

**HURON JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2005 – 7:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the Huron Joint Recreation District Board was called to order by Chairman Tim Golling on Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Marina Building at the Huron Boat Basin, Huron, Ohio.

**PRESENT:** Tim Golling, Tom Solberg, Terry Graham, Steve Hohler, Don Ritzenthaler, Dave Dreffer (arrived late). Also present were: Assistant City Manager, Andy White; Facility Manager of the Boat Basin, Doug Steinwart; Program Director, Pete O'Brien; and Park Maintenance, Chris Basting.

**ABSENT:** Wayne Foster, Scott Suter, Chuck Thompson, and Rob Moore.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Graham noted an error on Page 4 of the May 12, 2005 minutes noting Scott Gardner, not Scott Suter, was showing up at the meetings to represent the schools. **Motion by Graham, seconded by Hohler, that the minutes of May 12, 2005 be approved as received and corrected.** The motion was approved.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Andy White reported that he and the City Manager recently met with the Lear Corp. regarding tax abatement payments to the school. He said the current discussion is that Lear will pay the \$15,000 they owe to the Joint Rec. District directly to the City with the balance of the payment going directly to the schools. Andy stated once that happens, we can bill the Township for their share and the Park District should be fully funded. Dave Dreffer asked if the schools went along with it and Andy stated it was.

Andy reviewed the receipts for Nickel Plate Park noting in two weeks in 2004, we averaged about \$85.00 per day. That is up this year at \$168 per day.

**Old Business: Santa House:** Andy White said the Santa House has become obsolete because we now have the Marina Bldg. He noted Ron Ineson of the Lions Club had expressed an interest in purchasing it. There followed a brief discussion during which Doug Steinwart gave a brief history of the Santa House and who contributed to building it. He said they put it out for a couple weeks at Christmas but they don't use it. Andy White recommended talking with the people who put it together to get their input.

**Spoils Site Project:** Andy White said the Fire Department conducted a controlled burning at the Spoils Site last month, which was necessary for security reasons. He said Fire Chief Berlin Paul had asked about developing trails at the site. Andy said he had a meeting with John Blakeman, a local environmentalist, and Jonathan Granville, Director of Erie MetroParks, to discuss the Spoils Site. He showed the Board a preliminary sketch of ideas they discussed about developing the area as a preserve. Andy said they recommended to spray pesticides on the site in the fall of 2005 to prevent plant life from growing in the spring. The initial cost would be about \$5,000. Mr. Hohler cautioned about getting into any partnership with MetroParks because he has had a healthy experience with them and they don't always have the manpower to follow through on projects. Mr. Ritzenthaler said the Township has had some bad experiences with MetroParks and felt there were other avenues to pursue. Andy White said

because the budget is so limited, everything has been pushed toward partnerships. More discussion followed.

Andy said when he came to Huron, he remembers a discussion about the waterfront and seeing what was there. He said this is the first real opportunity he has had to listen and see some vision about this area. He said this is something we may be able to do with our limited resources. He said if it would not work with MetroParks, maybe someone else could partner with us. It was noted the Spoils Site is under control of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers but it was felt they would not object. Discussion was given to how the project could be financed. Andy thought a passive type area for people to go and relax would be an attraction. Discussion was given to the disrepair of the old Showboat site at the mouth of the river. The Board advised Andy to follow through with pursuing the project but advised him to be cautious. Andy said they talked about terms of a 99 year lease for a \$1.00 per year between MetroParks and the City and Corps of Engineers. This would be a joint funding partnership. More discussion followed.

**Facility Usage Fees:** Andy White reviewed the contents of Ordinance No. 2004-5 which sets forth usage fees. He said there have been different opinions about the intent in the ordinance and the definition of an event. He said there was an incident at Fabens Park when an organization thought they could use the ball fields and not pay a fee. Andy said he and the staff put together a new fee schedule which identified what an organized team was and how much the fee would be. He said the proposal has clear definitions. He handed out the proposal to the Board for review. A discussion followed. It was suggested to charge more for non-residents than residents. Andy said it would be ideal to know in advance what organizations are using the fields at Fabens so maintenance scheduling could be planned. Andy said we need to define three concepts: 1) what is an event, 2) what is public use of Fabens Park, 3) what is an organized sport. There followed a discussion on the number of people using Fabens Park during the week and various scenarios that may occur for groups using the facilities and the costs involved along with maintenance of the park. It was noted that the Board should come up with a fees schedule and a more definitive description of what events are. There was a lively discussion on the covenants placed on Fabens Park at the time it was donated to the City on July 22, 1965 by the family of Col. Rae W. Fabens. The Board said Andy will continue to work on a revised fee schedule and definitions.

**New Business: Attendance Committee:** Tim Golling said a sub-committee of Chuck Thompson, Steve Hohler, and Tom Solberg, Sr., to look into absenteeism. It was noted one of the committee members was absent. Mr. Hohler said there was no report and it will be brought up next meeting.

**Park Vandalism:** Mr. Golling said there had been spraying on trash cans and other items in the parks, two red flags were taken from Nickel Plate Park; trash cans have been set on fire. Chris Basting said the Police caught the person who set the fire. Since

then the vandalism has subsided. The individual will have to pay for the damage and do community service time. Chris was concerned about out of town users of the park and the fact that some kids have been riding their small low rider motorcycles around at Nickel Plate. More discussion was given to this topic.

**City Wide Garage Sale at Fabens Park:** Andy said we just held the annual City-wide garage sale at the Boat Basin and we had to turn 15 people away. It was suggested to have another one at Fabens in the fall. Doug explained that we really don't make any money at the June sale but it was used to draw people to the Boat Basin area. Andy said the Fabens garage sale will be done on August 27<sup>th</sup>. He is looking for volunteers to help put it on.

**Chairman's Comments:** Tim Golling said it was good to see everyone together this evening and thanked them for their time.

**Assistant City Manager Comments:** Andy White said he is putting together a six month report on revenues at the end of June.

Dave Dreffer reported the hours for the Rib Burnoff and Blue Grass Festival were changed to: Friday – 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. & Saturday – Noon – 10:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on July 14, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy White,  
Assistant City Manager

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Typed from a tape of the meeting by Phyllis Wassner.