

**Huron Joint Recreation District
Regular Board Meeting – Minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:30 PM
Huron City Hall | 417 Main Street | Huron, OH**

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

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

Present from City of Huron: Stu Hamilton

Absent Members: Missie Lowrey-Huntley, Ed Wimmer

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve March 3, 2026, minutes as presented; by Jonathan Merckens and seconded by Mark Claus. Approved unanimously.

Audience Comments: None

1. NEW BUSINESS

- a. HJRD Discussion:** Mr. Steinwart followed up from the March meeting regarding the HJRD transitioning into a Parks Advisory Board. Draft by-laws were presented for review. Key items were discussed. The department worked with the administration to come up with this draft. Started with a mission statement, added purpose and responsibilities, and outlined the function of the board and its relationship to the department. Prior to today's meeting several inquiries regarding meeting dates and times were shared. Five-member board is proposed. 1-township, 1-schools, and 3-City representatives (2-Council members and 1 at large or vice versa – TBD). The current board is welcome to continue through attrition, and the goal would be to drop down to five as board members drop off. Mr. Steinwart explained the two different agreements – township and schools, how those would look and the benefits of each. The conversation expanded upon the facilities and their usage by each party. It was determined a contract for facilities usage is fair based on the needs of each party. Circling back to the number of board members five seems to be the most logical. Quorum would be a total of three. A lengthy conversation pursued regarding the at-large representatives, being a joint jurisdiction. A chairperson would lead the meetings and may have additional meetings with the department as needed. The months and time were discussed extensively and to be finally determined. Next step – legal will finalize the bylaws, Council will dissolve the HJRD, and the new board will be put into place. The goal will be to have a final draft available in September.
- b. 2026 Event & Program Guide:** Mr. Croucher introduced the 2026 Event & Program Guide and highlighted a couple of new programs. Nine sports camps for 2026 – new this year, Softball Camp and Fishing Camp. Brian noted that tennis, track, golf and basketball camps all do very well. Also new for 2026 – a Fall Golf Academy Camp will be available for kids interested in pursuing golf.
- c. Misc. P&R:**
 - i.** Pancake Breakfast with Lion's Club, best breakfast in 19 years. Thanks to the Lion's Club and their renewed energy.

- ii. City Wide Clean-Up – concentrated on the Lake Shore Electric Trail, following a major cut back of the greenery along the trail. 45 people participated. 25 bags of trash were collected. Erie County Soil and Water donated their green bean trailer full of supplies
- iii. Tournaments – five tournaments scheduled for this summer
- iv. Nickel Plate Beach is ready to open. New, this year we will be accepting credit cards.
- v. Office upgrades – new windows and blinds
- vi. Huron Baseball & Softball Program – has started
- vii. Water Safety Day – HFD is hosting again this year later in May. This event is hosted at the Boat Basin.
- viii. Huron Public Library – invitation to participate in the Beacon with the MetroParks
- ix. Ohio Pursuits – June 20/21 at Lake Front Park is a stopping point on their way to Huron County Fair Grounds.
- x. Pier Project – is finished. Thank you to Ryba Marina for their work and partnership
- xi. JBT Marel – beach clean-up in Huron 7/14 of May
- xii. Erie County Master Gardners & St. Pete’s Garden Club – planting a tree at Berlin Road Park in honor of America 250th
- xiii. Erie Metro Parks Grant – for the 98% of the roofs at the two shelters at the HBB.
- xiv. Huron Lion’s Club – offered to reside the 2 shelters at the HBB.
- xv. Huron River Boat Ramp – phenomenal fishing happening this spring. Thank you to the state for being great partners with this amenity.
- xvi. Maintenance – weather has been keeping the department busy. Sand at Nickel Plate is under a new approach
- xvii. HBB project – electrical side just came back, KS meeting coming up with updated timelines

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Tom Solberg – thanked everyone for coming out and will plan on Sept. 1 meeting

Mark C. - thanked the department.

Julie S – inquired about a walkway along the riverfront. Right now – the property is private and there is nothing in correlation with HPRD. The question was then extended to the ConAgra property and was answered as the property owner will be required to maintain it; however, it will remain public access.

Jonathan M – Wished everyone a safe summer

Roger B – thanked everyone for their work

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

OTHER MATTERS – ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: Julie Spitzely and Roger Blevins