

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, at 6:30 PM
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Jonathan Merckens, Roger Blevins, Elizabeth Laffay, Eddie Wimmer, Matt Greives

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

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: Missie Huntley, Julie Spitzley

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve Oct. 1, 2024, minutes as presented; by Eddie Wimmer and seconded by Jonathan Merckens. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Waterfront Parks Plan – presented by Doug Steinwart:** Mr. Steinwart walked through the Waterfront Parks Plan presentation from OHM for the Board members who missed the combined Work Session with the Planning Committee and Council. For those wishing to hear the presentation again, it is available on the City's website under, Boards, Commissions and Committees, HJRD, Nov. 5th audio.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **WinterFest presented by Brian Croucher:** Mr. Croucher reminded the Board the WinterFest is scheduled this year for Sat. Dec. 7th from 1-6:30 PM at the Boat Basin. This year the dept is working with Greater Sandusky Partnership to include the area businesses through both sponsorship dollars and involvement in the event. Confirmation of the event lineup includes, WinterFest Parade, Santa & Mrs. Claus, Carriage Rides, characters, hot cocoa, fire pits, photo ops, holiday music, a face painter, tree lighting and fireworks. The GSP is working on the Winter Market with crafters and vendors selling products in the upstairs of the Harbor House. There will be a couple of food trucks just north of the Harbor House. The Warm Hands from Young Hearts Giving Tree located in the Boat Basin. Collected items are shared with those in need locally. Letters to Santa mailbox will be under the clock tower again this year. Rumor has it Santa tries his hardest to reply to all the children who write to him. Mr. Steinwart chimed in with the transition that has taken over the past several years with the partners the department has worked with. He also commented on the uniqueness of the fireworks being at 6:30 PM and it being dark in the wintertime. Dr. Laffay suggested perhaps the addition of some of the plastic igloos that are seen outside of restaurants, etc. these would be a great place to watch the fireworks.
- b. **Misc. Parks & Recreation – presented by Doug Steinwart:** Mr. Croucher gave a quick recap of the Pumpkin Fest from Oct. 12. Weather was much better this year for the 15th year of the event. There was a pretty good turnout. There was a lot of rain in the area, and it did rain briefly during the actual drop – therefore the number of people was down a bit from beautiful weather days. Over 300 pumpkins were painted by kids, the drop went off with 7 pumpkins. All in all, very good day and the dept. was pleased. Not a lot of programing taking place this time of year, however, indoor yoga is taking place at the HBB and runs through April, the Walking at Woodlands program is up and walking (not running) again this year. Monday through Thursday between 6-7:30 PM when school is open. If school is cancelled due to a holiday or weather event – the program is not happening. It is an opportunity for residents to walk in a safe indoor

location during the winter months. Registrations for Indoor Soccer will be taking place soon. This program is for kids K-6 on Saturdays from Jan. to March. Info. will be out soon.

Mr. Steinwart discussed fall cleanups and winterizations. The good weather has enabled the dept to really get going on this. The Fish Cleaning Station has been very busy this fall and will continue until Dec. 8th when the Fall Brawl ends. The HBB has been busy due to the fishing, a great added revenue source. The fish cleaning station will remain open as long as possible. Walleye 101 class/school at Fabens Park. HBB is busy planning events for 2025 and finding sponsors to keep those programs going. At the boat ramp the State has gone out to bid for a big section of the ramp into the water that has begun to deteriorate. Conversations regarding painting the restrooms have also taken place, it was brought to the State's attention, and they have agreed to pay for the painting project as well. They see the ramps use and hear the positive feedback which is valuable. This property has been a very good amenity for our Park System. There has been some discussion regarding purchasing a car counter to have a better understanding of the volume of vehicles that use the facility. The department is very pleased with how the fishers have kept it clean and do a good job cleaning up after themselves. The maintenance on the station has been minimal. Franklin Sanitation has upped their rounds during this fall season. Mr. Steinwart provided an overview on how the fish waste and water is disposed of and the operation of the cleaning facility.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg announced the next meeting to be Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Going around the room, several positive accolades were shared by Mr. Merckens, Mr. Blevins and Dr. Laffay. Mr. Wimmer likes the idea of the four-season structure at Lake Front Park and thanked the team for all their hard work.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ed Wimmer; second by Jonathan Merckens

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kilbury