

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE  
MINUTES  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Monday, May 17 at 6:30 PM  
MEMORIAL HALL BOARD ROOM**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6:42 p.m. at the Memorial Hall.

**Members Present:** Chairman Jeff Curran, Commissioners Banke, Dougherty, McCarthy and Mulligan

**Members Absent:** Commissioners Deppe, Griffin, Opler and Otto

**Also Present:** Sarah Huth from Design Perspectives, Mary Doten, Bill O'Brien and Paul Wiggin (members of HPTA)

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

Commissioner Banke commented on a change in the April minutes. Commissioner Mulligan moved approval of the April 19, 2010 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes with the correction. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Design Perspective KLM/OSLAD Proposal

Chairman Curran gave a background on improvements for KLM and how to take advantage of the OSLAD opportunities.

Sarah Huth from Design Perspective gave a presentation on proposals for the OSLAD grant for KLM. Chairman Curran gave the background on improvements for KLM and how to be able to take advantage of those funds.

Ms. Huth explained that the process has just started. Ms. Huth asked for the Commissioners comments on what they would like to see. The presentation will be adjusted for the meeting on Wednesday, May 19 for the public meeting.

Concept A includes a dog park where there would be an enclosed area on the south end of the park. Another item would possibly be a nature based playground, themed toward outdoor learning. There could be an area for a splash pad in the play area, one that would be a recycling system.

Towards the middle of the park between HCA and KLM there could be a new larger shelter or an outdoor space for weddings or family gatherings at KLM. There could be gardens and greenery instead of the picnic theme. A loop path could be added to the North and five fitness stations could be designed around the perimeter of the trail. Fields on the North end could be regraded as well as the east field and leaving some open practice area. Two paddle courts could be added with a heavy berm.

Chairman Curran commented about the impact of more tennis courts from the Village of Burr Ridge and King Bruwaert House. There are concerns from both areas. Chairman Curran asked for an alternative of putting two new courts near the main parking lot instead of in the back by the other courts. Chairman Curran commented that the square footage of the dog park area needs to be determined. Ms. Hassett stated that the current dog walkers don't want this small of an area or any area that is contained.

Commissioner McCarthy asked about the funding that we have received. Ms. Hassett explained that the \$150,000 that has been received from Lyons Township is for a picnic shelter only. The Village is requesting a state grant so that we can possibly double the amount for other improvements. She explained how some components have more value than others. The grant needs to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup> and then the project has to be completed in two years. The grant is a 50 – 50 match, so the Village would have to have the funds available in the next two fiscal years.

Ms. Hassett explained that some are needs that have been in the capital plan and some are needs for the park. Commissioner Banke suggested that an outdoor theater or music area that could possibly be put in the area of the land that slopes. Ms. Hassett commented that HCA could use the new shelter for their use as well for a Theater in the Round idea.

Commissioner Dougherty asked Ms. Huth if the existing shelters would be torn down. Ms. Hassett stated there are no plans to tear the north pavilion down. The fireplace in the south pavilion could be used to expand the size of that pavilion.

Chairman Curran asked Ms. Huth about the rules for dog parks. Ms. Huth stated that she has never seen a park that will let dogs run without being enclosed and on a leash. Ms. Hassett stated that there are very strict rules in Cook County and a permit would be involved. Ms. Hassett commented on a phone call from an incident about a dog that attacked another dog. She stated that the resident was hesitant to report the incident because it could change the dog rules.

Commissioner Mulligan asked about how often the shelters are rented. Ms. Hassett stated that they are rented every weekend. Commissioner Mulligan asked about the picnic area drawing revenue for events at the Lodge. Chairman Curran mentioned about a temporary option over the KLM patio for wedding use.

Option B has similar elements like the paddle courts and loop path but the north pavilion would be upgraded. The shelter would still be in the middle but more of a picnic design. The dog park area would be bigger. This concept also has a sled hill and the lacrosse field would be farther north.

The playground area would remain a regular type park instead of the nature oriented. There would also be a skate park area for younger kids to learn how to skate. Chairman Curran asked about how the older skaters would stay out. Ms. Huth stated that this skate park would be designed for a younger age group. Chairman Curran asked if additional parking could be added to the plan. Commissioner Mulligan asked about also widening the road. Ms. Huth explained how that element could be added.

Chairman Curran commented on the cross country area that is used and the potential impact on that with any of the improvements. Ms. Hassett stated that the biggest issue at the park will be storm water management from MWRD. She commented that whenever we go to build anything,

the Village will need to become compliant and that the Village has not been compliant since the Zook House was moved to KLM. The Historical Society has asked for an extension in the compliance. Ms. Huth stated that the requirement is one and half times the storage amount.

Chairman Curran asked if Ms. Huth has had experience with OSLAD regarding the regrading. She has put in the elements and only a small amount of money has been added. Curran asked if OSLAD would cover the cost of that. Ms. Huth stated that OSLAD generally will cover some of the cost.

Ms. Huth stated that there could be three fields on the northern end of the park. Commissioner Banke asked about removing trees. Ms. Huth stated that they do try to avoid removing trees whenever possible. Grading and placement of items are all considered with any tree removal. Commissioner Banke asked if the fields would be multi-purpose. Ms. Huth stated that they could be used for lacrosse and soccer. Chairman Curran stated that the amount of trees lost would be a significant factor and the direction of the fields would also be a factor. Another factor would be north or south field positions with the sun issues.

Ms. Hassett stated that AYSO does not use the fields at KLM because the fields are too hilly. Commissioner Banke stated that lacrosse is a growing sport and asked about how the fields could be used. Ms. Huth stated that Frisbee golf is also proposed in Concept B. It would be a nine hole course. Ms. Hassett stated that if the dog park is abandoned, this area could be used for Frisbee golf. Commissioner McCarthy asked about putting in an ice rink. That is not in the current plans.

Ms. Huth stated that she included all the elements in the package given to the Commissioners. They will have 3D graphics of the shelters at the meeting on May 19. That meeting will be at the Library and good projection. Ms. Hassett stated that at a minimum, the Village hopes to receive another \$150,000 but could get as much as \$400,000. These projects are not brick and mortar, they are land projects. The Trustees will have to declare that the Village has the matching money in order to receive the grant. She explained how OSLAD looks at each item. Ms. Huth explained that after the community input, the list will be prioritized and budgeted and dollar figures added.

Commissioner Banke asked about going to get sponsorships. Ms. Hassett stated that the grant personnel don't care where the money comes from. Ms. Hassett stated we would welcome any donations; however we would like to know that ahead of time so we know how much money we have to work with.

Chairman Curran thanked Ms. Huth for coming and making her presentation. Ms. Hassett stated that the second public meeting will be June 7 with ACA. The Board meeting will be June 22. There will be a link on the Village website for resident input. The grant has to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **New Business**

### Hinsdale Platform Tennis Association

Paul Wiggin, 106 E 8<sup>th</sup> Street attended to represent HPTA with Mary Doten and Bill O'Brien. He gave a background and some recommendations. Mr. Wiggin stated that in 2004 the HPTA program started with the four new courts and the paddle hut at KLM.

Mr. Wiggin stated that there are a lot of details that the board members are involved in. The biggest programs are the educational classes and tournaments. He stated that the paddle community has grown from 200 people to about 800. Commissioner Mulligan stated that she has the membership and revenue numbers. Chairman Curran asked about the growth compared to the North shore. Mr. O'Brien commented that the men's league has grown 8 – 10% per year for the last 10 years and that Hinsdale's growth is about 50%. Mr. Wiggin stated that this is a different and growing sport for the adults.

Mr. Wiggin explained how the financial support was done with the lifetime memberships and part of the \$180,000 that was raised was for a lifetime membership. He also explained that HPTA has a license to operate the programs at the paddle courts.

Mr. Wiggin explained that when the courts are full, the players need to go to a private place to play. He explained how there are many champions that have come from the Hinsdale area. HPTA would like two more courts and he presented some drawings.

Mr. Wiggin presented a diagram of where new courts could go. Mr. Wiggin explained the differences of the plans. The South option would have the least amount of excavation and the lights would be the closest to the property line. Ms. Hassett stated that lights would require a text amendment if they were on the south end of the current courts because of being close to the property line. Chairman Curran asked how many lights were there now.

Chairman Curran also asked about the cross country track being impacted with flooding and they use that area for their meets. Ms. Hassett stated the biggest challenge will be the storm water management issues.

Mr. O'Brien stated that the platform tennis courts are elevated and is not a surface that causes run off. He stated that the Village wanted the courts in that corner of the park because this land was basically unusable.

Mr. Wiggin also mentioned the north and west options. The north option would have extra excavation involved. There are six propane heaters under each court and that is why they need to be elevated. The west option would require tree removal which is the most negative option but the best option for the Burr Ridge residents. Mr. O'Brien commented that the west option would be across from a maintenance shed. There would be a problem with the slope on the west side. Mr. Wiggin stated that the courts may need to be at different heights if the west option was chosen.

Mr. Wiggin stated that HPTA believes that no changes would have to be done to the hut. Mary Doten stated that the current hut would be a little small, but would be doable. Chairman Curran stated that the hut could be extended on the north on all the plans. Chairman Curran asked if staff should have more control access of the courts regarding the Fob's. Ms. Hassett stated that there has been little vandalism to the courts and hut.

Commissioner Banke mentioned that he thinks that paddle is great for the adult community. He asked if the project would move forward and if they have a legal contingency for issues with KB and the residents in Burr Ridge. Mr. Wiggin suggested talking to the Burr Ridge residents and King Brae ward to avoid any legal issues. Mr. Wiggin stated that he and Bill O'Brien talked with homeowners 5 years ago and made the adjustments that were needed.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if the lifetime memberships were enough. He thought a higher membership fee should be charged. The HPTA is also suggesting raising the annual fee to \$200. Chairman Curran asked about lifetime rates in other locations. Mr. Wiggin stated that other municipalities fund the project and Hinsdale is unique in how we raise the funds.

Commissioner Mulligan stated that it is a unique adult growing sport and brings a good cross section of people together. She presented a report with the numbers. Commissioner Mulligan explained how many teams there are. There are many weekly leagues for the women and many clinics to keep introducing players to the sport.

Bill O'Brien explained that there are 16 men's teams here. They have not lost teams due to Salt Creek courts. Bill O'Brien explained that there are places to play anywhere in the league due to the structure of the levels. Commissioner Mulligan explained that the revenue has increased and the membership fee should be increased. Ms. Hassett mentioned that the Village only keeps 10% of the revenue that is received for lessons and that some of the increased memberships is due to league players paying for memberships. Chairman Curran asked about the 8 AM start time and if there is much demand for that time slot. Players can only play at Burns at that time. There is demand on the weekends for that time slot. Ms. Hassett asked if the new courts would be used for league play. Mr. Wiggin stated that they would be primarily be used for league play during the week and that Monday night is for open recreational play.

Commissioner Banke asked how our fees compare to Salt Creek. The fee is \$1600 a year but the fee is all inclusive so it doesn't really compare. Commissioner Mulligan stated that members also play at the Hinsdale Golf Club.

Ms. Hassett stated that if they play in the league, they are required to pay for a membership. She asked what the league fees are to play. Mr. Wiggin stated the fees are \$100-150. Commissioner Mulligan also stated that we need 10% growth and 10% increase in fees to maintain revenue. Mr. O'Brien asked if there could be a discount for the introductory players. Chairman Curran asked if there could be a higher first time fee with an incentive for the consecutive years if they renew. Mr. Wiggin stated that 50 lifetime memberships would be needed at \$1500 each.

Ms. Hassett stated that two courts would be closer to \$130,000, not \$75,000 which is what the lifetime memberships would bring in. Mr. Wiggin explained that the rest would come as a fund-raising effort. Commissioner Dougherty asked how many non-residents had memberships and where do they come from. There are 53 individuals and 21 families that are mostly Clarendon Hills and Western Springs residents.

Ms. Hassett stated the opposition will be funding and the neighbors. She presented a letter from the Village of Burr Ridge regarding their opposition to the program. Chairman Curran wants Ms. Hassett to ask Burr Ridge if they are planning on building their own courts. Village Manager Dave Cook stated that this process might have to go to ACA before any further dialogue will happen. If the Commission wants to move forward, Ms. Hassett would bring the matter to ACA.

Chairman Curran asked what the timeframe is for HPTA. They would like more courts by the next season. Ms. Hassett will check with Reilly Court regarding used courts and construction time frames. Curran mentioned the lead time that would be needed like electricity, lights and drainage. Ms. Hassett will check with the Village Planner regarding the light issue. Many of our

existing structures have been grandfathered in. Many of the parks are not in compliance in the setbacks.

Commissioner McCarthy asked what the next step is for the Commission. Ms. Hassett stated that the Village Manager wants the issue to go to ACA before contacting Burr Ridge and King Braewart House. Mr. O'Brien mentioned that there are paddle players in Burr Ridge that could contact the Village of Burr Ridge regarding more courts. Chairman Curran stated that Burr Ridge should reimburse Hinsdale for the cost of the trees that could be removed with new courts in order to accommodate them. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the South option would also not interfere that much with the residents on Lauri Lane.

Commissioner McCarthy asked what option HPYA liked the best. Mr. Wiggin stated that the South option is the least expensive and that the West option is the most expensive and involves removing the most trees. Commissioner Banke asked if HPTA has polled their memberships to be sure there is enough interest in the lifetime memberships. Mr. Wiggin stated that they are three times as large so they think getting 50 or 60 lifetime members would be attainable but they have not contacted anyone yet.

Chairman Curran asked about the proposed rates. He doesn't want to be locked down with the rates being set. Chairman Curran asked for a motion to go forward to ACA. Ms. Hassett stated that the recommendation could state the board action request to move forward to prepare to raise support for lifetime memberships and begin dialogue with KB House and Burr Ridge regarding adding two new courts.

Mr. Wiggin also commented that the Village needs to renew the license. Ms. Hassett stated that the license is usually 3 years. The Village Board usually does not to give a license for longer than the Board term. Mr. Wiggin asked for a commitment back from the Village. Ms. Hassett stated the recommendation that will go to ACA for presentation to them. It will be a very general recommendation. Commissioner McCarthy asked if there is an issue to go to KB House to identify what the plan is. Ms. Hassett asked if KB House was involved the last time. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Burr Ridge residents were involved but not KB House the last time.

Chairman Curran asked for a proposal. Commissioner Dougherty made a motion and Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The motion will move forward to ACA. Ms. Hassett will discuss the lights with the village planner to know what would be allowed. Ms. Hassett asked if they could get a 10 year agreement from the Village. Ms. Doten stated that the courts all need to be at the same level. Gina stated the height of the poles will be the issue and that will determine where the courts can be built. The current lights are too tall for the code. The motion will go to the June 7 ACA meeting.

Chairman Curran thanked the HPTA members for coming and for their presentation.

## **Monthly Reports**

### April 2010 Revenue/Expense Report

Ms. Hassett stated that the end of the fiscal year has not been closed out yet. There will still be some payouts in May. There are no more major expenses. The year finished good and staff has been very frugal with expenses.

### Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated that the construction of the basketball court at Burns is completed. Hopefully in a few years, a sports court surface could be added. Chairman Curran asked what the projected life is for the courts. Ms. Hassett stated that it is 8 – 10 years. There is no warranty on the work. The memorial bricks are kept for anyone that may want them. They will be kept but not reinstalled at the basketball court.

Ms. Hassett stated that the pool is being repaired and painted and the new heaters are working properly. Kurt Lindemann is working hard with the pool and has had many staff trainings. Pool memberships are up and on target. Ms. Hassett stated that she will run an ad in the Hinsdalean regarding the summer programs. The programs were not done by lottery this year so there has been a decrease in registrations. All programs are still open.

Ms. Hassett stated that many weekends are booked at KLM. Chairman Curran requested a forecast of rentals for the coming months. Ms. Hassett will get the rentals for the coming months to see what the projection is.

Chairman Curran asked what was going in at Brook and if grading was required. Ms. Hassett stated that it is a cement slab for picnic tables and no grading is required. There is no electricity involved.

Ms. Hassett commented on the items in the capital plan. Some items may be put off if the state funds are not available. If the \$200,000 for Duncan Field is not used, those funds will be used for some KLM items like the roof, retaining wall and road access. The road project at KLM will be included in the bid package for the road projects. All projects will be completed at the end of the summer.

## **Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items**

### Social Media Outlet Policy Status

Ms. Hassett commented on the policy and the Board has suggested a six month trial time period. The Board will be voting on that policy at tomorrow's meeting.

### Veeck Park Status

Ms. Hassett stated that it has been reported that Veeck will be finished by June. Commissioner Banke asked about the infield restoration. Ms. Hassett stated that once the college kids come to work, they will be working out there.

Chairman Curran asked for the park walks to be done again. Ms. Hassett stated that all of the public works employees work everywhere and Dan Hopkins is the one responsible for the playgrounds and fields.

### AYSO Event June 12

AYSO have requested use for a party for their members and families of 2500 people at Robbins Park. ACA did approve the special use permit provided they can find adequate parking. Dept Chief Simpson has been contacted and feels comfortable that the parking will be adequate. The item will go to Board Tuesday, May 18.

## **Correspondence**

None

#### Gateway SRA

Ms. Hassett mentioned that Countryside is pulling out and they are working to not have the contributions go up substantially. Chairman Curran asked if Gateway participates in the parade. Ms. Hassett will ask if they want to participate.

Ms. Hassett mentioned that the theme for the parade is Volunteer, Give Back to the Community. Ms. Hassett has been in contact with groups that may walk in Alice Mansell's honor. There is a group of girls called Alice's Angels that will hopefully walk on her behalf. Ms. Hassett reiterated that the parade is on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### New business

There will be a meeting this Wednesday with Commissioner Gorman about the renovations to be made to Duncan. Ms. Hassett stated that a new intern will be starting on Tuesday for 3 months.

Next meeting will be June 21 and the location will be at Peirce. There will be follow up with HPTA and the OSLAD grant.

#### **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Dougherty moved to adjourn. Commissioner Banke seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Copp