commissioner Finlay asked about the general interest account figure. Ms. Hassett will check her formula and said she may have a mistake in the spreadsheet.

Chairman Medick stated that Ms. Hassett is doing a good job on the reports and that they have been more helpful. Commissioner Usher said it would make more sense to have a line item for each rec service.

Chairman Medick stated KLM and the pool covers its cost and that the platform tennis numbers don't include the cost of the utilities, but still covers the expenses. Chairman Medick stated that we are not charging enough to cover our costs in rec services and he wants to continue to look at working with other organizations to build up volume to break even. Ms. Hassett stated that we are trying not to duplicate programs and that the organizations do advertise events together. Ms. Hassett stated that the Parks and Recreation Dept are at a disadvantage because of minimal facilities.

Ms. Hassett will continue to evaluate the programs, including cooperative programming. Commissioner Usher asked about carrying programs over year to year and that we should evaluate programs annually. If we offer a program from HCA, do we charge a fee for including their information in our brochure? Chairman Medick stated that we all have to look at different areas to cut costs, such as having the brochure only on-line. Ms. Hassett will look at programs to meet the need of the community. Commissioner Deppe wanted to know if we have

a welcome packet for new visitors. Ms. Hassett explained that My New Neighbor offers our brochure in their welcome package. Commissioner Finlay suggested to put a notice in the newsletter about the brochure being available on line and to cut the size to save printing and postage costs. Commissioner Curran suggested ranking classes by participation for the spreadsheet. Ms. Hassett stated that she gets calls all the time regarding companies that want to offer programs. Chairman Medick stated that Ms. Hassett's expertise can guide the Commission in this regard. The Commission wants a recommendation about brochure and programs to decrease costs. Commissioner Usher suggested that if there are zero participants, the program shouldn't be offered again.

Commissioner Curran suggested providing a survey for feedback on brochure usage, especially for younger families. Commissioner Deppe agreed.

Chairman Medick asked about Field fees. Ms. Hassett stated that AYSO still owes \$10,000 and will hopefully pay before May 1.

Rec Program Report

Ms. Hassett thanked Ms. Copp for the great job on brochures. Ms. Hassett stated that the date for the Party in the Park was incorrect. The correct date is Friday, August 7. Ms. Hassett stated that she received quotes for a FOB system at Burns Field of \$3500 with an annual fee of \$660. This item will not be in this year's budget.

Commissioner Finlay asked about dog cleanup at KLM on March 14. Ms. Hassett commented that the cleanup went well and the participants were excited about the turnout. Ms. Hassett will work with the dog owners for receptacles and better signage. The Village will need to look at the long term usage of plastic bags. Ms. Hassett and the Commissioners each stated that everyday there are a lot of dogs where they don't belong and there are owners with 3 or 4 dogs not paying any attention to where they run. Commissioner Usher stated that everyday people violate the rules. Chairman Medick asked if Brian McElwain can help make new signs and get the message out.

Ms. Hassett commented that she is working with Tim Scott about making a flyer to hand out and receptacles will be helpful as well. Chairman Medick suggested that the most efficient way for the rules to work is for Mr. McElwain to get the word out. Commissioner Usher commented that most of the regular participants don't know who the violators are.

Commissioner McCarthy suggested that we could start with the owners of dogs registered through the Village. They could be contacted as a starting point.

Commissioner Deppe stated that probably 60% of the dog walkers are non-residents. Chairman Medick stated that the signs are confusing and people don't stop to read the signs. Something needs to be done for improvement and Ms. Hassett will talk to Brian McElwain.

Commissioner Finlay asked about the east gate at KLM. Ms. Hassett stated that at the first flooding Burr Ridge sand bagged the gate. The drain was full of paddle balls and the sewer needs to be cleaned. Ms. Hassett is working with the police to have teenagers that need community service hours help clean the area. Ms. Hassett is looking for a new bridge walkway to be installed. That cost is approximately \$1,500.

Chairman Medick stated that the pool locker room floor is cut from the budget. Ms. Hassett stated that because the sales tax numbers were worse than expected that cost cannot be justified. Commissioner Curran asked about reducing the hours at the pool. Ms. Hassett stated that the pool will be closed at 8 pm for the months other than July. This reduction of hours will save approximately \$11,000. Chairman Medick asked if there was some way that something cheaper can be done, such as different lighting or painting. Ms. Hassett said the floor can be power washed. The pool could close early on a Sunday to do that. Chairman Medick asked Ms. Hassett to be creative to make the pool floor look better. Commissioner Curran suggested contacting HCA to see if they want to do murals on a wall.

Staff Reports

Ms. Hassett stated that there are 67 bike racks for the pool and 28 to be installed at Burns. The Village must pay for the installation. The cost is approximately \$100 each to install them. She also stated that the pool concession bids are due next week and there have been some other vendors interested. Commissioner Lubenow inquired about the portable toilets and t-shirts. Ms. Hassett stated that these are requests for proposals.

Commissioner Usher asked about the parade. Ms. Hassett commented that the parade will step off from Washington unless the Village gets stimulus money for the Garfield project, then the route will stay the original route because the road project will need to be rebid. If the Village does receive stimulus money, the craft fair will stay at Burlington. Ms. Hassett is also checking into a buck slip or mailing in the water bills for the parade donations.

Tim Scott is working on solicited donations for brochure sponsorship and special events. Once that is done a mailing will go out to Chamber members.

Chairman Medick shared a letter from State Representative Jim Durbin about the Illinois website with information on the stimulus package. His thought is to look at

the website and look at the infrastructure for KLM. Ms. Hassett will look to see if there is anything eligible.

Commissioner Curran asked if Ms. Hassett has heard from Lyons Township. She has not heard anything and will follow up again.

Follow Up Items

Duncan Field Agreement Status Update

Ms. Hassett stated that it recommended by the County for her to meet with Friends of the Parks and Forests. They told her that soccer is not on their agenda for Duncan Field. The County wants more environmental friendly recreational usage of the field. They could not support the plans. The Friends of Parks and Forests are groups that lobby for land use for Cook County Forest Preserve. The Chairman for Cook County said that the project will never happen because of strict land use policy. The Cook County Commissioner said no but was enticed with connecting the interstate portion with Bennis Woods. Without soccer field, it is no win situation for us. The Village can continue to use the baseball field but there would be no lights or irrigation. The Village was encouraged to use the outfield for soccer in fall. Friends of Parks and Forest might come in and clear the area. Ms. Hassett commented that they are citizens and the Commissioner of Real Estate Committee has to approve the item on the agenda with their recommendation. Chairman Medick wanted to know if we need to do a letter writing campaign to put some pressure of the County.

Chairman Medick asked what is the next step. Ms. Hassett suggested using it more for Little League and soccer and currently we still don't have the permit for the field use. The Village has given the County our Certificate of Insurance. The County would rather use the area for environmental use like picnic shelters and not athletics or dog usage. Commissioner Curran stated that it sounds like the County is looking for more shared use. They don't allow storm water retention there and don't want it given away for wrong use. They are very good at saying no and have done so with many other groups including Senior citizens.

Peirce Park Exterior Site Plan & Review Update

The Site Plan & Review was scheduled to be held last Wednesday. There was an appeal filed because residents were concerned that it was not within Code, so the issue will now be before ZBA this Wednesday, March 18.

Capital Projects and Repair/Replacement Schedule

Ms. Hassett had nothing to report. Ms. Hassett will have a presentation to show in the future. Once the new board is elected, she will have the opportunity to make the presentation.

Chairman Medick suggested that Ms. Hassett find creative things to be done as far as the budget. Ms. Hassett stated that the KLM ballroom floor is still in the carry over items. Chairman Medick asked to keep Burns on radar. Ms. Hassett stated that the basketball court will probably have to be roped off this spring because it is unsafe to use. Chairman Medick asked for a new price for the repairs. Ms. Hassett asked if the court should be a multi-purpose court. The Commission suggested keeping it simple. Commissioner Curran stated that the breakdown might have been accelerated because of the retaining wall and no drainage.

Commission Curran asked about the Hoops for Life project. Can we do it? How do we do it? He suggested not losing the window for that project.

Ms. Hassett commented that the fire inspection at KLM stated that the oven/stove has to be replaced because it leaks. Building maintenance is looking at finding a floor model. The stove is not in safe operating equipment.

New Business

HPTA Discussion – Bill O'Brien was invited but no one attended. The Commissioners asked about potential growth of the memberships. Commissioner Usher explained membership numbers are not what should be looked at. She suggested court usage reservations should be looked at because the courts are used all the time during prime time. Chairman Medick will talk to Bill O'Brien and the discussion will be on agenda for next month. Commissioner Lubenow asked about impact of courts at Salt Creek. Commissioner Usher stated that we don't have enough information yet.

Parks Foundation

Ms. Hassett is continuing to collect data regarding a Parks Foundation. Ms. Hassett continually receives information regarding Foundations. She got a request for a scholarship for a pool membership. The Village currently has no policy for that cost. Commissioner Deppe suggested asking the Hinsdale Swim Club because they have hardship rules. Commissioner Lubenow stated that a Foundation could be a place for this money to come from. Ms. Hassett stated that Burr Ridge has not provided the information regarding their foundation and that she will also check other communities. Chairman Medick stated he would be willing to talk to Burr Ridge with Ms. Hassett.

Liaison Reports

Correspondence

Ms. Hassett commented on the letter from IAPD for breakfast on April 14. She will send a copy to Commissioners. Commissioner Finlay suggested having better communication with our Representatives. There is a line item for this expense.

Gateway

No report.

New Business

Chairman Medick wants field fees to be revisited. He suggested that perhaps adult usage could be different than children and for-profit vs. not-for-profit organization fees. Ms. Hassett stated that Board suggested parent's organizations do more of the work on the fields. Ryan Miller did attend AYSO board meeting and presented them with options to repair Veeck like regrading and adding top soil. They will review and we will welcome any funds they make available.

Lacrosse at Robbins is terrible and Dan Hopkins will come out with a new layout for this season. The field will be off line for the spring. Chairman Medick asked about Woodlands usage. Village Manager Cook stated that would not happen at this time. There is one resident that opposed it. The Commissioners agreed that it is unacceptable to not consider using the field because of one resident. Chairman Medick will talk to Mr. Cook. Ms. Hassett stated that AYSO is looking at the field behind Monroe and that field may be out for the spring season as well.

Chairman Medick asked about the tree planting program. Ms. Hassett stated that the Beautification Taskforce will look into that. They have that on their agenda. Commissioner Curran asked if a horticulturist has come in and given advice on where the needs are for the parks. Dan Hopkins has not been able to attend meetings because it would involve overtime. Ms. Hassett stated that the Bid for parks fertilization might not be awarded this year so the parks will have a lot of weeds in the fields.

Dan Hopkins never saw the budget so he doesn't know if we have what is needed for field maintenance. Commissioner Usher stated that the dumpsters behind Madison School are in a poor location. Ms. Hassett will ask S/D 181 if they can be moved to the other end of the parking lot.

Commissioner Finlay hopes that there are more items for seniors, possibly one hour of swimming for them or a walking path. Ms. Hassett stated we just added yoga and

she is working with The Community House, but we don't want to run fitness programs that they already provide.

Commissioner Deppe asked whose terms expire in May. Chairman Medick and Commissioners Usher and Finlay will be expiring. All of the retiring Commissioners will be retiring and not renewing their terms.

Commissioner Curran asked about S/D 181 projection enrollments. Ms. Hassett has not received them. She will ask for them again. Commissioner Curran also asked if there are any updates on AED's for spring sports. He suggested communicating with the teams that Municipalities are exempt, but the Village will try to make equipment available.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business, Commissioner Usher moved to adjourn.

Commissioner Deppe seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp
Secretary