

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at 6:30 PM
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Gordon Hahn, Elizabeth Laffay, Matt Grieves

Present from HPRD: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher, Rick Reinbolt

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: Julie Spitzley

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve Oct 3, 2023, minutes as presented; by Matt Grieves and seconded by Gordon Hahn. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Old Business

1. **Huron Winter Fest – presented by Brian Croucher:** The event took place on Sat., Dec. 2, 2023, from 12:30 PM – 6:30 PM all along Main Street. Again for 2023, HPRD partnered with the Huron Chamber for this event. The overall footprint of the event was expanded from Fish House to Lucky Stone to get more people and businesses involved. Returning features included Santa & Mrs. Claus, horse-drawn carriage rides, the market, characters, parade, cookie decorating, and fireworks. New this year was a trackless train in the Donut Shop parking lot and a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The live 15 ft. spruce tree is located at the Boat Basin and was a donation to the community from Grow Huron. Mr. Croucher thanked the staff for their roles in helping with the event as well as the Police and Fire departments for their efforts during the event. Mr. Steinwart added his appreciation for the partnerships that helped with the event.
2. **HJRD Anchor Project – presented by Doug Steinwart:** Late last week Kuhl Landscaping finished the hardscape platform at the top of the amphitheater and the anchor was securely placed on top. Staff members are very pleased with how the project has turned out. The idea of hosting a dedication is in the works for spring (potentially May) of 2023. A plaque will be placed in honor of the four gentlemen recognizing their service to the Huron community, specifically the parks and green spaces. The Memorial committee that initiated this memorial will reconvene to discuss the plaques and the dedication. A date will be announced following that meeting. Thank you to the Huron Water Department for their assistance in placing the anchor.
3. **Boat Basin Dredging – presented by Doug Steinwart:** Last Tuesday during the regularly scheduled Council Meeting, Hoffman Equipment, of Eastlake, was awarded the dredging bid. Hoffman Equipment did the Showboat property several years ago. The scope of the project is to remove approximately 15K cubic yards of material by April 15, 2024. Preconstruction meetings will be scheduled soon. The last dredging took place in 2008/2009. Typically, every 10 years is appropriate, however, COVID, high waters and permitting changes stood in the way in recent years.

B. New Business

1. **HJRD Budget – presented by Doug Steinwart:** A handout was shared regarding the HJRD Budget from Cory Swaisgood, the finance director. The outline showed the changes in the HJRD budget based on the school's participation on the board. At the bottom of the handout are some projections moving forward. The department is pleased all the revenue line items are in the positive. Example,

Nickel Plate Beach, was budgeted at \$50K, with the season closing at \$55K. These positive line items hold true for the Boat Basin as well. The numbers reflect the people, parks, programs, and partnerships of this department.

2. Miscellaneous Parks & Recreation – presented by Doug Steinwart:

- a. The Boat Ramp docks will be pulled on Thursday. Boaters will continue to use the ramp providing there is no ice.
- b. The fish cleaning station had an incredible first year. Huron's cleaning station was the last to close. Lots of positive feedback from this year. The station was well cared for by the users and through the fall the station was used all hour's day and night.
- c. The Boat Basin water and electricity will be turned off on Thursday, Restrooms within the parks are closing and fall button up is almost complete.
- d. Wood fibers were delivered to the playgrounds at Lake Front Park and Fabens. The fibers were purchased from a grant through our insurance provider as a safety measure they offer.

Rick Reinbolt commented on the weather being decent this fall, and they were able to close the different areas at a steady pace.

Brian Croucher announced registrations are now open for both the Winter Soccer program and the Dawg Daze tournament in August.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg thanked the board for attending and wished everyone Happy Holidays! Mr. Grieves thanked the staff for their work on Winter Fest. Mr. Hahn announced he was happy to see the Anchor project come to completion, and this marks his last HJRD meeting, in January, Eddie Wimmer will become the township representative. Mr. Hahn sincerely thanked the department for their hard work and dedication to the Huron Community. Dr. Laffay commented on Winter Fest and the Anchor Project and announced the Celebration of Life for John Jones.

Mr. Solberg announced the next meeting to be Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Hahn; second by Mr. Grieves.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury
Huron Parks & Recreation