

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE**  
**MINUTES**  
**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**September 21, 2009 - 7:30 PM**  
**KLM LODGE**  
*(Tentative and Subject to Change)*

The Park and Recreation Commissioners met with Ann Helbrook Schmid at 6:30 pm for a tour of the Zook House. Ms. Helbrook Schmid explained the progress that has been made and the fund raising efforts that will start to complete the project. The Historical Society needs approximately \$1,000,000 to finish the project.

The Commissioners also toured the former School District Science building at KLM. Ms. Hassett made suggestions of how the building could be used.

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 7:31 p.m. at KLM Lodge.

**Members Present:** Chairman Curran, Commissioners Banke, Deppe, Dougherty, Griffin, Lubenow, McCarthy, Opler and Otto

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Mulligan

**Also Present:** Trustee Bob Saigh

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Dougherty moved approval of the July 20, 2009 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Monthly Reports**

**August Revenue/Expense Report**

Ms. Hassett stated that she reports what is listed in the Village GL report and that all numbers are not always shown on the Treasurers report. Ms. Hassett reported that some of the partial account numbers have been incorrect. The accounts will be moved to the correct accounts next month. Chairman Curran asked if a new truck was reflected in the numbers. That expense will fall under 3301 capital outlay.

Commissioner Opler asked if a monthly report could be done rather than quarterly. He stated that it is hard to gauge where the finances are with a quarterly report. Ms. Hassett explained that the bulk of the expense is done for the pool but there will still be some expenses. She will try to break down the expenses. Chairman Curran suggested making a dollar greater or lesser column or to make a percentage column. Ms. Hassett will tweak the report to try to get what the Commissioners are looking for.

Commissioner McCarthy stated that field fees are only at 38% of budget and wanted to know if there be more. Ms. Hassett said they will come in through the fiscal year. Fall and spring are both included in the fiscal year. Commissioner Opler asked if we are on track. Ms. Hassett stated that the pool was down for revenue but up for wages. The pool was operated at a different capacity and the wages were up but okay for the overall budget. Ms. Hassett stated the department is being very frugal on expenditures.

### **Follow Up Items**

Ms. Hassett commented that the Party in Park was cancelled due to weather. The End of Summer Bash was very successful with limited expenses to the village.

The completion date for Veeck Park construction is Nov. 11. There will a day and a half of just pouring and that will affect spring athletic play. Ms. Hassett is concerned that the sod may not be down in time for next spring. The east soccer field has stockpiled dirt. The baseball field is the top soil so that will the last to be moved. There is a lot of dirt to move.

Chairman Curran asked what the fallout will be in the spring. Ms. Hassett stated that it will affect the baseball travel programs, little league and men's baseball. The fields might be able to be used by the first week of May instead of April.

Ms. Hassett will try to get some information on how soon it is playable. Commissioner Otto asked about Little League. Chairman Curran asked if the drainage issue is confirmed for Little League. Ms. Hassett stated we won't know until it is restored. No new drainage has been installed and the mounds of dirt will remain there. Chairman Curran asked about the truck access. Ms. Hassett will find out.

Commissioner Banke asked about the field restoration process. Ms. Hassett stated that the construction project plan calls for restoration of the fields. Commissioner Banke mentioned that the baseball mounds will need repair. Commissioner Otto asked if the dirt can go to other parks. Ms. Hassett stated that it is not good dirt and it is very poor quality. It is possible to use at KLM but the timing would be too long for the dirt to sit there until it would be used.

The Commissioners are all in favor of all dirt being removed and not stock piled.

Ms. Hassett stated that Athletic programs and pool memberships were both down. All programs will be evaluated. Chairman Curran asked to see if there were some programs that registration was higher to plan for the future.

Chairman Lubenow asked about the emails that came regarding the pool. Ms. Hassett shared the letters received from residents that are lap swimmers.

Chairman Curran asked about the KLM expenses on page 3. Ms. Hassett explained the GL is not always posted in time for these reports. The summer only has bills paid once a month so the month will not be completed until the following month. Commissioner Opler asked if the reports could include the preliminary numbers and the closed numbers in the future.

### Platform Tennis

Ms. Hassett stated that HPTA did some work at the hut, but we did not find out about it until 2 days before it happened. She is concerned about finding out by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. They did put forth a lot of money. A flat screen TV was installed. Her concern is that we not kept in the loop.

Commissioner Deppe asked why we were not informed. Ms. Hassett stated that she really is not sure and explained that it is our facility and we should be informed of the work being done. The Village did pay some of the expense of the painting that was done. Commissioner Lubenow asked if new courts were still necessary with the four new courts that have been built at Salt Creek. This year's numbers will show if new courts are necessary. Ms. Hassett explained that we are checking the rates for Salt Creek but their rates are annual and include everything, not just paddle. Commissioner McCarthy asked if the majority have already registered. Ms. Hassett stated that she is not concerned with the numbers. Memberships continue to come in on a daily basis. Chairman Curran suggested having a promotion in the spring for the cost of a pool membership and paddle membership and asked Ms. Hassett to come up figures for that cost. Commissioner McCarthy suggested being able to pay for a paddle membership earlier in the year.

## **Follow Up Items**

### **Dog Receptacles and signage update**

Ms. Hassett stated that the receptacles with bags have been ordered but the signage is still a question. There continues to be dog issues. The hours and off lease areas are being violated on a regular basis. Chairman Curran stated that the Village is still responsible for liability issues if anything happens with the dogs. The police will give a warning but won't ticket. Ms. Hassett would like to develop a trifold brochure that can be handed out to the dog owners.

Commissioner Griffin stated that it doesn't get any better unless the police are there. Commissioner Deppe mentioned that he watched owners and many people come with 2 – 3 dogs without a lease and let the dogs run anywhere. Commissioner Deppe stated that some people are abusing it and they need to police their own area or shut it down. Commissioner Deppe asked the dog owners where they are from and most people were not from Hinsdale.

Chairman Curran stated that KLM is a multi use park and it is by no means a dog park. The state of IL has designed that dogs are separated by size. It is a great convenience but there are the few that abuse the privilege. The intent of the signage is to emphasize the multiuse of the park.

Commissioner Lubenow mentioned that it is a small percentage of people that abuse the system. It happens at ball games as well. Ms. Hassett will send out a mass email that dogs are not allowed in the parks at any of the games. Commissioner Lubenow suggested that the refs don't start a game until dogs are put away.

### **Duncan Field Update**

Ms. Hassett stated that the Village is at a point where the lobbyist has met with the Commissioners and have the votes to move forward with some changes. The articles in the newspaper have been incorrect. Forest preserve property allows alcohol and lights would also be an issue. Bleachers would probably be temporary. It is not known who owns the northern end of the property. That could provide the bike path into Bemis Woods.

The issue will come before the Forest Preserve again on Oct 7 and if approved there would be time to go to referendum for bonds for the project on the February ballot. Chairman Curran asked about the parking and if there would a fence. The Forest Preserve Commissioners said that there is significant distinction on if the property is called a park vs. a preserve. They don't like the area being used for soccer. Chairman Curran stated that they should remain separate fields, not overlaid. Commissioner McCarthy asked where the public access is. Ms. Hassett stated that Adventist Hospital has given permission to use their lot.

Chairman Curran stated that the park should be promoted as a nature area and the Village should invest in having canoes and a bike path. Ms. Hassett stated that Cook County wants diversified use. Commissioner Otto asked if bike path can be connected with Fullers burg Woods. Ms. Hassett stated that the area coming out from under the path belongs to Oak Brook and that could connect the two. There is a question of interconnection because of the piece missing after the path ends that belongs to Oak Brook. Commissioner Otto asked about Friends of the Forest and their purpose. Ms. Hassett explained that they are angry that storm water management is on the property and they want the area to just be a green area. Commissioner Dougherty talked about how articles are being written in the newspaper that has misinformation. Commissioner stated that Village board members that have been involved should be thanked for what they have done.

#### Lyons Township Update

Ms. Hassett stated that she was contacted to say that a consultant has been hired to wade through all the applications. They are concerned that it says money for small parks that are less than 25 acres, but the Township attorney states that the Township will not stick to that. The application also states that revenue facilities don't really fall into the scope. The Consultant has submitted his information and there will be a presentation on Monday, Sept 28. The consultant's choice were a picnic shelter, asphalt repair, stream bed repair and disk golf.

#### ACA meeting coverage

Ms. Hassett apologized that she did not bring the meeting dates. Chairman Curran asked for volunteers for covering the next two meetings. Commission Banke will go to the October and November meetings. Commissioner Opler will attend the December 7 meeting. Chairman Curran will be the backup if either Commissioner cannot attend.

#### End of Summer Bash

Ms. Hassett stated that the End of Summer Bash went very well and she will visit with Tricia Montgomery soon. Ms. Hassett stated that it really is a social event and no one really paid attention to the bands. There were no behavior issues it will be reevaluated for

next year. Ms. Hassett stated that the event last year for David Cassidy cost \$60,000 and this event was more like \$6,000. The Village would like to bring the event back next year, depending on the budget.

Commissioner Griffin stated that the retaining wall by the train is an accident waiting to happen. Chairman Curran stated that has been a problem for more than 2 years. He suggested getting an estimate for repairs. Ms. Hassett will talk to George Franco about repairing it.

## **New Business**

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 event date**

Ms. Hassett stated that a recommendation is needed from the Commissioners for ACA for the date of the parade for 2010. The 4<sup>th</sup> is on Sunday and history shows that the parade has never been held on Sunday. The legal holiday will be celebrated on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hassett mentioned that Downers Grove will continue to have their parade on July 4 because their parade is in the afternoon and does not interfere with church services. Lisle will not have a parade again next year. Ms. Hassett needs a recommendation for the crafter and groups that participate need a date for their schedules. Commissioner Lubenow recommended Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Otto seconded and the 5<sup>th</sup> will be suggested to ACA in October.

Ms. Hassett stated that Burlington Park will be used again for the crafts but Garfield will be closed for renovation. The parade route will probably be changed to stage on Washington.

### **Pavilion rentals**

Ms. Hassett explained the current picnic fees and asked for a recommendation for 2010 picnic permit fees. She would like the proposed fees to simplify the fee structure. Ms. Hassett suggested that over 200 people should be a special permit use. Commissioner Banke asked if police are notified when there is a picnic. Ms. Hassett will check to see if the police want to be notified. Ms. Hassett explained the incident of dogs coming up the pavilion and that the customer called the police multiple times. When the police came out, they discovered that alcohol was being used at the picnic. Chairman Curran suggested repositioning the trash can at the north pavilion due to the smell of poop.

Ms. Hassett explained the expenses are for clean up costs and the proposed fees are in line with other communities. Commissioner Otto recommended the proposed fees. Commissioner Opler seconded. Commissioner Griffin questioned why the non-resident fees should be so much lower on the proposed fees. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett for figures on the usage and fees. The motion was rescinded and will be brought to the October meeting.

Chairman Curran asked is there are suggestions for another pavilion location. Ms. Hassett will look at locations and will run numbers for next meeting of resident vs. non-resident usage. Ms. Hassett will bring the numbers to the next meeting to determine fees.

Commissioner McCarthy said we don't have a good handle on the numbers to know for the proposed fees. Ms. Hassett will bring the history and the costs of the cleanup and how much cost recovery there can be.

### Field Policies Discussion

Ms. Hassett passed out the information for October for the athletic field rental usage. Currently we are charging \$25 per hour to rent the fields. Little League has managed the softball fields. Ms. Hassett stated that there needs to be a policy and at what priority fields are assigned. She shared information from other communities and wants the Commissioners to look at the material for the October meeting.

Ms. Hassett stated that resident teams would be given priority and that there should be separate lit or non-lit fees. Ms. Hassett will look for what the board vote was on the fees. The goal is to meet Little League first and the other baseball teams will be assigned through the office.

Commissioner Otto asked if AYSO can gain the same control as little league with the fields. Ms. Hassett stated that it can be possible if they maintain the fields and/or give donations to maintain the fields. Commissioner Otto stated that Veeck has an advantage because of larger soccer fields. He explained what Oak Brook did with the Oak Brook Sports Corp. The needs have to shown for the organizations.

Chairman Curran stated that the policy is that if \$20,000 was donated, the \$10 per player per season charge is waived. This issue will be revisited at the October meeting. Chairman Curran explained that there is a fee structure and an order structure. He explained the order and reminded the Commissioners to include the private organizations like St. Isaac. Commissioner Banke stated that there will be affiliate organizations that are not recreational based and charge for their services that will also ask for field space.

Ms. Hassett stated that allocations need to be sorted out by December. Commissioners Banke and Otto will meet with Ms. Hassett. Chairman Curran suggested Ms. Hassett have a capital budget in the next two months. Ms. Hassett stated that finance is working on the capital budget and she will bring to October what has been done.

### **Correspondence**

There were two emails from residents regarding the lap swim

### **Liasion Reports**

Ms. Hassett stated that the Village contribution to Gateway will increase to \$63,000. Ms Hassett is the new VP for Gateway and they meet on a monthly basis.

### **Follow Up Items**

Ms. Hassett explained that Bob Marshall is now gone. He may be able to help with special events until he gets a job.

Commissioner Lubenow mentioned the KLM brochure is nice but asked about a website update. Ms. Hassett explained that there are no funds to get the website the way it should be. Dena Reetz is working with Amy to get it updated. Commissioner Lubenow wanted to know how much it would cost. Ms. Hassett said that a totally redone website would cost several hundred thousand dollars.

Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett to add a budget line item for this for the lodge and picnics. Certain aspects like KLM and the pool could be added to a website.

Chairman Curran suggested that the October agenda include field fees, web site update and capital improvements.

Commissioner Deppe asked about the fall festival. Ms. Hassett explained how the event is a co-op event with a parade, pumpkin decorating and trick or treating. She also explained that we longer have Haunted Hinsdale for Halloween.

### **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Deppe moved to adjourn. Commissioner Dougherty seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Copp