

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:30 PM
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Matt Grieves, Julie Spitzley, Jonathan Merckens

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

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: Elizabeth Laffay, Eddie Wimmer

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve March 5, 2024, minutes as presented; by Jonathan Merckens and seconded by Matt Grieves. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: Mr. Steinwart took the opportunity to re-introduce Mr. Bryan Edwards as the newest member of the HPRD team. Bryan joined the team as the Boat Basin Facility Manager on March 11. Welcome Bryan – the department is happy to have you on board and looking forward to the future.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Old Business

1. **Boat Basin Dredging Update – presented by Doug Steinwart:** The boat basin dredging project is complete by Huffman Contractors. The basin is currently about 11 feet deep. During the dredging process the contractor found 16-17 interior posts for the dock system. They have been reconnected to the chains. Thinking the high water over the years caused the chains to give way. When the water returned the secondary ring did not fall on the spud. All is reconnected.
2. **Huron Solar Eclipse – presented by Doug Steinwart:** Staff spent a great deal of time organizing and planning the event at the Boat Basin. The City partnered with the Huron Library and the Huron Chamber for a family-friendly Eclipse. We had a good crowd from 12:30 to about 3:30 PM. We had a magician on stage, followed by the band, Attraxxion's. The library hosted children's activities, there was a face painter, food trucks, a photo booth and much more. Overall, it was a success, but we had a lot of time invested in the day and the result was everyone was safe.

B. New Business

1. **HPRD Grants – presented by Doug Steinwart:** Mr. Steinwart updated the Board over the past 6 weeks. There have been some large and small grants that we applied for. The Boat Basin upgrades – everything from docks to seawall, bulkhead, etc. Trying to tackle ways to obtain some partnership money from Fed., State and local. We have submitted three grants within this past month. First and largest Congressional Spending Request for 2025 thru Sharrod Browns office (\$1.75M) We did a capital budget request to representative Dick Stein through the Ohio Capital Improvement Bill, (\$750K) and we did the same Capital Budget request to Senator Nathan Mannings (\$750). Hopefully this fall we will have some feedback from them. There is one more out there we are looking at – Boating Infrastructure Tier 2 – it is through ODNR who is funded from the Fed. Govt. (\$1.5M). We did apply for 2 local (Erie MetroParks) Capital Improvement Program. The grants were for the Canopy on the stage of the HBB and the section of ADA mats for Nickel Plate Beach for the sand. We were awarded the canopy grant that was 100% funded. The application process is a quick turn around of 2 weeks. We can reapply for the beach mats again next year. We are going for as many grant opportunities as possible.

2. **Berlin Road Park Update -presented by Doug Steinwart:** Mr. Steinwart updated the Board on the Master Plan that was completed late last winter – Council put \$50K in the general fund for improvements for 2024. The improvements included – upgrades to parking to make it a safer situation. We partnered with DL Smith as they had equipment in the area, so we did a stone drive (304's). It is a good base and over the years we can top it off as needed. We widened the entrance for safety. We ordered a fishing dock system called EZ Dock. It is just a flat fishing platform to grant better and easier access to the water. Those are the two things we would like to do this year in addition to a couple of benches that are seen on the master plan as well as some better signage. The third goal for this year is to come up with a name. There is not timeline or process, looking for feedback from this Board.
3. **Misc. Parks & Recreation –**
 - a. Breakfast with the Bunny took place back in March. Wanted to thank the Lion's Club for their support and hosting of the breakfast. Attendance was great this year. We had a magic show and a face painter. The Hunt went well too; however, it was freezing that day which may have affected the attendance a little bit. Overall, it was a great day.
 - b. City Wide Clean Up event on Sat. April 20 – this was a small group, however, thank you to Tom Solberg for the donuts again this year and Erie County Solid Waste for the use of the Green Bean trailer. We ended up with about 15 bags of trash.
 - c. City Wide Garage Sale is set to take place on Sat., May 18th from 9 AM to 1 PM at the HBB. Registrations are really coming in strong. There is also a fishing tournament at the boat ramp – Lake Erie Walleye trails. And there will be a pickleball tournament at Fabens as well.
 - d. Program registrations opened online in mid-April. In less than a month we have seen over 270 registrations. A few highlights – over 50 kids in Safety Town prior to the schools screening, 25 kids in art camp, golf camp sold out in 2 days with 40 kids, tennis camp is returning this year already with 10 kids registered. Overall 160+ kids in the sports camps alone.
 - e. Huron Baseball & Softball programs games officially started yesterday. We have been at Fabens a lot keeping it baseball ready. Tournaments will start the end of June.
 - f. Nickel Plate Beach will officially open for the season on May 25th.
 - g. The Ribbon Cutting Dedication for the new courts is tomorrow, May 8th at 3PM – Please join us. Mr. Merckens will say a couple of words, along with Dr. Tatman, Vice Mayor Claus and City Manager and Mr. Steinwart will all have the opportunity to comment. Both the boys' and girls' tennis team will be there, with the boys having a match.
 - h. Water Safety Day partnered with the HFD, for third and fourth graders on May 23 at the HBB. This includes Huron City, Montessori and St. Pete's.
 - i. The Anchor Memorial Dedication on May 31 at 1PM. Invitations have been out. The plaques are in and ready to be installed.
 - j. We are in the process of hiring our seasonal staff and preparing for the upcoming season.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg thanked the board for attending and welcomed Bryan to the team. Mr. Grieves thank the department for all they do, Ms. Spitzley everything looks great and looking forward to the Anchor Celebration, Mr. Merckens thanked the department for all they do, no other comments were made.

Mr. Solberg announced the next meeting to be Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Grieves; second by Ms. Spitzley.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury