

**Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center- 44 Main Street
Thursday, December 8, 2016 8 PM**

TIME: 8:00PM
PLACE: JAMES HARMON COMMUNITY CENTER, 44 Main Street

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Public Comment**

III. **Old Business/Updates**

- Upcoming/ New programs

IV. **New Business**

- Community Center – rentals
- Update on Tennis courts
- Update on Landscape Architect for Uniontown Park
- Update on 9A parcel
- Update – Hillside woods
- January meeting date

V. **Adjournment**

In attendance:

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gloria Brkich, Gene Calamari, David Downs, Angela Reeve, John Dailey, Samantha Merton.
Kendra Garrison (Superintendent)

Approval of November 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

Public Comment:

Riverview Park – Cindy Travis, from the Friends of the Riverview Park, spoke on behalf of the group to express their concern about the railing going up from upper to the lower level, and therefore they do not support it. Concerns expressed were: path is not ADA compliant, and a rail gives false impression that it is; trail is natural and therefore doesn't require a rail; railing would prevent emergency vehicles access to lower level; poses danger to children sledding in the park; railing would obstruct views. In addition, she advised that there be no plowing at the park as an unnecessary expense and could remove gravel unnecessarily.

PRC – in response, the question was how many people from the Friends of the Riverview Park agreed on this as there were 7 people on the distribution list. John Dailey suggested that seniors can use the railing to get down the path as the grade is steep; David Downs reminded everyone that the plan has changed, and has not yet been finally approved; Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo said we need to keep this concern top-of-mind, and that the plan is not static and can be revised moving forward.

Old Business / Updates

Youth BB/recreational programs are starting in January; winter sessions are all set.
Angela Reeve pointed out that online registration could be particularly important for spring activities.

New Business

Community Center Rental --

Prices are changing; there now is a cleaning deposit required from renter; Hastings residents only can rent the community center, or sponsored by a HOH resident. Angela Reeve asked why the Farmer's Market is not charged the same amount to rent the space during winter markets as everyone else. PRC agreed that this should be looked into and that Farmer's Market should be charged the same as everyone else to be consistent. PRC voted on price/rule changes – unanimous vote in favor.

Tennis Courts –

RFP being put together by Kendra Garrison for renovation.

Landscape Architect for Uniontown –

Kendra Garrison reports that \$30K is the price for one proposal; if the fee is that large, we may need to bid it out. Gene Calamari says that the skill of the architect will be needed to maximize the space – especially for the parking lot to accommodate two teams. He also reported that whatever exceptions will be permitted/grandfathered so if we need to move the fence, we have room to do so and field will be approved for tournament play. Dave Dosin (on behalf of the HLL) added that the Little League doesn't have enough fields that are qualified to host. Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo expressed concern about the number of parking spaces required during a tournament. Gene Calamari said that the field is currently not suitable for play with aluminum bats, thus getting the extra feet will be worthwhile, and the architect can design the space to be used more effectively. John Dailey asked if the standing room where the field will be expanded would cut into space for parking. Gene Calamari responded that spaces would be going into current playground area. Dave Dosin said that we need to play on a regulation field and need 200 feet, and he is confident that there will be plenty of parking for games and tournaments, however, LL will need to make sure to stagger game times to allow for parking space turnover.

9A Parcel—

Kendra Garrison reports that when actually examining where the allocated space is, it includes property under the Saw Mill River, we own the river bed, but not the river/water itself. David Downs explained that HOH has 1.1 acres of usable space, and the measurements show about a 40% reduction in field space in what was originally thought, especially since part of the land will need to be allocated to parking. John Dailey suggested that we table the 9A property and let's complete our current projects, then see what happens. Maybe a space for a dog park.

Parking could also be taken up by people who want to access the South County trail which is nearby. Brian Healy suggested HOH stickers to help prevent this. Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo asked if there were regulations as to what can be put there, David Downs said yes he believes so.

Hillside Woods –

David Downs reported that he had attended a subcommittee meeting to discuss the state of the woods. The woods are deteriorating rapidly: in 10 years, the woods could be deemed unsafe and consequently closed. Immediate actions – educational seminar in the spring for experts to speak to community and give an on-site tour; then a panel of representatives from other communities who have faced similar circumstances. Only at this point would money be used to save the woods. He followed up to say that he offered PRC assistance which may be necessary when coming with us with a plan and might need funding. John Dailey asked why the deterioration, and David Downs responded that it is a combination of deer overpopulation especially as well as dogs and teenagers all destroying the undergrowth causing soil erosion which weakens the trees. There was a suggestion as the subcommittee meeting to build a 12' fence around the woods which would be very expensive and would ultimately drive deer into backyards. There is a small section of woods currently being monitored and studied by Melissa Shandroff's Environmental Science students.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 12, 2017 at 8:00pm @ James Harmon Community Center