

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM
Huron City Hall | 417 Main Street | Huron, OH**

Present Members: Tom Solberg, Mark Claus, Ed Wimmer, Julie Spitzley

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

Present from City of Huron: Stu Hamilton

Absent Members: Roger Blevins, Jonathan Merckens, Missie-Lowrey-Huntley

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve February 3, 2026, minutes as presented; by Julie Spitzley and seconded by Ed Wimmer. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

1. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **HBB Amp Schedule of Events:** Mr. Steinwart introduced the new 2026 HBB Amp Schedule of events. A huge “Thank You” to all our sponsors. He noted the changes in this year’s schedule and noted some of the big changes this year – ie: layout and design, a diverse line-up, 4th of July – Red, White and Blues, America 250, and fireworks change from 4th of July to partnership with River Fest. Every Movie will have an event created prior to the movie to help with attendance. These events will be partnered with a group or organization within the community. The brochure will be sent to all residents in the water bill this April. A question was asked about Food Trucks for the Movies – it was explained they have tried it before and due to the start time of the movies – they were not very well supported, however, with an event prior to the movie this year, they will bring them back.
- b. **HJRD Discussion:** Mr. Steinwart started the discussion with a true definition of a true Joint Rec. District is intended to separate political subdivisions, governed by an independent board, able to own property, ability to hire/fire staff, manage finances and operate under its own budget and policies. The HJRD was created for cooperation to accomplish numerous projects and achievements that would not have been possible without the three entities – schools, township, and City. This board never fully implemented itself as a true Joint Rec. District. This causes risks – audits, compliances, and questions from the state. Looking forward – what are the options – ie: restructuring with board with separate contracts with all three entities. Mr. Hamilton, City Manager, is in attendance to help with questions, comments, or concerns. Mr. Hamilton acknowledged the amazing work of this board over the years. The auditors are beginning to ask questions about the board’s function and are forcing the hand to change. Change in the structure, not from an operational point of view. The way we see this happening is we are just not a district anymore by definition. We become a board, keep the members and structure under a new simpler process. A question about how the board would be funded – Mr. Hamilton stated the funding would stay the same and the Parks Department will remain a department of the City. Mr. Claus spoke of the parallels between the HJRD and the HJPA and noted the differences in the Board. From a Council perspective nothing major will change in how the department is run. Mr. Solberg and Mr. Wimmer noted this is more of a compliancy issue more than anything. Several board members and staff weighed in on a positive level. The full audio is available online - [City Of Huron](#)
- c. **Grants:** Mr. Steinwart discussed a few new grant opportunities that have surfaced. Erie County MetroParks - The department is considering picnic tables and replacement shelters to the northeast of the building. Congressional Directed Spending – allows senator/

congressional members to direct funds to local specific projects – done two years ago. HBB is looking at doing three this year for the Boat Basin upgrades that need to be done. Details on the audio:

https://cityofhuron.org/government/boards_commissions_committees/huron_joint_recreation_district_board.php#outer-470

- d. **New Programs:** Mr. Croucher discussed the transition from last year to this year from a programming standpoint – ie: Dawg Daze being outsourced, the addition of a couple of new tournaments, etc. The department also spent time this winter looking at new programming options they could offer this summer and fall. The department will add three new programs this year.
 - i. Softball Camp -during the summer offerings and will be run as the other summer sports camps with the assistance of Huron Coaches and players.
 - ii. A Fishing Camp at Dancing Waters Park on Berlin Road – this offering will be two days – June 30 & July 1, partnered with Jerod Smith, full-time firefighter and a charter captain for Old Lakeshore Charters, and was also involved with the Fishing is Fun program last summer.
 - iii. Golf Camp has always been a very popular summer sports camp – new this fall - A Golf Skills Academy will be offered for kids a little bit older and have some golf experience, and will work on skill sessions, hitting sessions, and will work on getting them some more hands on golf experience. Frank Gioffre, Abby Cook, Director of Golf at Sawmill, and Cody Martin, PGA Golf Professional will be instructing the program on Sundays from 4-6 PM at Sawmill – Sept 12 – Oct. 3.
- e. **Misc. Parks & Recreation:**
 - i. Mr. Croucher discussed the indoor soccer program
 - ii. Indoor yoga is done, working towards the Summer months program at Lake Front Park
 - iii. March 28 – Pancakes with the Easter Bunny at the Presbyterian Church and run by the Lion’s Club followed the Egg Hunt at the Boat Basin.
 - iv. May 2, 9-11 AM will be the Spring City-Wide Clean-Up – Green Bean trailer will be there with supplies.
 - v. May 16th – Spring City-Wide Garage Sale – signs up are currently happening. The Sale will be 8 AM – noon this year.
 - vi. Nickel Plate Beach Parking Passes are also online currently.
 - vii. Program sign-ups will begin the first week of April
 - viii. Ice Rink is coming down after a good run of skating this year.
 - ix. Winter Parks list – created by staff and items are being checked off this time of year
 - x. HBB has received two awards – Ohio Clean Marina – Platinum status and the Elite Fleet award in connection with Dockwa – the registration app
 - xi. Sustainable Communities Coastal Town Eco Tour – Department was elected to create this program with other entities in the area – 36 people have signed up for the March 31 program

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Tom Solberg: Thanked everyone for attending, and announced the next meeting is Tuesday, May 5th, 2026, at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers. Mark Claus – asked about the Pier Completion. Doug – explained they have about 2 weeks’ worth of work and are waiting on the weather to finish the concrete work.

Ed Wimmer – thanked the team for their hard work. Julie Spitzley – thanked the team for their hard work and acknowledged the team is well known in Cleveland from an experience she recently had.

For more details and specifics - please feel encouraged to listen to the audio located on the City Website:

https://cityofhuron.org/government/boards_commissions_committees/huron_joint_recreation_district_board.php#outer-470

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Ed Wimmer; second by Julie Spitzley