

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 6:30 PM
City Municipal Building, Huron, OH**

Members Present: Tom Solberg, Roger Blevins, Jonathan Merckens, Roger Blevins, Julie Spitzley

Present from HPRD: Doug Steinwart, Brian Croucher

Present from City of Huron: None

Members Absent: Ed Wimmer, Missie Lowery Huntley, Elizabeth Laffay, Matt Grieves

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve April 1, 2025, minutes as presented; by Julie Spitzley and seconded by Jonathan Merckens. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

1. NEW BUSINESS

a. Grants – presented by Doug Steinwart:

- i. **Erie MetroParks** – Department applied for \$4,400 for new ADA Access Mats at Nickel Plate Beach.
- ii. **Wightman Weiber Grant** – Department applied for \$2,500 for the Kids Fishing Day on Aug. 12, 2025, at Dancing Waters Park
- iii. **Beckling Charitable Trust** – Department applied for \$3,000 for a new screen and sound equipment for Movies on the River. (not successful in obtaining this grant money)
- iv. **ODNR BIG Tier II Grant** – Department applied for \$300,000 to be used for transient dock replacement. The department will use the \$200,000 strategic grant from the State of Ohio as the match for the ODNR BIG Tier II.
- v. **Erie County Historical Society** – Society will submit a grant on the HBB's behalf for a new Ohio Historical Marker.
- vi. **PEP Property Insurance Carrier:** Offered the City \$1,000 for Safety Equipment.

b. Summer Events & Programs Recap presented by Mr. Croucher:

- i. **A full recap of all the Summer Camps and Programs was given.**
 1. Over 100 participants in the Summer Youth Camps
 2. Over 250 participants in Youth Sports Camps
 3. Fall Ball is underway
 4. Dawg Daze – 25th Annual and last tournament run by HPRD. The tournament will return next year and be run by North Coast Tournaments in June.
 5. Beach Yoga – participation has remained steady throughout the Summer
- ii. **Kids Fishing for FUN event** – Three-hour fishing event at Dancing Waters Park on Berlin Road took place on Aug. 12, 2025. New program was open to 30 youth participants accompanied by a parent/guardian. Included an educational portion on pond, fish, and habitat run by AquaDoc. Overview of fishing was provided by local professional (highly skilled) anglers. Participants received a fishing pole, tackle box, bait, lures, drawstring bag and lunch.
- iii. **HBB Events Recap** – Great six weeks of Boppin' on the Basin, Movies by the River and Arts in the Amp. Only one cancelation due to weather. Staff will continue to look at different avenues for 2026.

c. Misc. Parks & Recreation –

- i. Berlin Road (Dancing Waters Park)** - sign will be going up in the next couple of weeks.
- ii. Clock Tower** – has been down since May and repairs will begin this week.
- iii. Budget** – Working with new Finance Director, Issac Phillips, and Interim City Manager, Stu Hamilton on the 2026 budget.
- iv. Huron River Boat Access** – was crack filled and seal coated this summer.
- v. Old Restroom Demo** – completed early this past summer.
- vi. Fabens Park Restroom Building** – painted by Akzo Nobel through their community service project.
- vii. Fish Huron** – public art sculpture/fishing board is being fabricated for the Huron River Boat Access ramp.
- viii. Fabens Park** – Mile long path around the park was crack-filled and repaired in some sections.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Solberg: Next meeting Tuesday, October 7, 2025

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Julie Spitzley; second by Jonathan Merckens