

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
November 9, 2009**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6:38 p.m. at the Old Board Room in Memorial Hall.

Chairman Curran swore in Marybeth Dougherty to the Commission.

Members Present: Chairman Curran, Commissioners Banke, Deppe, Dougherty, Griffin, Lubenow, McCarthy, Mulligan & Otto

Members Absent: Commissioners Opler

Also Present: Murphy O'Connor, Boy Scout and Don Grigas, Suburban Life Newspaper

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Griffin moved approval of the September 21, 2009 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports

September Revenue/Expense Report

Ms. Hassett stated that the October report used percentage on Treasurer's report to compare to last year.

Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett about contractual services. Ms. Hassett stated that the numbers have been adjusted to the appropriate accounts. Chairman Curran asked about pool expenses. Ms. Hassett stated there are some monthly utility expenses, but all revenue has been reported. There is some discrepancy between the department software general ledger numbers and finance numbers.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if paddle memberships were included under KLM. Ms. Hassett stated that they are listed separately under paddle. Staff has been working with Bill O'Brien to have all league members have a membership. Ms. Hassett explained how the new membership works vs. how they were reported as an activity before. This will make it easier to report memberships that are new or renewed. Commissioner Griffin asked about lifetime memberships. Ms. Hassett explained that they were not available anymore. That was a campaign for building the courts. Ms. Hassett stated that there are 169 lifetime memberships.

Recreation Report

Ms. Hassett stated that Chairman Curran and her attended Lyons Township meeting. Some projects need additional funding. The meeting was very brief, but no word yet. Chairman Curran stated that they have tough choices and ours were broken up in a way

that is very modular. Commissioner Lubenow asked how the projects would be decided. Ms. Hassett feedback is that some towns ask for funds that might need matching funds. Ms. Hassett stated that she does not think they are leaning for Lodge refurbishing.

Dog waste receptacles have been installed at KLM. The police stated that they have received complaints from dog walkers that have received tickets. The police chief has a memo with suggestions for changes that could be made. If hours are changed, they would be less permissible for dogs and that is not what the dog owners would want. The Chief also suggested removing the restriction of the area they could be. Ms. Hassett stated that it is a park for all users and having dogs off leash in all areas of the park would not be a good idea. Commissioner Lubenow stated that there would be more complaints if dogs are able to be any where in the park. Boy scout, Murphy O'Connor stated that almost all people do walk their dogs in the north area. He has three dogs that he walks them there and he believes that most people do comply with the area where dogs are allowed. Ms. Hassett stated that the signs do need to be updated.

The 3rd option the chief stated was permitting the dogs. If staff permitted the dogs, there are many restrictions that they would have to comply with. The area would have to be fenced in and divided by small and large dogs. Ms. Hassett stated that she has talked to a user that admitted that the dog did not come on command and yet was left to run all over the park. Ms. Lubenow stated that perhaps the hours could be expanded a little in the morning. Ms. Hassett stated that the morning hours are more flexible than the evening hours. In the summer, the morning would be a concern because of day camps at HCA and Parks and Recreation Department camps. Ms. Hassett stated that during the school year, the hours could be expanded a little in the morning.

Chief Bloom told Ms. Hassett that the police do issue a verbal warning first before issuing a ticket, but there is no record of the warning since it is verbal. Commissioner Griffin stated that the majority will just ignore any rules. The dogs are just let to run. Commissioner Griffin suggested that we start cracking down instead of expanding or changing hours. Ms. Hassett stated that some people are just non compliant. Commissioner McCarthy agreed with Commissioner Griffin and thinks Police Chief Bloom is saying that if dog owners don't comply they will be ticketed and that the dog owners who go there just need to be educated with the rules. Ms. Hassett stated that she likes the idea of permitting the dogs, but then it would be a dog park and the dog owners would have to follow County rules. Commissioner Lubenow stated that it is not enforced.

Chairman Curran wants Ms. Hassett to review the Village website for the rules for all parks, including no dogs at any other park or at sporting events. He wants people to be aware of the website and then look into better signage. Chairman Curran stated that the Village wants everyone to use the park as a guest and respect it. Ms. Hassett stated that there is significant damage to the north end of the park due to dog usage. Commissioner Deppe asked if it is worth it for the amount of time and discussion to have dogs permitted at KLM since there are so many concerns. Commissioner Deppe stated that eventually, this will be bad publicity. Commissioner McCarthy stated that if the police are saying that the majority are not residents, then maybe it is not prudent to allow dogs there. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett to survey the neighboring neighborhoods to see what their rules are relative to dogs in the parks. Commissioner Deppe stated that if people are told they

can't have dogs in the park he didn't think the room would be full with opposition. Ms. Hassett stated that since it is a corridor park, it is serving more than Hinsdale.

Commissioner Otto asked Boy Scout, Murphy if he pays permit fees for his dogs. He stated that his parents pay the license fees and his parents have responsibility for the dogs. Commissioner Otto asked if the dog owners can be asked to sign a contract with the Village when dog permits are issued and raise the fee a little. With this policy, you have asked a resident to follow the rules for dogs in the parks and it can be an education process for others. Commissioner Otto states that residents should spread the word on the rules to the non-residents. Chairman Curran suggested having some blurb in the next newsletter. Commissioner Otto states that starting with the residents will be a place to start. Ms. Hassett will find out what the license fees are.

Follow Up Items

Ms. Hassett stated that the bike racks have been delivered. There are two pads poured at Burns. The rest will be installed at the pool and the train station. Chairman Curran wants to have an announcement when the racks have been installed. Ms. Hassett will have a press release when they are installed. She stated that it cost \$10,000 to purchase the racks.

Ms. Hassett stated that the Burns Field warming house project information has been returned. The report gives the cost to move forward. Chairman Curran asked how they arrived at the costs. Ms. Hassett will be attending the Historical Preservation Committee on Tuesday, November 10.

Ms. Hassett stated that the retaining wall at Burlington Park is fixed but it lasts about a week and the wall gets hit again. It is not in the capital five year plans to replace. Burlington Northern needs to bury the overhead lines and then the project could move forward but the wall is under Historic Preservation. Commissioner Lubenow asked if that means the wall can't be moved. Commissioner Banke asked what jurisdiction the wall is under. Ms. Hassett believes that the wall is Village of Hinsdale property. Commissioner Banke stated that it make sense to have an impact fee to the cabs that run into the wall on a regular basis. Commissioner Lubenow stated that perhaps there could be a protective wall on the inside. Commission Dougherty stated that the parking is assigned through the village.

Platform Tennis

Ms. Hassett reported that the paddle memberships are up \$4,000 from 2008 and the staff is working to be sure all league players have memberships. Lessons are also increasing and staff is working with Mary Doten and Missy D'Alise for the lessons.

Duncan Field Update

Ms. Hassett stated that she met with Cook County staff and President Cauley, Village Manager Dave Cook and Commissioner Gorman and there is a different approach. Ms. Hassett explained that the project needs to be simplified and just put in what is needed. Ms. Hassett stated that it was also suggested to give up the exclusivity that is requested because that would not be in the best interest of the Forest Preserve Commissioners. The

Forest Preserve suggested a tree study and to move forward from there. Chairman Curran asked about the bike path. Ms. Hassett stated that the path could be a joint effort. President Cauley, Village Manager Dave Cook and Ms. Hassett felt more positive after this meeting. There is not competition for the park since it is not visible. Ms. Hassett stated that if the park is cleared someone else may now come and ask for permission to use the area. Ms. Hassett commented that there is a FOIA request for emails with Commissioners and County Commissioners. Commissioner Deppe asked what happens if they don't comply with the FOIA. Ms. Hassett explained that it is a time consuming process and requires payment from the person requesting the information.

Veeck Park Update

Commissioner Otto stated that the electric panel is not working. Ms. Hassett stated that the project will not be finished until May. The tank is being tested for leaks. The dirt is still on our space. There is no guarantee that the fields will be playable until spring. No play will be scheduled for the spring season. There will not be men's softball this spring unless there is another location. Chairman Curran asked if that is sufficient growing time. Ms. Hassett stated the highest impact will be soccer. Chairman Curran stated the wet weather policy will need to be strictly enforced.

