

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, November 14, 2011 7:00 PM
Memorial Hall Board Room**

Chairman Kluchenek called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 7:06 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

Members Present: Chairman Matt Kluchenek, Commissioners Dougherty, Griffin, McCarthy, Mulligan, Owens and Otto

Members Absent: Commissioners Scott Banke and Ed Opler

Others Present: Trustee Chris Elder

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

Commissioner Griffin moved approval of the September 19, 2011 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes with one correction. Commissioner Owens seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Reports

September Revenue/Expense Reports

Chairman Kluchenek asked Ms. Hassett if there were any highlights from the report. Ms. Hassett stated that the lodge revenue is down and we probably won't be able to make up that revenue. There are a lot of holiday parties during December but January and February are quiet months. Chairman Kluchenek asked if there is cross country skiing in the park. Ms. Hassett stated that we don't groom the trails and she will post the information on the website when the Burns Field ice rink goes on-line.

Commissioner Mulligan asked about the shortage in the Lodge budget. Ms. Hassett stated the budget was achieved last year but this year it will be short due to some cancelled events. Ms. Hassett commented that Dena Reetz has given notice and will be leaving in two weeks.

Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett stated that the waste receptacles at KLM have been installed. The Fall Festival, Santa Breakfast and Polar Express were noted. Ms. Hassett presented a policy for using the parks for personal gain. Ms. Hassett commented that there is dialogue with the village attorney regarding this policy.

Ms. Hassett reported that the pump house work has been completed and refilling of the pool has started.

Park & Recreation Commission Follow Up Items

KLM Shelter Update

Ms. Hassett explained about the new shelter and that the project is almost complete. She explained the research on fees from other communities and shared the rates that are suggested. There would be three different rates depending on the area used. Groups of 25 or more are required to have a permit.

There are maintenance issues sometimes on the weekends when no staff is working, especially trash removal. The new shelter will cost more. Commissioner Owens asked if there are guidelines for the length of the rental. Ms. Hassett explained that since there is no staff there, there is no way to know how long they use the shelter. Generally there is only one picnic at each shelter per day since there is no staff to empty trash or clean them. The part time staff work for Public Works and not for our department so it is difficult to know when someone is there.

Commissioner Owens believed that it could raise additional revenue if there was an hourly rate with multiple picnics. Commissioner Mulligan stated that the new pavilion is very nice and has a lot of nice space. Ms. Hassett stated that the picnic tables are ready to install but the landscapers have damaged the electric.

Chairman Kluchenek asked for a motion to approve the proposed fees. Commissioner Mulligan made a motion and Commissioner McCarthy seconded the motion. Commissioner Dougherty asked how staff came up with the numbers for the proposed fees. Ms. Hassett stated it was based on other communities. Commissioner Dougherty thinks that non-resident rates should be higher and was okay with the resident rates.

Commissioner Dougherty suggested \$110 for non-residents for the North shelter, \$160 for the South shelter and \$70 for grounds only. Commissioner Mulligan asked if the spots would be taken by residents if the non-residents are higher. Ms. Hassett stated that she believes that they would still come especially since the South shelter is new. Chairman Kluchenek asked what the rates are for businesses. Ms. Hassett stated that the rates are the same unless it is a not-for-profit company.

Commission Mulligan made the amended motion with the new suggested non-resident fees and Commissioner Dougherty seconded the motion. The recommendation passed unanimously.

Platform Tennis Court Project

Ms. Hassett reported that the new platform tennis courts are 90% completed and some of the walkways need to be addressed. The lights were a problem but are now finished

Chairman Kluchenek asked if the amount of new members is on target. Ms. Hassett commented that there won't be as many renewals because of the new lifetime memberships. The Village cost is around \$20,000 and the revenue should break even. Ms. Hassett stated that the bulk of the memberships have come in.

Sport Summit Draft Agenda

Ms. Hassett explained about having the summit in January. She asked if the Commissioners wanted to have it as an official meeting, it would need to have a quorum. Chairman Kluchenek stated that he would like to attend but would need a different date.

Commissioner McCarthy asked what the purpose of the meeting would be. Ms. Hassett explained the purpose and the dialogue that can occur between the different organizations. Chairman Kluchenek asked what is anticipated from the Summit. Commissioner Otto commented that at one of the meetings the lacrosse group stated how many children are now involved in that sport. He stated that you can get an idea from other groups what they are looking for and what the policies are for closures.

Commissioner Owens mentioned that she believes that it is a great idea for the organizations to come together. Ms. Hassett stated that the whole Commission doesn't need to be there. Commissioner McCarthy stated that questions could be submitted ahead of time for review. Chairman Kluchenek stated that there needs to be a plan for resolution and Ms. Hassett should ask the organizations what items they want to discuss.

Commissioner Otto stated that the issues usually come out at the Summit but some organizations don't show up. Chairman Kluchenek wants Ms. Hassett to ask what the key issues are and possibly the Commissioners can look at the issues before the meeting. Chairman Kluchenek asked for a summary of the organizations and who is likely to attend.

Ms. Hassett explained about how St. Isaac has been losing players to Falcon Football. Ms. Hassett is suggesting to have the Sports Summit be part of the January Park and Rec Commission meeting. Commissioner Otto stated that the Summit really needs to be done in January because the organizations need to set their schedules for the spring by that time. Ms. Hassett will suggest some dates.

New Business

Melin Ice Rink request

Ms. Hassett explained the request for the ice rink at Melin Park. The neighbors maintain and the village fills it with water. It has been a great asset to the community. It is often ready before Burns.

Commissioner Dougherty made a motion and Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion.

Community Pool Report

Chairman Kluchenek asked Ms. Hassett to summarize the report. She stated that the 10 visit pass was very successful and memberships still continue to go down due to the many choices available. There are ongoing maintenance issues as there is with any community pool. Ms. Hassett stated the origin of the 10 visit pass and shared the information regarding the visit pass and private rentals revenue. She stated that the passes don't carry over to the next year and she believes that there should be a non-resident friendly rate

which is lower than the non-resident but more than the resident rates. It would a rate for surrounding communities that would be in between the resident and non-resident rates.

Chairman Kluchenek asked if there is room for more people at the pool. He stated that the chairs are always filled on the weekends. Commissioner Owens stated that it is particularly crowded in June. Commissioner Owens asked Ms. Hassett about the summary of pass sales. She wanted to know the impact of the 10 visit pass with regards to the family memberships. Ms. Hassett stated that most of the passes were people that had memberships previously. Ms. Hassett explained that about 5 years ago Hinsdale Swim Club no longer was required to purchase a pool pass because they now have a contract with the Village. HSC pays \$3500 to use the pool, which is way under what other towns charge to use their pools.

Ms. Hassett explained that all of the master swimmers also used to be required to purchase pool memberships and now they are included under HSC contract. Commissioner Mulligan stated that it makes sense that the swimmers need to purchase a membership. Chairman Kluchenek stated that perhaps lower rates would bring in more revenue. Commission Owens mentioned about how many families have joined 5 Seasons and doesn't know if lowering the cost would entice those families back to the community pool because health clubs have so much more to offer.

Chairman Kluchenek mentioned that he has had a lot of feedback regarding the rates increasing. Commissioner Dougherty stated that people complain about the pool closing before 9 pm. Residents feel that the pool should be open until 9. Ms. Hassett stated that there have been less than 10 people during that last hour. Commissioner Mulligan mentioned that the rates increased last year so the hours could be restored until 8 pm. There would not be any benefit to lower the rate and it is tough to compete with 5 Seasons because of the specials that they offer. She feels that the rates should stay where they are for the residents but perhaps there could be other revenue opportunities. It is still a very good bargain for a family.

Chairman Kluchenek asked about lowering the day rates and a supplemental night time purchase. Ms. Hassett stated that the only patrons that come at night are usually dads. Ms. Hassett stated that the rates need to be addressed at the December meeting. Commissioners Mulligan and Owens both stated that the pool has been better run the last few years. Commissioner Owens also stated that patrons are still getting in without paying and that the cashiers need to be better trained.

Ms. Hassett stated this was the best year in recent years for the cashiers swiping the pass cards. It was more accurate this year. Ms. Hassett stated that town team and swim team patrons no longer need passes. Commissioner Owens suggested that the marketing needs to be done to know that revenues are down and that supporting the pool is important for the community.

Ms. Hassett stated how the Hinsdalean did do some articles last summer regarding the value of the pool. Commissioner Griffin commented that it could be too confusing if there

are too many rates offered. Chairman Kluchenek stated that we need to be creative because the current system is not working.

Liaison Reports

Administration and Community Affairs Committee

No report.

Gateway SRA

Ms. Hassett noted that daycamp transportation is subsidized and will be \$7000. District 181 contacted Ms. Hassett and Gateway about an after school program with transportation. They have some children with disabilities that are participating and it is being hosted at Elm School. There will need to be at least four registered for the class to run and it is not limited to children with disabilities.

Capital Budget

Chairman Kluchenek asked Ms. Hassett to explain the draft budget and that he had asked Ms. Hassett to prioritize the items. Chairman Kluchenek asked how much the current budget is. Ms. Hassett explained the capital budget is generally around \$100,000 to \$200,000. She explained the line items and some merger of capital master plan items and some maintenance items. Everything in next year's fiscal year are all needed. Peirce Park playground was proposed in last year's budget but is now in 2012-13 and is outdated, not in disrepair.

Chairman Kluchenek asked if the Commission was making a recommendation for the Trustees. If items are continued to be deferred, they will only get more expensive. Chairman Kluchenek asked if it is realistic to get the requested funds. Not including the grant money, the funded projects were \$180,000 for this budget year.

Chairman Kluchenek asked what the net number would be if the low priority numbers were eliminated. Ms. Hassett explained that amount would be around \$330,000, less the \$150,000 that is grant funded. Commissioner Mulligan asked about power washing at the tennis courts. Ms. Hassett stated that they have all been done this year.

Ms. Hassett explained about the fencing at the pool. The fence posts have not been in concrete so she has contacted fence companies about reusing the fence with new posts that are in concrete. Chairman Kluchenek asked Trustee Elder about the budget numbers that are not low priority. Trustee Elder stated that the budget is looked at as a whole.

Commissioner Otto stated that the budget should be submitted as presented and let the Trustees decide what is available. Ms. Hassett stated that the department has a Commission but other departments like engineering report directly to the Trustees.

Ms. Hassett stated that there are no items in the capital plan that are "fluff" and she believes that it is all needed but the Trustees know that there are bigger issues like infrastructure. Commissioner Mulligan asked about painting instead of repairing some of the items. Ms. Hassett stated that there are some issues that if we don't look at them, they

will be bigger ticket items if they are not repaired. The swimming pool parking lot really needs to be done because snow is stored there in the winter.

Chairman Kluchenek stated the Commission needs to convey the higher costs that will be for items being deferred.

Commissioner Owens asked about the walking path budgeted for Veeck Park. Ms. Hassett explained what the original plan was for a path at the back of the park. She believes that it is not necessary and the funds have been used to haul off the spoils. Chairman Kluchenek asked about Peirce Park playground costs. Ms. Hassett stated it is a comprehensive package that includes removal of the old equipment and it would cost more to piece it together. Ms. Hassett stated that she would like to see the mulch removed from the playgrounds in the parks.

Ms. Hassett explained that the biggest complaint of the pool is the bath house. It is hot and the concrete doesn't stay clean. The diving well and lap pool have been repainted. The locker rooms need to be repainted.

Commissioner Owens asked about the high dive at the pool and suggested a big pad at the diving board. Ms. Hassett stated that most municipalities would not include a high dive and she would remove it if she had her wish. Ms. Hassett stated that it is luxury to have a high dive but it is a risk. Commissioner Owens stated that she believes the high dive and the slide are the biggest draw to children. She believes that patrons are unhappy when the diving well closes. Ms. Hassett will check prices for those pads.

Chairman Kluchenek asked the Commissioners what their feelings were about the budget. Ms. Hassett stated that this was the first time since she has been here that there was a chance for the Commissioners to look at the budget. It will be going to the Finance Commission and it may come back to prioritize.

Commissioner McCarthy suggested that the budget should be submitted as is and believes that Ms. Hassett knows what should be submitted. Ms. Hassett will continue to tweek the numbers. She recommends submitting it as is and if needed, she can eliminate the low priority items.

Commissioner Mulligan requests that if the walkway isn't needed at Veeck, then it should be eliminated from the budget and if the automatic flushers are not needed on the toilets, they can be eliminated as well. Ms. Hassett stated that the flushers are currently rented at \$300 each. Ms. Hassett stated that the walkway at Veeck was promised to the residents 4 years ago but priorities have changed.

Commissioner Mulligan also suggested that if some items are delayed, the cost could be more in the future because of deterioration. Commissioner Mulligan asked about the restoration at Veeck and Ms. Hassett explained what AYSO is paying for in the restoration enhancements. The Commissioners recommended the budget with those few omissions. Commissioner Mulligan moved approval of the proposed budget and Commissioner McCarthy seconded. The Commissioners approved unanimously.

5K Race Healthy Parks Healthy Patients

Commissioner Mulligan explained how we are looking for big company sponsors for the race. She asked the Commissioners for ideas and names to be submitted if they know of any. Ms. Hassett stated that the athletic organizations are being challenged to help with the race. The hope is to raise \$50,000 and the funds would be earmarked for capital improvements that can't be funded through the budget.

Chairman Kluchenek asked what the sponsorship levels are. Ms. Hassett will send them to the Commissioners and explained the breakfast aspect and the companies that could be asked to sponsor that.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Griffin moved to adjourn. Commissioner Otto seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be December 19 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Copp, Secretary