

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Hastings Public Library (Orr Room), 7 Maple Avenue
Thursday, January 16, 2020 8 PM**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gene Calamari, Anjali Chen, John Dailey, David Downs, Mike Jacobs, Angela Reeve, and Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent).

A quorum is in order.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment -

Chair Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo invited any public comment unrelated to proposed skate park. There was none. She asked that any public comment pertaining to skate park be held until after the Commission's update.

3. Old Business

- November meeting minutes adopted.
- December meeting minutes adopted.

- Skate Park - update

Mike Jacobs shared a presentation to give an overview on the process and discussions of site locations. Site evaluation criteria (as outlined in the in the Public Skatepark Development guide found on publicskateparkguide.org), include:

1. Access
2. Visibility
3. Activity
4. Comfort
5. Feasibility
- (6. Ownership)
- (7. Projection)

Mike noted criteria 6 & 7 are not really applicable to our situation here in Hastings.

Mike explained these criteria and shared with the audience that the Commission has considered these criteria in their near two years of discussions regarding possible site locations for a proposed skate park. At this point, four possible sites are considered:

1. Zinsser Park - north end of the parking lot
2. Chemka Pool top lot - area north of the Hillside Park tennis courts
3. Farlane Drive - Village owned parcel adjacent Reynolds Field
4. Burke Estate - area adjacent the access driveway up to the baseball field (owned by the Hastings UFSD)

The Commission invited **public comment** at this time.

- HoH Skate - a youth resident shared that the local skate group has collected 600 signatures of support at this time. They have supplied information in their recent Letter to the Editor (the Rivertowns Enterprise). The group has also been before the Board of Trustees.

- Ray Hyland, Hastings resident. Mr. Hyland introduced himself as a civil engineer who has offered his support to HoH Skate. He made a connection with Steve Rodriguez (co-founder of 5Boro Skate Boards and a professional skate park designer based in NYC) to discuss HoH Skate's ideas for a park here in Hastings. He noted that concrete is the preferred/safer surface. Ray's role in supporting HoH Skate is one of providing site evaluation of the land offered by the School District at the Burke Estate. After learning of some of the local residents concerns, Ray visited the site with an arborist and identified three mature trees that would be saved and worked into any proposed design (a sycamore, white oak, and shagbark hickory). The proposed parcel is a 20' setback from the curb

that runs along Farragut Avenue.

Cost estimate and funding -- HoH Skate has proposed 5,000'sq, and unit cost estimates range from \$50 - \$60 per square foot. Estimated total design and construction costs range from \$250k - \$300k.

- Daniel Beltrano, Cochrane Ave, Hastings (HoH Skate) presented on the group's fundraising plans. The group's goal (not including any Village Parks & Recreation contribution) is to raise \$60k. (this would be comprised of \$50k in individual donations, \$5k in merchandise sales, and \$5k in event sales) The group proposed they would offer programming. Junior programming (ages 6-10yrs) could include after school programs and summer camps. Young Adult programming could include a Hastings Skate team, after school programs, summer camps, mentoring programs, skate competitions/tournaments.

- Anne Runyan, Libby Copeland, Franya Barnett (residents of Farragut Ave) expressed their opposition to any skate park proposed for the Burke Estate. {info from their presentation can be found on www.saveburke.org} They visited five skate parks in the area and shared what they observed to be commonalities between these sites, ie... the parks were in open spaces; were not close to residential areas; have adjacent parking lots; not situated on main roads; often have fences, garbage cans, benches, bathrooms; rules about parks "close at dusk" are not necessarily obeyed/enforced. Decibel readings that they took on the particular day(s) they visited ranged from 70-80 decibels and they expressed concern that a skate park would increase the current noise level and adversely affect residents' quality of life. The group also shared their concern about the environmental impact of removing trees and poured concrete

- Adam Tresse, Clinton Ave, Hastings. Questioned the overall impact of sound

considering the distance from proposed site to residences.

- Heidi Lodine, Farragut Avenue, Hastings. Wants to point out that there is a difference between “kid noise” vs “car noise” (generated from traffic on Farragut)

- Martin Sexton, Farragut Avenue, Hastings. He will actively fundraise for a proposed skate park if it could be located at any site other than the Burke Estate. He expressed a concern that kids go into the Burke Estate as it is now (mostly quiet and respectful), but adding a skate park to that location is going to bring increased activity after dark.

- Sawyer Dolgins, resident and member of HoH Skate. Youth members of HoH Skate would like to point out that the Burke Estate is ideal when considering its proximity to the middle/high schools and the distance to town. And, the group thinks that the School District’s offer for use of the land is great.

- Leyla, resident and member of HoH Skate - in response to the concerns expressed this evening about environmental impact --- she would like to point out that every time an adult has to drive skaters to other sites out of town, this uses fossil fuels and impacts the environment.

- Michael Mackay, Farragut Avenue, Hastings. He’s lived across the Burke Estate for fifty five years and questions whether replacement trees really would be planted.

- Shawn Taggart, Broadway, Hastings. He would like to address the issue of money. The HoH Skate groups says they would raise \$60k, and assume the Village throws in \$220k (for example). Now we have a maintenance issue, and as a resident he would like to know where will the money come from for the long

term maintenance of a skate park. What is the yearly cost of maintenance? He notes that he already pays a lot in taxes, and as residents we need to be concerned about these costs. (as an aside, he personally feels that the proposed VFW renovations are ridiculous and he would rather throw money toward a skate park).

- Daniel Hyland, Hastings. Responded by indicating that a poured concrete surface has a low maintenance cost.

- Eric, Hastings resident, member HoH Skate. As a youth resident, he is interested in learning more about the sport. He suggested that a skate park would benefit more than just the current group of youth skaters. Such a facility could benefit generations of residents.

- Nicole Miziolek, Hastings resident, and member HoH Skate. The skate group would be open to other sites/locations. It is important as a community to decide what makes for the most successful sites. Based on industry criteria, we need to consider the location where a skate park would best succeed.

- Sandra, Hastings resident. Questioned would there still be trees? Screening? Can it be designed to look natural?

- Daniel Hyland, Hastings civil engineer. When he met with the arborist and Steve Rodriguez (skate park designer), they determined that the Burke Estate site could be designed in a way to retain trees and a natural feel.

- Bryan, Hastings resident. He feels a Farlane Drive site should not be considered at all.

- Heidi Lodine, Farragut Ave, Hastings. Indicated that her realtor said a skate park located at Burke would lower her property values. Ms. Lodine supports considering alternate sites.

- Christian Quiambo, Farragut Parkway, Hastings, member HoH Skate. He would support a Chemka pool location.

Next Steps: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair) indicated that the P&R Commission's next steps would be to apply the site evaluation criteria to each of the four possible sites. The purpose of this evening's meeting and discussions is to gather public comment, hear residents' concerns, and invite input. Joanne thanked all residents for their participation and attendance.

Jeff Pucillo, West Main Street, Hastings. Posed a question to Farragut Ave residents who expressed concerns about noise levels -- if the noise and views could be mitigated (from an engineering perspective), would there still be a concern with the site. Some residents responded they would still be opposed to the suggestion of using Burke Estate.

Martin Sexton, Farragut Ave, Hastings. Expressed his appreciation to the Commission for giving residents the opportunity to give their input.

- James Harmon Community Center (JHCC) - update

Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent) reported that the HVAC system in the JHCC has been cleaned, from the boiler to the rooftop. Regarding the ceiling tiles in the main room, Aaron indicated he needs to get three quotes for the repair/replacement.

- Spray Pool - update

Aaron reported the concrete deck has been poured, and the outer deck perimeter has been completed. The contractor is still hoping to work throughout the winter (weather permitting). The pool's bottom liner can be discussed when the renovations are completed. We are still projecting a season opener on time in May 2020. Aaron will target a time to test the repairs in early spring.

- Uniontown and Zinsser - trees and fields - update

Fields -- sod is complete, the clay is down, and we are on track for our normal spring opening.

Trees -- the Commission unanimously agrees that we want to handle any tree work that needs to be done before spring opening. Gene Calamari received a quote from Community Tree that Aaron shared with the Village Manager. The Village Manager wants two more quotes for the bid process and she will formally reach out to the Tree Board.

Gene expressed the primary concern was for Uniontown and Zinsser because of the increased usage those parks will get in the spring. In his site visits with Community, their primary focus was on trees that were diseased or appeared they could be dangerous.

Mike asked if the three quotes from arborists included assessment and removal. Gene asked for clarification on what time frame to expect for a response from the Tree Board, again expressing his concern that fields open in a couple months. John Daily asked if we could convey that we also want the area near the Zinsser Playground evaluated.

Next steps: Aaron will connect with the Village Manager to convey the Commission's concerns and get a time frame for the bid process and work.

- Hillside Woods - update and signage regarding restoration efforts

Anjali Chen and Haven Colgate invited the public to a January 15th meeting to

rally volunteers. The Vine Squad and volunteers are eager to start planting (as a way to engage residents and grow excitement for the Hillside Woods project). She noted that the overall project management plan called for some plantings with tree tubes.

David Downs asked if we were deviating from the main restoration plan set forth by Land Beyond Sea, concerned that any plantings before the installation of the enclosure would most likely be consumed by the deer.

Aaron and the County Arborist are using Miguel Berrios' (Land Beyond Sea) Hillside Woods Management Plan as their guide.

David stressed not to go "off plan" because of budget concerns, because he pointed out that some funding for the project is coming by mid February. He also cautioned that we do not undermine our efforts to restore by straying from the management plan.

Anjali shared that the discussions she and Haven Colgate led at the January 15th public meeting was an opportunity to brainstorm ways to engage the public. Ideas such as "adopt-a-tree/shrub" could serve multiple goals (education, fundraising, engagement) They are trying to do a small piece of the larger plan. They want to first pick a planting site (site selection would be done in consultation with the County Arborist and with respect to the overall Hillside Woods Forestry Management Plan). A "demo" area could be planted and fenced off to protect from the deer.

4. New Business

- Upcoming / New Programs

{Reference flyers handed out. Info on current programs for preschool, school age, adult and seniors can be found at www.hastingsrecreation.org}

Aaron reported that the Winter Session of the Rec Department's youth programs

are up and running.

- Draft FY 2020-2021 Budget -

Aaron distributed hard copy drafts of the department's Operating budget and the Chemka Pool budget. He advised that the Department's draft submission was due to the Village Manager by Friday, January 24th.

Because of the late hour at this point in the Commission meeting, and because of the time sensitive need to thoroughly review and discuss the draft FY2020-2021 budget, the Commission moved to hold a budget work session on Tuesday, January 21st at 7pm. Joanne asked that all Commissioners review the information that Aaron distributed this evening and give input by Tuesday. Commissioners who will attend the budget work session include: Joanne, David, Mike, and Angela.

Aaron will send the document files of tonight's handouts by email to the Commission in the morning.

5. Meeting Adjourned, 10:30pm.

* NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - February 13, 2020

Meeting minutes prepared by A. Reeve

January meeting minutes adopted: Feb 13, 2020