

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE  
MINUTES  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Monday, June 20, 2011 6:30 PM  
Memorial Hall Board Room**

Chairman Curran called the meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to Order at 6:35 p.m. at the Memorial Hall board room.

**Members Present:** Chairman Jeff Curran, Commissioners Scott Banke, MaryBeth Dougherty, Diane Griffin, Ed McCarthy, Kathleen Mulligan & William Otto

**Members Absent:** Commissioners John Deppe and Ed Opler

**Others Present:** Trustee Doug Geoga and Boy Scout Matt Saunders

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

The Commissioners mentioned a few changes to the minutes. Commissioner Banke moved approval of the May 18, 2011 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes with corrections. Commissioner McCarthy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Monthly Reports**

May 2011 Revenue/Expense Reports

Ms. Hassett presented the report and mentioned that many May items have not been posted. Chairman Curran asked if there were any expenses forthcoming.

Commissioner Otto asked about the revenue offset difference. He asked if that was being subsidized by the village. Trustee Geoga stated that it is not the intention that the village does not subsidize the department. Ms. Hassett stated the department has been very frugal.

Chairman Curran stated that year over year the percentage has changed and that the department should look at it at the departmental level. Commissioner Mulligan asked if there are costs that are being deferred to pay later. Chairman Curran stated that there could be marketing opportunities that could improve services. Commissioner Banke asked about the field fees and wanted to know how the revenue would increase next year when Veeck Park came back on line.

Ms. Hassett stated that staff is pursuing opportunities to other organizations to utilize the fields. Commissioner Mulligan asked if there is anything that has been deferred that will need to be looked at. Ms. Hassett stated that the 10 year capital plan has had items removed from the capital plan because of budget cuts.

Trustee Geoga stated that the parks and rec budget has some activities where users can be identified and some don't. He stated that the users can be asked to bear the cost of the use

but the village will always have to contribute. Trustee Geoga stated that parks and rec has always had a capital plan and he feels staff is moving in a good direction to try to incorporate the long term plan with the village plan.

Chairman Curran asked Ms. Hassett that if there were dollars for marketing, what would we get for the dollars. He stated that perhaps Public Service could have common uses like a truck and that the expense could be shared even if the expense is a Park and Rec budget item.

Commissioner Otto stated that by being under budget could catch up with us years down the road by items being neglected. Commissioner Mulligan asked if the playgrounds are getting a longer life now that they are not wood. Ms. Hassett stated that they are healthier and the biggest maintenance is the mulch.

### Recreation Program Report

Ms. Hassett shared the emails regarding the OSLAD grant. She mentioned that one of the projects is grading the lacrosse field and some of the dirt from the new platform tennis courts can be used there. Chairman Curran asked what the timeline is for the construction of the courts.

Ms. Hassett stated that there still is no agreement for the new platform tennis courts. The cost of the courts is \$150,000 and that does not include electrical work and the removal of the dirt and the retaining wall. Wingren Landscaping will be doing a lot of in-kind landscaping. Staff is waiting for a site plan for the project. She thinks that the 3 projects will be done together so that the village will get reimbursed for the projects in a reasonable length time of time.

Commissioner McCarthy asked what the arrangement is with Wingren. Ms. Hassett stated they are donating services for landscaping and Staff still needs to know what those services will be. The village will pay for an excavator but it is unknown at this time how much excavation will need to be done. Chairman Curran asked how long the lacrosse field will be offline. Ms. Hassett does not know but is sure it will be a season.

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

#### KLM Park Improvements Update

Ms. Hassett reported that she hope the South picnic shelter will be completed by Labor Day. The retaining wall is done and is similar to what will need to be installed for the platform tennis courts.

Ms. Hassett stated that the projects can be started now that we know we have the award. Contracts have been received and there will be a meeting next week. The shelter order time is 6 – 10 weeks. Excavation will start a few weeks before the shelter arrives.

MWRD has stated that permits are no longer needed for work that doesn't have sewer work. Dan Deeter is following up with them to see if one will be needed. Chairman Curran

asked if we will be applying for the permit. Ms. Hassett stated that this permit has been in the works for 9 months. The Historical Society is receiving a refund for the Zook House project because they still need to raise the necessary funds to finish the project.

Chairman Curran stated that the high school will be happy to submit and/or help with plans for the disc golf course that will be installed.

### Pool

Commissioner McCarthy commented about the number of pool passes being less than previous years. He asked if we have asked prior members why they have not renewed. Ms. Hassett stated that we can survey those patrons and that the data has been collected on last year's members that did not renew.

### Veeck Park Update

Ms. Hassett stated that the dirt removal will go before the Village Board tomorrow night. She hopes to have the dirt removed within a month, depending on the weather. The fields will be disturbed by the trucks doing the removal.