New Business

Capital Budget Plan

Ms. Hassett stated that the plan is still being worked through the Finance Commission. Staff is asking for more than there is funding for. The Village capital for this year was \$300,000. Ms. Hassett stated that Trustee Geoga gave a presentation at the Village Board meeting showing the status of the finances for the Village. The sales tax will probably be on the February ballot again to fund the road projects.

Commissioner Lubenow asked about the basketball court at Burns. Ms. Hassett stated there is money for the court this year of \$15,000. The project will go out to bid this spring. Commissioner Lubenow asked about Robbins Park playground equipment replacement. Ms. Hassett stated that this comes from master plan, so this may not need to be replaced. Ms. Hassett stated that three pieces of equipment had to be replaced at Burns this year. One of those pieces was under warranty.

Commissioner Griffin asked about \$40,000 for a paving path at Stough. Ms. Hassett stated it is probably the path between Stough and Ehret. Commissioner Griffin also asked where the prairie is. Chairman Curran stated that it is South of Chicago Ave by Route 83. It is unusable land because of a gas line under it.

Commissioner Deppe asked if the Village has applied for stimulus money. Ms. Hassett stated that there will be several million dollars but it is all for road repair. The Garfield road project will start in January. The village would be in even worse financial shape if there was no stimulus money. Ms. Hassett is looking at other ways to get grants, but most are not for park improvements.

OSLAD Grant projects

Chairman Curran asked the deadline for grant applications. The deadline is May 1st. Ms. Hassett stated that it is a matching grant and the Village has to prove that they have the matching funds. You have to pick and choose what you want submitted. There is only one application permitted per year.

Chairman Curran stated that we have failed to get the funds in the capital fund budget and using this grant. The Commissioners need to work with the Board of Trustees to have a plan for the next three years. Chairman Curran mentioned to have Duncan and Lyons Township estimates for these funds in place. ACA capital plan starts first cut in November, so the Commissioners need to know in December what the capital items are.

Commissioner Banke asked if the grant had to be for specific projects. Ms. Hassett stated that it is a recreation agency specific grant. Commissioner Lubenow asked for a list of specific capital items for the next meeting. Commissioner Otto asked if Ms. Hassett can be creative with getting contributions from the organizations. Ms. Hassett stated that there has to be proof of funding, so there would have to be a separate fund for those donations. Ms. Hassett explained some of the requests and will supply the list next month.

Pool Staff report

Ms. Hassett stated that there is an error in the fees. The fees will be the early bird fee, no super early bird rate. Commissioner Griffin asked why security cameras are needed at the pool. Ms. Hassett stated that there has been some theft. Hinsdale Swim Club has offered to pay for the system. Commissioner Dougherty asked how the payment impacted their rental fees. Ms. Hassett stated that the security system would be in addition to their fee. The camera system can be used from at home and would eliminate staff to sleep at the pool.

Chairman Curran asked about the Westmont Swim Club. Ms. Hassett stated the pool was staffed at a better level this year and there were no problems with Westmont. Ms. Hassett stated the cleaning arrangements did work out.

Ms. Hassett explained page six – revenue and expenses. The programs are broken down and expenses were kept to a minimum. There was staff at a different level so those expenses were increased. There is still \$45,000 budgeted for capital expenses. This would cover \$30,000 for the locker room floor and \$15,000 for lockers. These are carry-over items into 2009 budget. The locker room floor will not be resurfaced, but possibly deckdri could be used. That can be done for about \$4,000. Two sections of lockers will be removed and the wall will be repaired. That cost is \$1,500. There are two pumps that need to be repaired costing around \$17,000 for both pumps. Ms. Hassett is looking at federal efficient replacement. \$26,000 is what is kept from the \$45,000 that was allocated for the pool. It is key that the pool heaters be in the 10/11 season capital plan or there may not be heaters for that summer. Ms. Hassett will continue to work with finance to track expenses and stated that one pump was rebuilt two years ago.

Commissioner Banke asked about warranty with work that was done. Ms. Hassett stated these are different pumps from what was replaced and these are old pumps. Ms. Hassett stated that she will make sure that there is some warranty on any replacements.

Commissioner Lubenow commented about the comment regarding the Town Team not being a swimming instruction. It is a program where the participants need to be able to swim. Commissioner Dougherty stated that most parents don't realize the work that is involved and they need to be involved. Commissioner Griffin stated that the birthday parties had been successful in the past and asked why they failed this year. Ms. Hassett stated that it had been omitted from the brochure so there was not the advertisement for it. Commissioner Deppe asked if there were complaints about the change in hours. Ms. Hassett stated that there was only one email regarding the change in hours.

Ms. Hassett discussed the needs of the pool. She stated that we have officially switched to Star Guard instead of Red Cross. Chairman Curran asked about the Star Guard program. Ms. Hassett explained the lifeguards will need to be recertified every year and lifeguards will need to be more accountable than the Red Cross program. It assures that all guards are certified every year.

Field Policies Discussion

Ms. Hassett explained that she and Chairman Curran met with Hinsdale Little League regarding the proposed new field policy. Falcon football and AYSO would fall under the \$10 per player fee, not to exceed \$10,000 per season. There may need to be some rewording because they don't have 75% Hinsdale resident participation. The wording may be changed to be students of S/D 181. Chairman Curran asked about the 75% and if it included cheerleaders. Commissioner Otto asked if the stipulation could be that the majority would be residents. If there is competition, the field would go to the team with the most residents.

Ms. Hassett stated that \$16,000 was spent on field paint and that is mostly for soccer. The fields are striped four days a week. Commissioner Otto mentioned that AYSO had a line item for striping fields and the cost was significantly less than \$16,000. He suggested submitting a request to Sue Gould for the cost of the striping.

Commissioner Banke discussed travel baseball. The first issue is to gain control of the fields. Hinsdale Little League has had control of the baseball fields and they allocate the fields as they saw fit. The second issue is liability with the travel teams. There are kids from all over, but we have no information on their insurance. The third issue is that the Village needs sources of revenue. Commissioner Banke has researched other communities and discussed his findings. Commissioner Banke stated that if the team is a recreational program with a no cut policy, you are considered Little League. He stated that if the team is an affiliate organization, like Red Dogs, you need to be selected to be on the team. The affiliates don't work the same because you need to be selected to be on the team. They should be more expensive than Hinsdale Little League.

Travel organizations that may not have a high percentage of Hinsdale residents should pay more and a fee for lights. All communities around us have good policies that we should follow. Ms. Hassett explained the fees for competitive programs are appropriate. The biggest question is the Red Dog program and where it falls in the order. Ms. Hassett stated that she needed to check with Little League to see what field space was available.

Ms. Hassett stated that there is a question of accountability of the Red Dogs and to play with the Red Dogs, you have to also play Hinsdale Little League. Right now it is a selection only process and they do still need to play on a Little League team. Commissioner Banke mentioned there is no mention of Red Dogs on the Little League website. They also don't have tryouts, because it is a selection process and by invitation only. Commissioner Deppe asked the Commission how many of them had children involved in Little League. Almost all Commissioners have had a child involved in Little League. It formerly was the All Stars but has manifested into a far more competitive level. Commissioner Dougherty stated she felt Red Dogs is a category two.

Commissioner McCarthy asked how many hours per week the Red Dogs play. Ms. Hassett stated they have at least ten slots per week. Commissioner McCarthy wants to know how much they would be penalized. Chairman Curran asked if the fee would be per hour or per game. The games are two hours, so the fee would be \$50 per game/practice. The Red Dogs would get preference for scheduling. Hinsdale Little League would pay the fee regardless of the Red Dog program and they will be getting the fields ready regardless if the Red Dogs are playing. Ms. Hassett asked if they should have a player fee or a different rate.

Commissioner Otto asked if there is something can be written about the player fee if they have already paid the \$10. Commissioner Mulligan suggested that there should be a mid-point rate. Chairman Curran suggested that as an alternative to the second tier, the \$10 player fee should apply to each team they participate in. Commissioner McCarthy thanked Commissioner Banke for the time that he has spent on gathering information. The two fallouts will be Hinsdale Little League pays for the maintenance of the fields and the travel teams will not get the fields done for them. The second fallout will be that the fees could take the kids away from the program. Commissioner Mulligan pointed out that they need to know that they are still getting a bargain compared to other communities. Commissioner Banke mentioned that the kids will still want to play with their friends and he doesn't feel that the program will be hurt. Travel teams play approximately 30 games and Little League plays half that many.

Commissioner Deppe wants to know when he is asked what his answer is going to be. First reason is the revenue aspect. The village is in a financial situation where the reality is that revenue opportunities cannot be ignored. Secondly, every other community is taking advantage of this fee structure. The most important reason is getting back the control of the fields. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the revenue generated is still less than other towns. Chairman Curran reiterated that the rate would be \$50 per game and suggested that we should try it for one year. Ms. Hassett stated that the Red Dogs will be upset, but most of the trustees are interested in revenue. The Red Dogs will fight that they are a Hinsdale Little League affiliate.

Chairman Curran stated that there is still time to react and that the \$10 per player has worked for the past few years. Commissioner McCarthy asked how much money the Village receives from Little League. Ms. Hassett explained that the Village receives no cash from Little League. All their contributions are in kind. They maintain and control the fields. Commissioner Otto stated that HLL spends about \$50,000 per year on the fields. He wondered if they could stop doing that. Commissioner Banke doesn't think they would stop doing that. HLL charges \$200 per child and has the resources to pay for the field

maintenance. Commissioner Otto said that HLL spent the money because they want to play in Hinsdale and it will hurt their program if they decide not to pay in kind for field maintenance.

Ms. Hassett stated that each team would fall into a specific category. She will bring the policy to the Board in December and show where Red Dogs would fall in the contract. Commissioner Otto stated that AYSO got a bargain for many years and we should not worry about the recreational teams. He added some corrections to the draft agreement for Ms. Hassett to change. Chairman Curran asked about if we are going to get any money from concessions. Ms. Hassett stated that we get nothing from concessions and they have the use of the kitchen. Ms. Hassett also mentioned that we get no money from St. Isaac's. Chairman Curran mentioned that they should also pay some fee for their field usage. Commissioners agreed that they should be in category one and pay \$10 per player.

Ms. Hassett explained that Falcon Football does not pay the per player fee because they gave a \$50,000 donation. Commissioner McCarthy suggested calling organizations in to work together and explain what they need. Commissioner McCarthy asked how we judge if the teams are against the plan, so try to work through it together. Commissioner Deppe pointed out that the Commission is not the final decision. The final decision is made by the Village Board.

Chairman Curran asked for a second draft of the agreement and asks for structured input from the organizations. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the recreational programs are valued and are not being touched, but it is really just the competitive teams that would be paying more elsewhere. Commissioner Banke stated that they are educated men that know that they are still getting a bargain compared to other communities.

Ms. Hassett stated that this is village driven, not Scott Banke driven. The tax money to the village is not getting to this and Ms. Hassett explained that the \$10 fee was not board approved but ACA agreed with the findings of the Park and Recreation Commission.

Chairman Curran asked for a vote but the Commissioners want the language changed before voting. Ms. Hassett will change the language and resend it to the Commissioners. St Isaac will also get a copy of the agreement. Chairman Curran asked if the Community House will also be subject to the \$10 per player. Ms. Hassett will make an attachment to show what category each organization falls under.

Other Business

December meeting will be Nov. 30 and no meeting in December. The Commission voted to have the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Correspondence

None

Liaison Reports

ACA Committee – There was not much discussion. The Board is divided. The fees were waived for KLM rental for Hinsdale Garden Club. The Trustees are talking about coming up with a waiver policy for KLM usage. The next ACA meeting is December 7.

Gateway

Ms. Hassett explained the fundraising manna gift card. She stated the percentages are different on each card. The money will go for scholarships and special programs. Ms. Hassett stated that some parents have complained about staff handling of participants.

Chairman Curran thanked Commissioner Lubenow for her four years of service. She has resigned due to her house being sold and no longer living in Hinsdale. This is her last meeting.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Deppe moved to adjourn. Commissioner Mulligan seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp