

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, April 19 at 6:30 PM
MEMORIAL HALL BOARD ROOM**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6:40 p.m. at the Memorial Hall.

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Curran, Commissioners Marybeth Dougherty, Diane Griffin, Kathleen Mulligan, Ed Opler and William Otto

Members Absent: Commissioners Scott Banke, John Deppe and Ed McCarthy

Also Present: Don Grigus, Liberty Suburban Newspaper

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

Commissioner Otto moved approval of the March 22, 2010 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes with one correction. Commissioner Mulligan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports

March 2010 Revenue/Expense Report

Ms. Hassett stated that revenue shortfalls were taken in account for the estimated actuals. There are a few expenditures for the pool yet to come in this fiscal year. Chairman Curran asked if there are any more expenses for this year. Ms. Hassett stated that some locker room repairs will still be made and that two pool heaters have been purchased and have been 99% installed. When the pool is ready with water, they will be tested. These expenses came from this year's budget and the payments should be made in the next payout.

Commissioner Opler asked if the revenue was positive overall for this year. Commissioner Opler asked if expenses have been able to be managed with the shortfall in revenue. Ms. Hassett said staff has been frugal but there still are a lot of items to be done but have been delayed. Chairman Curran stated that an end of the fiscal year report would be helpful. Chairman Curran asked what the pool heaters cost. Ms. Hassett stated that the cost was about \$35,000 and \$40,000 was allotted.

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated that it might be possible to use the Lyons Township funds to apply for OSLAD money to double the money on projects. Ms. Hassett will retain an architect to lay out plans for a shelter and try to double the funds with OSLAD funding for other projects. Two public hearings are required for plans and would need to be done prior to July 1st. There could hopefully be \$300,000 to move forward for other projects if the Lyons Township funds are eligible for the OSLAD grant. Commissioner Mulligan asked what kind of projects OSLAD looks for. Ms. Hassett stated that the funds can be used to secure land, develop land or make improvements to land. Chairman Curran stated that it is mostly open land projects, but there is some variance with it. Ms. Hassett stated that one of the firms asked about putting in a splash

pad. The projects don't have to be detailed, but another project has to be a true number of costs for the project to be sure the Village does not have to contribute any money to complete the project.

Chairman Curran asked what decisions have to be done for the second public meeting and what would be the earliest date of construction. Ms. Hassett stated that the earliest the project could be completed would be January of 2011 or after the OSLAD awards are given out. Ms. Hassett stated that one of the current pavilions might have to be taken down so that could not be done this year since the pavilions are totally booked all summer. Ms. Hassett stated that the revenue would be next year and the expense would be this year. Ms. Hassett stated that the rental fee could increase if the new shelter is much bigger.

Chairman Curran stated that when plans are done there could be surprises like electricity or water to see where the nearest taps are located. Ms. Hassett stated one of the struggles will be the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. She wants those fees included in the construction numbers when they are proposed.

Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items

Duncan Field Update

Chairman Curran stated that he met with Village Manager Dave Cook and looked at the fiscal year capital plan to cover the funding for Duncan Field. Ms. Hassett stated that meetings with the forest preserve have stated their purposes that are not recreation. Chairman Curran stated that the Village may be able to go with improvements to the existing field and not include soccer fields. Cook County does not like the idea of soccer fields.

Ms. Hassett stated that Village Manager, Dave Cook is going to have a meeting with Liz Gorman from the Forest Preserve. Repaving the existing path and improvements to the baseball field would go through the county board but may not be as opposed. Ms. Hassett stated that soccer has a big impact on the area and the value of the tree study was \$450,000. The forest preserve will never agree to the new plan if it includes soccer fields. It would cost over \$1,000,000 and we still would not have a long term lease. If the Village makes improvements to the field, the Village would ask for a long term lease agreement.

Chairman Curran asked if the field could be used in the fall for soccer. Ms. Hassett stated that it would be better for those outfields to be torn up instead of the other parks. There is some use for the space for the fall if AYSO needs the space.

Commissioner Otto asked who owns the rest of the land. Ms. Hassett stated that when the land use agreement was adopted different uses could be an exemption. The county has not gone back to do that.

Summer Programs

Ms. Hassett stated that the summer registration has started and there has been a lot more web registrations. She explained that the swim lessons have been redesigned to not register for a level. Children will be skill tested before each session. The summer programs were not done by lottery.

Chairman Curran asked if staff will know what level kids are at. Ms. Hassett stated that they are in the swim lesson database at the pool. Chairman Curran asked if we can tell how many would

be new versus returning. Ms. Hassett stated that that would need to be a manual calculation. Ms. Hassett stated that the early bird membership rates will be ending April 30.

Ms. Hassett stated that Burns Field basketball court may be started by the end of the week. It should take 1 – 1½ weeks to complete. The pool painting will begin May 1 or sooner. The pool will be very active within the next few weeks. It will cost approximately \$9700 to paint the lap pool.

Ms. Hassett commented on Aging Well program. She commented that it is a grant funded program for the aging population to “age well”. She attended some of the meetings and is the Co-chair of the Committee. Representatives from non-profit organizations and seniors are on the committee. Since we don’t do much for seniors through programs in the recreation dept, we can offer assistance to seniors through this program. Ms. Hassett commented that each town does different resources for their seniors. It will focus on “Ask the Expert” a couple of times per year.

July 5th Parade Update

Ms. Hassett stated that the Village President has to sign off on the theme and he has not done that yet. She hopes that he will do that at the meeting on Tuesday evening. We need the theme in order to proceed with the entry forms, etc. The volunteer theme has been proposed.

Letters will go out to those who participated last year once the theme has been established. Some contracts have been coming back of the paid participants. All craft show spaces have been sold. The craft coordinator believes that it helps that the show is on a Monday since most crafters go to a show for a weekend. Ms. Hassett stated that the Pleasantdale Park District will loan us their moon jumps for the event.

New Business

Exploratory Joint Pool Assessment for Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills

Chairman Curran explained the preliminary meeting about joint pool usage. The community needs and interest feedback were suggested as a survey for the pool. Ms. Hassett suggested offering an incentive to answer the survey. It may be a three way agreement because Lyons Club owns the land at Clarendon Hills. Commissioner Dougherty asked how the billing would work because of Clarendon Hills being a park district and we are not and would there be a piece of property that would be bigger enough for both towns. Ms. Hassett commented that all of these discussions are in the preliminary stages.

Chairman Curran stated that part of the discussion was how there could be a design that would complement each other and how we can address the needs of each community. Hinsdale has the 50 meter pool and the key point is if there would be other options.

Commissioner Mulligan stated that there is a difference in usage for different age groups and there could be a need for changes.

Brochure Delivery

Ms. Hassett stated that staff is looking at other options for delivering the brochure. It costs approximately \$1800 to mail the summer brochure. It takes half of the Village staff to put the

mailing together. It would cost about \$400 to include it in the Hinsdalean newspaper. Staff will need to advertise this change in advance by banners, press releases etc.

Park and Recreation Improved Communication Plan

Since Scott Banke was not present, this item will be carried to next month.

Social Media Outlets

Chairman Curran stated that the IAPD Conference is held in January and the sessions touched on the media outlets that are available. Facebook or Twitter could be used for participation levels. Ms. Hassett stated that Village Manager Dave Cook attended the mayor's conference and that was a topic there as well. She shared some policies that other communities have.

Commissioner Dougherty stated that she emailed students recently and didn't have an answer for three days, but on Facebook, there could be an answer in a matter of hours. Ms. Hassett stated that she talked to Amy, the Village IT person about posting on these social networks. There would have to be a strong Village policy for the use. Chairman Curran asked if there would be Facebook cost. Ms. Hassett did not know if there was a cost involved. Commissioner Mulligan stated that this could be a transportation of communication and there could be a value to it. Ms. Hassett stated that most residents would first look at the Village homepage but Facebook could be helpful for updates.

Correspondence

Brochure Survey results from Tinley Park Park District

Ms. Hassett commented on the survey about going to an on-line version of the brochure. She summarized that most agencies still print their brochures to some degree. It is something to look at for the future. Chairman Curran asked for feedback for what residents are looking for. Commissioner Mulligan commented that this could be a question also for the pool survey. Ms. Hassett stated that banners, paid ads etc. could be done but they are expensive.

Commissioner Dougherty stated that there is no town on the survey that shows they are totally on-line with their brochure. Riverside was forced to go only on-line due to the budget but they were not included in the survey.

Commissioner Opler stated that he doesn't believe that there is much of a cost savings and he stated that more functionality works well. He recommends that the investment will more than offset the revenue. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the brochure could be smaller as an offering but let the webpage do the work.

Chairman Curran asked about the parks and recreation page on the Village IT function. Ms. Hassett stated that our home page is all part of the Village website and there are no plans to update it. There is only one license for the website. There are no plans to update the website. The webtrac component is managed through our department. Commissioner Mulligan stated that it needs to be more user friendly.

Chairman Curran asked if RecTrac is the major player in recreation software. Ms. Hassett stated that RecTrac is the largest and most used. Chairman Curran asked if they stand alone or do they offer other components. Ms. Hassett stated that there are components that we don't use and it does not work with the other departments in the Village.

Commissioner Mulligan stated that it is easy to have the book and then go on webtrac to sign up. The on-line registration does not sell the programs like the brochure does.

Liaison Reports

ACA Committee

Ms. Hassett commented that the village budget has been approved. Capital items will not be met if the state cuts Village funding. Ms. Hassett stated that the Garfield construction has started and the parade will be a different route.

Gateway SRA

Ms. Hassett stated that Countryside has pulled out of Gateway and Gateway is in budget discussions. There will be a fee increase and the Village of Hinsdale has budgeted enough to cover the increase. There have been staff changes at Gateway and the new director is very positive. Ms. Hassett would like to see more participation from the community. If a child is mainstreamed in school, staff will work with the child to be involved in our programs. The Village would work with Gateway to get an aid for that child. Elmhurst has a large group of participants. They have had a request for an extended program for the older children that are out of high school.

Veeck Park Update

Ms. Hassett stated the dirt has not been moved. The dirt needs to be drier before it can be moved. There will not be any baseball until at least July 1st. Ms. Hassett is hoping that Veeck will be ready for men's softball. The infield will be turned over by the Village summer staff.

New business

Commissioner Mulligan stated that the paddle community is still requesting two more courts. That will be on the agenda for next month. The courts are at capacity even with the Salt Creek courts. Chairman Curran asked what the potential growth would be. Commissioner Mulligan stated that there are 7 new teams. Ms. Hassett stated that she was contacted by Northbrook but the struggle is the social side of the sport. Glenview also is looking at and could address the social side and have a joint effort with Northbrook.

Commissioner Mulligan asked if this would qualify for OSLAD funding. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett to find out if the paddle courts could qualify. Ms. Hassett also stated that the Burr Ridge residents would oppose any new courts. There is another grant which might give money for clubhouse criteria.

Commissioner Dougherty stated that the roads would have to be fixed if there are more courts and the parking would have to be addressed by HCA. Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett how staff can get more parking by the HCA lot. Ms. Hassett stated that she had a phone call about reserving the paddle hut for a boy's lacrosse pasta party. It is being reserved for things not related to paddle. Staff does not have control of what goes on there but the members should not be using it for non-paddle events.

Commissioner Mulligan stated that high school boys like to go there to play dodge ball on the courts, but the hut needs to be used responsibly. Ms. Hassett stated that her biggest concern

is kids getting a key FOB and going into the hut before the hours and staying there into the evening.

Chairman Curran asked if the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings in the summer months could be held somewhere else. The paddle hut could be one location. Ms. Hassett stated that Peirce Park could also be used in June or July. She will check with Rich Simon from Little League to see if he wants to discuss anything. The May meeting will be held at the KLM paddle hut.

Adjournment

Chairman Curran asked if there would be any conflicts for a meeting date in May. Ms. Hassett stated that President Cauley told staff that as long as proper notice is given, 6:30 meeting time is okay.

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Dougherty moved to adjourn. Commissioner Griffin seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp