

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting- Minutes
Monday, April 2 at 7:30pm
Huron Boat Basin Marina Bldg, Huron, OH**

Members present: Tim Golling, Dave Dreffer, Terry Graham, Steve Hohler Tom Solberg, Jr., Chuck Thompson, Scott Slocum. Present from HPRD: Doug Steinwart

Members absent: Wayne Foster, Don Ritzenthaler

Visitors to this meeting: None

First order of business was the approval of minutes from the February 5, 2007 meeting. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Audience Comments: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Recreation Program Coordinator-Doug Steinwart

Brian Croucher has been offered and accepted the position of Program Coordinator. He is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of April 16. Brian is coming from the Dayton area and is presently moving into a home between here and Cleveland where his wife works. His work experience includes 4 years in Montgomery County Parks & Recreation-Dayton as a Recreation Coordinator and for the Boys and Girls Club in Hamilton County in Cincinnati. He holds a B.A. in Recreation from Franklin College in Indiana.

Twenty-Nine (29) applications were received for this position. Of that number, five (5) were interviewed in round one. Three (3) were brought back for round two. The position was then offered to Brian about one week ago.

Parks and Recreation is looking forward to having Brian on board. Brian's past employers spoke highly of his work performance. Based on his work experience, certainly taking this position will be a cut in pay for Brian. The goal of Parks and Recreation is to hopefully have a benefit package to offer for 2008.

B. ODNR Dredging Grant-Doug Steinwart

The Recreational Harbor Evaluation Grant from the ODNR Division of Watercraft application has been submitted. This grant is for recreational harbors. The deadline was April 1, 2007. This grant is for \$210,750 and 100% funded.

We should know the status of the application by late fall. If we receive the grant, it would probably be around this time next year that the actual dredging would be underway.

The last time the dredging was done was in 2000 and 1999, and at that time 100% funding was not available.

Approximately 21,500 cubic yards will need to be removed. We definitely need to move forward on this. If we do not receive this grant, we must apply again next year that means dredging wouldn't take place until 2009. It would be imperative that it get done that year.

Mr. Dreffer asked if this is something we really need to do. Mr. Steinwart explained that this is something that is needed. If we don't stay ahead of it then we are looking at more that will need to be done, increasing the cost. In 1999 the general fund had to subsidize \$125,000 toward the dredging since the grant was not 100% funded.

This grant is point based, 30 points of the 115 is based on matching. So, were getting 0 on that point scale, because we're not putting any money towards it. If you wanted to get 30 points you would need 25%, so then we would need approximately \$50,000.

Phil Miller, executor of the grant from ODNR stated that they have \$788,000 for the entire state, as of 2 weeks prior to the deadline, 0 applications had been received. Most likely, however, applications were probably submitted the last week before deadline.

Also discussed was the debris in the marina. Mr. Steinwart explained that this is a common occurrence. Depending on the wind, many times it will clear somewhat on its own. The Fire & Police boats do help to remove the remainder. Mr. Graham asked if the fact that ODNR is contributing large amounts of money already to the ConAgra site project will that affect our chances toward this particular grant. Mr. Steinwart explained that he had been told that ODNR grants are considered on a case by case basis; therefore, one should not affect the other.

Mr. Graham updated everyone on the grant that was applied for regarding the pathway behind Woodland heading to the walk bridge. So many applications were received that the entire point system is being revised. Discussion continued regarding the clearing that has been done by Don Ritzenthaler on that path.

Mr. Golling reminded all members that if they haven't already done so, to please support the application that Chris Basting applied for from Hamburger Helper. Get on the website to submit supporting comments. Every month, Hamburger Helper will select a winner.

Mr. Graham discussed that the City is awaiting the "Governors Deed" that will need to be signed by Andy White and then the City will take transfer of the property on the ConAgra site. The city has received several offers of interest in the development of the property. No offers are being considered seriously until the land is actually the city's. A public forum would be beneficial for community members to discuss ideas as well. The city would also like to have a 3rd party facilitator to be involved. The boat ramp plans continue to be worked on. It will be the end of the summer before we see any work being started.

Mr. Graham was asked if he had any other information regarding the Lear Corporation sale. Mr. Graham did not have any more information than what was reported in the paper.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS- Tim Golling

Reminded & encouraged members to participate -April 21-City Wide Cleanup. Mr. Golling talked about Huron Baseball's program at Fabens Park. Sign-ups went well. Approximately 500 children are participating in that program. He will be coaching this year and looking forward to a great season.

MANAGERS' REPORT

A. PARKS- Doug Steinwart

Reminder that the City Wide CleanUp is Saturday, April 21 with continental breakfast donated by HLM and Huron Chamber between 8:30-10:00am. The cleanup is from 10-12:00pm. Volunteers meet at Huron Parks and Recreation. If any board members plan on attending, please call the office to be added to the list.

Nickel Plate Parking Pass applications were mailed on the first day of spring and to date Parks has received \$300+ in NP Parking Pass revenue.

Chris Basting has had help from the Water and Street Department personnel at Nickel Plate and in Fabens. Hopefully, we will not have a repeat of the fish problem this year.

Mr. Thompson asked about the situation regarding the Portable Toilets at Fabens. Mr. Steinwart explained that, as in the past, the restrooms are opened on April 15. They are not opened sooner because of freezing temperatures. It was further explained that in the past, the school or boosters has provided a Portable Toilet for the teams using Fabens. This year, for whatever reason, the school has not provided one. The Parks department had one delivered & set up today at our expense for the convenience of the teams.

Fields are being used and looking good despite a rainy start. Mr. Basting has been out at Fabens daily getting the fields ready for use.

B. RECREATION- Doug Steinwart

Spring Aerobic and Yoga are underway now. Garage Sale Registration forms and Boat Basin brochures were included in the water bills distributed last week. Around 30 spaces have already been sold for the City Wide Garage Sale prior to advertising.

Cedar Point tickets have been ordered. Council approved and Finance adjusted the budget to be able to go ahead with this service. Tickets will be promoted to the teams participating in our tournaments. Mr. Slocum asked if tickets would be sold to residents. Mr. Steinwart explained that as long as someone has participated in a HPRD program, they would be able to come in and purchase the discount tickets. Only cash, credit cards or money orders will be accepted as payment. We have heard nothing back from Kalahari regarding a discount package.

When Brian Croucher begins, basically all summer programs will be ready to go. What he will be planning for is Fall and Winter and next years programs. He will most likely be at the next HJRD meeting.

C. BOAT BASIN- Doug Steinwart

The Rib-Cook Off and the Wood Boat Show will each have their own weekend. The event was becoming so large that this should benefit both groups. The goal is to combine a classic car show & the wood boat show, creating “Wood-n-Wheels Weekend”.

OTHER MATTERS-

May 19--Water Safety Day- is an event spearheaded by Paul Berlin. Coast Guard, Police, Parks and Recreation and The Chapman Group will be involved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Christine M. Gibboney
Administrative Assistant, HPRD