

Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:30 PM
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Missie Lowrey Huntley, Matt Grieves, Roger Blevins, Jonathan Merckens, Julie Spitzley, Elizabeth Laffay

Present from HPRD: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: Ed Wimmer

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve September 2, 2025, minutes as presented; by Julie Spitzley and seconded by Jonathan Merckens. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Grants – presented by Doug Steinwart:**
 - i. **Mylander Foundation** – Department applied for \$3,934 for new Movie Projector and Screen for Movies by the River. 100% funded with no match required.
 - ii. **BIG Tier 2 Grant** – Boating Infrastructure Grant. HBB received approval for \$300,000 transient dock replacement, H and B piers. \$200,000 match from the one-time strategic community investment – total of \$500,000. Phase 1 is complete - KS is the engineer. Currently in Phase 2 which is the final construction documents that will be used to go out to bid. Once documents are received, they are turned over to ODNR. They will act as our rep to do all the environmental aspects of the project. The timeline will become clearer when the project goes out to bid. Question asked about the timeline – goal is to be completed by the end of May but there is a lot to fall into place. Second option would be mid-Aug through mid-Sept.
 - iii. Erie County Historical Society – to replace a Historical marker at the HBB. The grant was obtained for approximately \$4,000. The Ohio Historical Society will look at the verbiage, make any changes, updates, etc. Looking at installation sometime maybe early summer.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Project Updates presented by Doug Steinwart:**
 - i. 6th Annual Youth Fishing Challenge – Sept. 13, put on by Grady White Boat Club out of Westlake. Partner youth with disabilities with a boat captain and volunteer to go fishing for walleye. Lunch and awards to complete the day.
 - ii. Host the 3rd Annual Chris and Owen Kedas Memorial Fishing Derby – Sept. 27, raises funds through donations and sponsors and helps those navigating with their own tragedies. Funds also assist with community projects in memory of Chris and Owen.
 - iii. National Honor Society – under direction of Board Member Roger Blevins does a clean up on the east side beaches. NPB east as far as they can go. Thank you to Mr. Blevins and the NHS.
 - iv. Legislation on Dockage – dockage at the HBB is set in ordinance form. The three-reading rule happens to change the ordinance. Last three years – transient dockage is \$1.75 per foot per night. Requested to go to \$2 per foot per night. Return on dollars = approx. \$5,000.
 - v. Parks – full on winterizing and fall clean up.

- vi. Huron Lighthouse Pier – lighthouse up lighting has been turned off due to the Army Corp project. Upon completion – the electricity will be turned back on – if not damaged due to the reconstruction process on the pier. Lighthouse up lighting survived the reconstruction. Listen to audio for full details.

- b. **Huron Pumpkin Fest Recap presented by Brian Croucher:** Weather was fantastic, Oct. 11, beautiful fall day, with little wind. Great crowds, lots of families and kids. A third food vendor was added, petting zoo, face painter, pumpkin painting tent, sold all 200 pie pumpkins that kids painted, SnowE (Gottfried Entertainment) managed the inflatables this year – worked well. Magic Show went well. The Sanderson Sisters did a meet & greet – worked well. Thank you to Huron Public Library for helping with the pumpkin painting, Huron Fire – brought two separate crews out, Huron Police – Officer Boesch and JAX spent the day. Greater Sandusky Partnership – provided drinks and snacks, Barnes for the truck, HBB staff – helping with the logistics.
- c. **Misc. Parks & Rec.**
 - i. **Nickel Plate Beach Road** – obtaining some quotes, looking for a long-term solution from the erosion that happens during large rain events. Ear marking dollars for next spring.
 - ii. **Tree Work to be done** – every year there is money towards trees in the Parks. To remove dangerous ones or clean them up as needed. Buckeye Tree worked on 10 trees on the River by the Boat Basin, next will be 10 locus trees on Main Street and 2 trees in Oklahoma Park and removing two at Nickel Plate Beach
 - iii. **The Turtle is Back in Oklahoma Park** – Worked with EHOVE to rejuvenate the beloved turtle/play structure. Great experience to work with them. Sadly, the turtle was vandalized within hours of it returning. EHOVE rose to the occasion again to help with the repairs. Thank you to the Huron Police and the neighbors of the Oklahoma area.
 - iv. **Trees & Sidewalks** – City divided the community into quadrants to focus on the trees and sidewalks. The focus is to clean up trees and repair sidewalks. The HBB has some sidewalks that need attention.
 - v. **WinterFest** – December 6, 1-6:30 PM, Parade from 1 to 2, events from 2-6, fireworks at 6:15 PM. Working with GSP to involve the business of Huron. Santa & Mrs. Claus, Face Painter, Turbadours, carriage rides, trackless train, hot cocoa with the Huron Band, food vendors, themed music throughout the HBB footprint, Characters, holiday shopping, tree lighting, fireworks and more!

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Tom Solberg: Thanks to staff and board members. Next meeting Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Thanked Matt Grieves and Elizabeth Laffay for their service on the board

Matt Grieves: It's been fun, thanks for having me.

Julie Spitzley: thanked Doug Steinwart for his work on the lighthouse.

Elizabeth Laffay: announced her term with the school board has her exiting the board as well.

Jonathan Merckens: inquired about the skating rink. Doug confirmed they will try for Jan.

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Matt Grieves; second by Julie Spitzley