Swim lessons and camps have started and are going well. Some lap swimmers are unhappy that the lap lanes are not in all the time. HSC uses the morning hours are used six out of the 8 lanes. Some pumps are in for service and there is some clean up with the cotton from the trees.

### Platform Tennis Court Project

The Board has approved the purchase of the new courts. Ms. Hassett stated that the platform tennis company has now opened an office in this area to help with this project. HPTA has stated that they will cover the additional costs.

### Sponsorship/Co-operative Partnering

Commissioner Banke explained the information that he had about sponsorships. One of the things is that there is framework that is laid out by the Village and once that is done, then the groups can be built. He asked Trustee Geoga how to start that process. Trustee Geoga stated that there would always be exclusive use in some way for the organization. He believes that there are probably half a dozen, not scores. He believes that there is willingness to partner with the Village.

Trustee Geoga stated that the starting point is the interest of doing a project and then the format can be set. Commissioner Banke asked if there is anything in place to make a proposal. He stated that if there was some type of template in place it would take the guesswork out of the project. Commissioner McCarthy stated that he believes that the Village should streamline the process to partner with the organization.

Ms. Hassett stated that there is not a general template that can be used. There are issues that could come up even if the money is raised. The Village doesn't have the funds and

there could be additional money required. There would need to be a FAQ sheet and that there are always things to be considered for every project.

Commissioner McCarthy stated that he thinks that the way Wingren is helping with the landscaping for the new paddle courts is a sign of how businesses are willing to help. Ms. Hassett commented on the marketing that is currently being used. When there are large issues, the smaller issues are postponed.

Chairman Curran stated that the next step could be to find out the options available. Commissioner Mulligan stated that a sponsorship would be more project based. Commissioner Banke thanked Trustee Geoga for being open to these efforts.

## **New Business**

### Financial Assistance Policy

Ms. Hassett stated that there have been financial assistance requests. Village Manager Dave Cook has asked Ms. Hassett to draft a policy. Ms. Hassett shared policies from some other towns. Hinsdale Rotary did sponsor one of the families to have a pool pass for a teenage boy.

Ms. Hassett stated that requests generally come in the summer and that contracted programs would be excluded. Since that is 90% of the programs, only the summer swim lessons or our day camps would be included. She asked the Commission for ideas. Commissioner Mulligan shared that we should have a policy. Many of the policies have a cap on the amount of financial aid given. Ms. Hassett stated that most policies exclude pool memberships because it would be a luxury.

Chairman Curran asked if we knew what the administrative fees would be. Ms. Hassett stated that it would depend on the program. Commissioner McCarthy stated that perhaps we could ask those recipients to volunteer in the village in some way. Ms. Hassett stated that we have offered a payment plan to families in the past for pool memberships. Chairman Curran encouraged Gina to continue with offering the payment plan.

Trustee Geoga commented that he cannot give his opinion at this time. Commissioner Griffin stated that AYSO did have a policy for the players in need. Chairman Curran asked the Commissioners for a volunteer to help draft a policy. Commissioner Dougherty volunteered to work on a policy with Ms. Hassett. Commissioner Banke stated that we can define need by looking at the definition of need in the schools. How do they view it and how do they allocate towards it. Ms. Hassett stated it would be a very small percentage because most of our programs are contracted. Ms. Hassett will follow up with ACA.

## **Correspondence**

None

## **July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade**

Ms. Hassett stated that the majority of the contracted groups will be returning. There is a struggle to get bands. There will not be a parade marshal this year and the recommendation for active military families has not worked out.

For next year, staff might look into nominations for marshals. Ms. Hassett stated that she needs volunteers for helping with the parade. She stated that the police have been concerned with crowd control. The police have requested that there be barricades on First Street for safety concerns.

Ms. Hassett stated that the entry participation is down a little from last year. Chairman Curran asked if there are other neighboring communities that have a parade on the same day. Ms. Hassett stated that Downers Grove does not pay any groups anymore and Lisle doesn't have a parade.

Chairman Curran asked the Boy Scout in attendance about scouts volunteering for the parade. Chairman Curran stated that there could perhaps be some partnering opportunities with the scouts.

## **Liaison Reports**

### ACA

Ms. Hassett mentioned that Scott went to ACA about selling concessions to raise money for the skate park. The request was forwarded to the full Board. She stated that a member of the Commission should attend ACA if there is something on the agenda.

### Gateway SRA

Ms. Hassett is now the President. There will not be more than a 5% increase to the communities. Transportation will be contracted now with Ray Graham and there will be two routes instead of 3. There will not be a budget deficit for transportation. Ms. Hassett stated that there is a Committee for program fees. They are looking for a standard and adjusting the non-resident fees. She had a meeting with the school district and have made them more aware of Gateway and the resources.

## **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner McCarthy moved to adjourn. Commissioner Dougherty seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting was declared adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Copp, Secretary