

**Village of Hinsdale  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 20, 2009**

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

**Members Present:** Chairman Keith Medick, Commissioners Jeff Curran, John Deppe, Jeff Finlay, Diane Griffin, Tish Lubenow, Ed McCarthy, William Otto & Sandra Usher

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Stu Seman, 138 S. Quincy, Hinsdale; Jim Audet, Hinsdale Swim Club; Adam Cremieux and Tom Pavich, Westmont Swim Club; Bill O'Brien, Susie Dunphy and Kathleen Mulligan, HPTA Board members; Brian McElwain, 605 E Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale; Scott and Margaret Banke, 427 N Vine Street, Hinsdale; Donna Flynn, 909 S Stough St, Hinsdale

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

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**New Business**

Chairman Medick asked to move New Business up on the Agenda. Chairman Medick welcomed Bill O'Brien, Susie Dunphy and Kathleen Mulligan from the HPTA. This is a follow-up for the proposal for new courts at KLM.

Mr. O'Brien passed out information to the Commissioners (attached). Mr. O'Brien explained about the facility that were installed in 2004 and how lifetime memberships were sold to fund 1/3 of the cost. He explained how teams have been added and how the team programs have grown. Mr. O'Brien stated that the participation has grown substantially and children's programs have also been started. Ms. Mulligan spoke about the women's team play and what a positive experience it is. She stated that there are not enough courts available in the

evenings. Ms. Mulligan stated that the women usually play in the afternoon because there are not enough courts available in the evenings due to league play. Ms. Mulligan stated that the kids program is being taught after school until 6 pm and that there has been much interest in that age group. Mr. O'Brien mentioned that it is crowded for the men's teams. All recreational play is on the weekend so they are booked most of the time. There are 17 teams and there is a capacity for only 12. The HPTA is requesting for two additional courts at KLM and the cost would be about \$120,000.

Mr. O'Brien wants to partner with the Village to raise the necessary funds. The handout suggested ways of raising the necessary funds. HPTA requests that the Village give the necessary support to get the approval to build more courts.

Commissioner Finlay asked if all the matches are played at KLM. Mr. O'Brien explained how the league matches work and the primary reason they don't use Burns is because the warming house is in bad shape and many times it is locked. Chairman Medick explained that those who want to play recreationally will play at Burns on league nights.

Chairman Medick asked Mr. O'Brien why courts have to be at KLM and not at Burns or some other park. Mr. O'Brien stated that more courts at Burns could interfere with the ice or football field. Mr. O'Brien explained how other locations were investigated, but the Village Board thought KLM was the best location for the courts. Chairman Medick explained that the courts at KLM were positioned so more can be built.

Ms. Dunphy stated how paddle tennis is a wonderful family sport. When the league or families play, the family socializes in the hut. It is a social, family sport when it is cold. Commissioner Otto asked about lighting issue and what does Mr. O'Brien think about how to pay for it. Chairman Medick stated that the Village does not have any money to contribute to the project at this time and that the lights that are there do conform to the Code. Chairman Medick suggested HPTA get some hard figures for more courts to present at the next Park and Recreation meeting. Commissioner Otto asked about how many more lifetime passes could be sold. Chairman Medick stated the reality of the situation is that the Village has no money to share in this project. He asked Mr. O'Brien to get hard quotes for new courts. Commissioner Otto wanted to know what the potential is for the number of new lifetime members. Ms. Hassett stated that there is a potential of \$243,000 with fee increases and lifetime memberships.

Commissioner Finlay stated that more lights and courts could be an issue with King Brewaert House. Commissioner Lubenow asked how many more teams would two

courts accommodate and wanted to know if there was a limit on memberships for team members. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Village either accepts or rejects memberships. Chairman Medick stated that no recommendation will be made at this meeting and that there are issues that would need to be addressed in the future. Chairman Medick asked Mr. O'Brien to return with more data on how to raise the money. Chairman Medick stated that there are issues that will need to be addressed. Commissioner Usher commented that the upkeep should be the expense of the Village.

Mr. O'Brien stated that the courts were put in that area because it was a swamp and was not useable for anything else. Chairman Medick stated that this was the least evasive spot to put the courts and they were built with hopes to build two more at a later date. If the courts had been put further west at KLM, there would have been more tree loss. Commissioner Curran asked for some benchmarks as far as future growth. Chairman Medick wants to address the current need and not get bogged down on the future needs.

Commissioner McCarthy asked about use of temporary courts on the tennis courts. Mr. O'Brien stated that they are expensive to take up and down. They deteriorate quicker and you need a place to store them in the summer. Commissioner McCarthy wanted to know how our fees compare to other municipalities. Mr. O'Brien will come back with those numbers at the next meeting. Mr. O'Brien stated that in Winnetka, the numbers are confusing because the courts are rented. Commissioner Lubenow asked about Salt Creek courts affecting memberships. Mr. O'Brien commented that it will be a private club and only Salt Creek members would be able to play there, but two of the men's teams will play there. Ms. Mulligan stated the women's teams would be about the same.

Ms. Dunphy asked about expenses. Chairman Medick stated that the utilities are the hard numbers to get. He states that the courts probably break even.

Mr. O'Brien thanked the Village for their support.

### **Hinsdale Swim Club & Westmont Swim Club Agreements**

Ms. Hassett gave background on Westmont Swim Club pool request. Ms. Hassett has met with both clubs to see if there could be space for both groups.

Mr. Pavich from Westmont Swim Club explained their request and that Westmont Swim Club has about 50% Hinsdale residents and the club is full. Hinsdale Swim Club is also full and can't take anymore. Hinsdale Swim Club (HSC) is using all their time and Westmont is requesting Saturday and Sunday morning before the regular pool opens. Ms. Hassett stated that one of the concerns is that we are not

charging HSC the true cost of what the cost would be to operate staff etc. HSC pays about \$14 per hour. By providing what they do, it takes a burden off of the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Hassett explained spreadsheet with figures that Westmont Swim Club created. The Westmont Swim Club rate would be \$1500, which is in line with what personnel costs would be.

Ms. Hassett stated that she would be concerned with cleaning the pool for the weekends. In addition to staff, another cost would be more chemicals. Commissioner Deppe asked Mr. Pavich what has changed for Westmont Swim Club that they need the Hinsdale pool. Mr. Pavich explained that they had used Lemont pool but Lemont no longer have a 50 meter pool.

Commissioner Otto asked if chemicals are needed for the morning time and would Westmont only be using the lap pool. Commissioner Otto stated that if the diving well was not used, that would be less area to be cleaned. Commissioner Lubenow stated that this request comes up annually. She stated that Westmont does take students outside of Hinsdale School District. Ms. Hassett stated that each year residency would be checked for Westmont. The Agreement would not be for more than a one year.

Commissioner Usher asked about how much time is needed between clean up and opening time. Ms. Hassett stated that there needs to be one hour for cleanup. Commissioner Usher asked how does this fee compare to field fees? Ms. Hassett stated that HSC is being undercharged and suggested \$28 would be a little bit more. The difference for Westmont would be that we have to pay personnel. Most mornings there would need to be 3 people at the pool. The costs could be greater due to staff being on overtime hours.

Commissioner Finlay stated that he can't agree with the Agreement unless all of our costs are covered. Commissioner Deppe questioned that if we open the pool to Westmont, what keeps us from opening it up to other communities as well and that this could set a precedent. Commissioner Otto disagreed and expressed that other sports get facilities below cost and that the Village needs to provide services and work with the pool manager to hire guards that are not on overtime. Ms. Hassett stated that there could be lap swimmers during the lap swim time if Westmont doesn't need all the lanes. There would not be anyone else except for lap swimmers and there could also be some private lessons.

Commissioner Finlay asked about swim lesson programs not being shown on the program listing. Ms. Hassett explained that the lottery was just done so those figures were not included. Commissioner McCarthy asked if HSC has any use for

Westmont pool. HSC does use Hinsdale Central high school in addition to our pool in the summer.

Ms. Hassett stated again that it would be a one year agreement and attendance would be reviewed each year. Commissioner Curran asked how rainouts would be handled. Ms. Hassett stated that the fee would be a flat rate. The terms would be regardless of number of dates rained out. Chairman Medick asked what fee was in Lemont. Mr. Pavich stated that the fee was \$38 per hour for shared space. Chairman Medick stated that there are 95 Hinsdale kids that could be accommodated during times when pool is not being used, but wants to be sure that our costs would be covered. Commissioner Usher asked what fee proposal would be? Ms. Hassett stated the fee would be \$14 per hour per lane. Our costs would be \$1200 if there was no overtime. Commissioner Finlay suggested Ms. Hassett give an accurate cost of our costs and a plan of how to clean everything and then adjust the fee accordingly. Westmont Swim Club will cover the cost for the lifeguards and chemicals since it is a time the lifeguard would not normally be there. The proposal is based on a rental rate, not on lifeguard cost. The lifeguard cost will be added to the rental fee proposal.

Chairman Medick asked the Commissions for recommendations. Chairman Medick asked Mr. Audet if he objected to Westmont Swim Club using the pool. Mr. Audet stated that he was for the proposal and stated that the pool is open during their times. Mr. Audet stated that HSC has 140 residents and he wants to be sure that HSC get time preference.

Commissioner Usher suggested that the HSC comparison being removed from the equation. She suggested that the motion should be approved provided that the costs are covered. Chairman Medick asked for a motion to approve agreement for one year as long as staff costs are covered. Commission Griffin moved approval of the Agreement to ACA, Commission Otto seconded and the motion passed. Commissioners Lubenow, Finlay and Deppe abstained.

### **Skate Park Update**

Scott Banke from Vine Street asked the Commission to reconsider the closing of the skate park. He argued that it is the heaviest used park in Hinsdale. He stated that young children are still allowed to play baseball and soccer and use the park and chasing balls could be more dangerous. Mr. Banke requests the park be open when there is no construction going on. He asked to consider all the options to re-open the park when safe.

Commissioner Finlay asked when heavy equipment would no longer be used. Ms. Hassett shared the letter from village engineer, Al Diaz. The skatepark is just

along the area where the equipment is and should it become safer, it will be opened. Commissioner Curran encouraged staff to at least open the facility on the weekends. Commissioner Usher stated safety is the issue and Ms. Hassett stated that the park would have to be opened by the Police.

Chairman Medick commented that he did look at the skate park and the construction road runs directly by the skate park. He is very concerned that there was an exception for Little League. There are very hazardous items there and he is shocked that the parking lot is still open. He feels that the small parking lot should be closed. Chairman Medick is also very concerned about ball players safety. Commissioner Lubenow stated that there are always adults in attendance when there is little league but skate boarders have no adult supervision. Without any supervision, skate boarders would be very curious.

Ms. Hassett stated that she does attend weekly construction meetings with staff. Commission Finlay asked if Al Diaz could come to the next meeting with the construction schedule. Commissioner Otto asked Mr. Banke what is main concern was. Mr. Banke stated that he is requesting that the park be open when there is no construction and after 3 pm when the construction crew is done for the day. Commissioner Curran wanted to know what the completion date is. Ms. Hassett stated that it won't be done until fall.

Chairman Medick stated that once the heavy equipment is gone, the park should be open. Chairman Medick commented that at this time it is too dangerous to be open. Mr. Banke asked if a projected schedule is available. Ms. Hassett will ask Mr. Diaz for an estimated project time-line. Chairman Medick asked if there was any way to make a temporary location. Ms. Hassett stated that there really isn't a great location to put it and it would be expensive to move.

Chairman Medick thanked Mr. and Mrs. Banke for attending.

### **Memorial Tree Program**

Brian McElwain addressed the Commission about the park clean up day at KLM. He thanked the Commissioners that will be retiring. Paws for KLM had 40 people sign up and the feedback was fantastic. The dog walkers are beginning to realize that it is a privilege to have the dog friendly area and he has done a lot of research on the park. The organization is planning a couple of other events. Mr. McElwain presented prices for the dog waste pick up system of \$300 each and \$200 per year service charge plus the cost of the bags. His emphasis is that this area is a privilege not a right. He says the signs are too small and unclear.

Ms. Hassett explained that the park cannot be called a dog park or it would be regulated by the County and there would be fees. Chairman Medick thanked Mr. McElwain and his helpers for their efforts.

Mr. McElwain stated that Amy Deis from The Doings has asked him about planting memorial trees. The Morton Arboretum is interested in working with the Village for planting a tree for Arbor Day this week. Mr. McElwain suggested that the tree be placed at KLM and the paper is going to cover the event. He invited the Commissioners to attend on Wednesday, April 22. Brian will work with John Finnell and Dan Hopkins for the placement of the tree at KLM.

Mr. McElwain asked how he can help the Commissioners with the Memorial Tree program. Chairman Medick stated that this falls under the Parks Foundation that hopefully can be started. Commissioner Lubenow asked if Brian knew what kind of tree we would be receiving. It will be a Midwestern tree and they will be very sensitive as to where the tree will be placed. Ms. Usher commented on Woodland Park. On the edge of the park, there are random trees that appear to be dead so when looking at the long term use of that park, the trees would need to be moved in order to use Woodland Park for anything. Ms. Usher stated that the potential of any park needs to be studied before trees are planted. Ms. Hassett will try to find out who planted these trees and if they should come out.

Chairman suggested that there needs to be a lot of interaction with Parks and Rec Staff, the Commissioners and the Beautification Taskforce. Trees cannot be planted where there is a potential for other usage. Mr. McElwain is going to suggest specific suggestions for the Memorial Tree Policy.

Stu Seman, 138 S Quincy and former member of Bicycle Task Force asked the bike racks from the RTA grant. He commented that per Trustee Follett the racks were to be installed last year. Commissioner Curran stated that the funding of the RTA racks was contingent on the placement of the foundations. Mr. Seman wanted to know what style the racks were. Ms. Hassett has not heard from the RTA since February and the Village does not have money allocated for the installation of the racks.

Commissioner Curran suggested looking for sponsors for covering the costs of the installation. Mr. Seman also wanted to know if the bike racks where conformed with the Village design and not like the ones that were put it at the school. He asked about the bike racks that were to be installed at West Hinsdale. They were allocated at other locations, but none at West Hinsdale. Chairman Medick stated that the report states 40 for delivery only and wondered if those would be going to the train station. Ms. Hassett will check since they need to be installed by July.

Chairman asked Mr. Seman to remain involved and research with Ms. Hassett.

Commissioner Griffin asked Chairman Medick if he had talked to Village Manager Cook about the one resident by Woodland Park. Chairman Medick will talk to Mr. Cook.

### **Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Finlay asked about the repayment of A & B Landscaping and how it is reflected in the budget. Ms. Hassett explained that it is taken out of the budget under contractual services. Commissioner Curran stated that means that Parks and Recreation has contributed the \$66,000 to the general fund of the Village for next year's budget. He asked Ms. Hassett what the Parks and Recreation budget will be for next year. She was unsure what the amount was but it would be small.

Commissioner Finlay also asked if it would be appropriate to discount some of the rental rates at KLM in order to have more business. He also wanted to know if the reduction in rentals has had an impact at the renewal of caterers for next year. Ms. Hassett stated that the renewal letter were due this week and Dena Reetz is communicating with the caterers regarding their renewals. She explained that there are special rates for Memorials.

Commissioner Usher asked about the sandblasting and painting of the pool. Ms. Hassett stated that will not be in the 2009/10 budget. It will cost approximately \$100,000 to do that and hopefully it will be in the 2010/11 budget.

Ms. Hassett stated that the new Trustees were made aware of the deteriorating conditions and the cost will continue to go up to maintain the facilities. Chairman Medick commented that it is a sad state of affairs that the Parks and maintenance capital budget is less than \$60,000. He is thankful for AYSO and Hinsdale Little League and the organizations that contribute to the Village. He is very concerned that the parks will end up in the same condition as they were ten years ago. The community needs to face the reality that basketball courts, paddle courts resurfacing and purchasing mulch will not be able to done.

Chairman Medick stated another concern is staff doing the cleaning during the day. Commissioner Lubenow commented about how Hinsdale kids will not clean well and that this has been a continuous complaint. Chairman Medick stated the items that were in the budget and that have all been cut.

Commissioner Griffin commented that if there was a fund raiser, the money doesn't come to the Parks Department. Commissioner Lubenow asked about the pool

concession bid. Ms. Hassett stated that no one else was interested in doing the concession stand. She stated that because it is a community pool it wasn't worth paying the percentage to the Village. Ms. Hassett will work with C & W Concessions regarding food choices. She is hopeful that the pool will be run smoother this summer than in the past.

### **ACA Report**

Ms. Hassett stated that ACA will review new members.

### **Gateway**

Ms. Hassett reported that Gateway is continuing to evaluate summer day camp programs.

### **Follow Up Items**

#### **Duncan Field Agreement Status Update**

There have not been any updates. Ms. Hassett has contacted AYSO to see if they are interested in playing soccer there in the fall. Chairman Medick stated that we do have the permit and the field is being used by Little League.

#### **Peirce Park Exterior Site Plan & Review Update**

The Site Plan and Review will go to the Planning Commission this month.

#### **Status of Key System for Burns**

The key system will cost \$3,000 and it is not in the budget.

#### **Parks Foundation**

Ms. Hassett contacted the finance manager at Burr Ridge but they were not interested in attending at this time. She will continue to keep the dialogue going. Chairman Medick asked for a step by step process to get the Foundation up and running. Commissioner Finlay stated that the Library Foundation would also be a good example.

#### **Correspondence**

The letter from a resident regarding the opening time and other issues at the pool was discussed. Commissioner Finlay would like to see the additional hours, but is concerned about the cleaning schedule without impacting costs. Commissioner

Curran stated that this one hour time is a staffing and safety issue and asked Ms. Hassett to look into it. The resident's concern was that they needed to leave the pool and could not stay in the concession area. Ms. Hassett stated that the baby pool was open during this time for children up to age 7. It will continue to be evaluated.

Ms. Hassett thanked the retiring Commissioners for their service. Chairman Medick thanked all the retiring Commissioners and stated that John Deppe has resigned effective immediately.

**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 Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 10:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Copp  
Secretary