

**VILLAGE OF HARTLAND  
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016  
7:00 PM  
Board Room  
210 Cottonwood Avenue, Hartland, WI**

Present: Tina Bromberger (arrived at 7:22 pm), Mike Cottrell, Curt Gundrum, Tim Hallquist, Peggy Kallenberger and Duane Lawson. Excused: Dick Landwehr

Others Present: DPW Director Einweck, Operations Supervisor Gerszewski and Recreation Director Yogerst

**7:00 PM Call to Order**

**Public comments for those items not included on this agenda** (Please be advised per Wisconsin Act 123, the Park Board will receive information from the public for a three minute time period, with time extensions per the Park Board Chairman's discretion, per person, be it further advised that there may be limited discussion on the information received, however, no action will be taken under public comments.) - NONE.

**Approval of Park and Recreation Board Minutes – November 2, 2015 Meeting**

Motion (Cottrell/Kallenberger) to approve the Park and Recreation Board Minutes of November 2, 2015. Carried (5-0).

**Director of Public Works Items**

**Discussion and Possible Consideration of Village Sponsored Batting Cages in Nixon Park**

All of the user groups have been consulted and their comments have been taken into consideration. Mike Gerszewski's memo in the Park Board Packet gave a detailed description of what the Village is planning.

The layout for the east batting cage was questioned regarding the nearby house. Mike Gerszewski stated that the cage will be about 200 feet from the residence, on the west side of the drive, north of the water line that was installed. The cage will be far enough from the canteen to allow access to the canteen. No trees will be removed.

A question was asked about the netting poles for the cages. It was felt that the poles are inferior to what Delafield has. Mr. Gerszewski stated that the poles will be the taller height when the two foot extensions are welded to the existing poles. The welded area will be painted and set in two-foot concrete. The pipes are galvanized and have caps so they shouldn't rust. The crushed granite will be about 4 inches thick, maybe more.

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Clarification was made that the crushed granite planned for the cage was not allocated for the infield. The Village does not use crushed granite on the infields, only on the walkway.

It was mentioned that the crushed granite is hard on the baseballs. Mike Cottrell suggested using a crushed lime and putting turf on top of it. In the long run it is less expensive and easier on the baseballs. Mats are put down where the hitters stand; otherwise it would be high maintenance with the turf. The Village may ask for donations for the pitching mounds, due to the high installation and maintenance costs. One group has shown some interest in donating.

Mr. Cottrell mentioned that the batting cage for the Arrowhead girl's baseball team was done by volunteers and it turned out phenomenal. The volunteers put in a four inch crushed lime base and got used Astroturf from one of the universities that was renovating their field. Staff might want to take a look.

The crushed lime is a little softer to the cover of the baseball. Mr. Gerszewski stated that the Village would be amenable to using crushed lime.

The need for a second cage on the third base side of Nixon field was questioned. The cage along the first base line would be preferred to one on the third base line. It was then suggested to build a cage at Centennial baseball field. Mr. Gerszewski said it would have to be budgeted for another year. The cage on the third base side of Nixon field is partially built and would have to be taken down and moved, which would entail an additional cost.

It was discussed that a schedule between two teams using the field can be made to share the one batting cage for pre-game practice.

The Park Board was asked where at Centennial Field they would want the batting cage placed. Further investigation will be needed to pinpoint the proper placement location.

It was clarified that the batting cage consists of poles, cable, netting and no fencing.

In the spring the Village will proceed with Nixon Park, finish that, use material different than crushed granite, maybe use turf, plan to use rubber mats for where the pitcher stands and the batter stands.

Tim Hallquist suggested tabling this item until after the discussion of the request from Land O' Lakes Baseball for use of a portable batting cage in Nixon Park.

Motion (Lawson/Gundrum) to *table* consideration of Village Sponsored Batting Cages in Nixon Park until after discussion of item #2. Carried (5-0).

Continued after discussing Item #2 and taking this item off the table:

Motion (Cottrell/Gundrum) regarding approval of the proposed batting cages at Nixon that were already placed and construction started, with the third base line cage to be completely removed, the first base line cage to be completely

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removed and then re-constructed per the diagram by staff. A second cage location will be investigated at Centennial Park per the same specifications/size. Also staff will look at the differences between using the crushed granite versus the crushed lime. Carried (5-0-1). Bromberger abstained.

**Discussion and Possible Consideration of a Request from Land O' Lakes Baseball for Use of a Portable Batting Cage in Nixon Park**

It is staff's understanding that this portable batting cage is on wheels, there is netting, and it folds up. Staff has two concerns – storage and vandalism. The portable cage will not fit in the canteen.

This cage is used in the catcher's area at home plate. The Village preps the field at 7:00 AM. If the lines are disturbed during warm up, staff will not come back to fix them.

Other facilities put a mat over the lined field. When they are done practicing, they lift up the mats and the lines are still there. Mr. Gerszewski stated that it would be up to the groups to provide the mats.

Mike Cottrell described that the cage folds down into two sections that end up being five feet tall and the poles tuck into sleeves on the unit. It is made of aluminum and is very light.

Land O' Lakes is eventually thinking of renting it out to other groups. The Park Board may need to decide if that is something they would allow in a public park. The consensus of the Park Board was that the cage should be only for Land O' Lakes use, not public use.

Land O' Lakes should be notified of the following:

- LOL will not be able to store the cage in the canteen
- LOL will have to supply a mat to use over home plate area
- The Village does not want a safety issue where during batting practice, holes and uneven ground create a problem. The Village will not be re-lining or fixing anything on the field between practice and the game.
- The cage must be locked and secured after use, outside of the playing area
- Only Land O' Lakes will be allowed to use the cage

Motion (Bromberger/Cottrell) to approve the usage and outdoor seasonal storage on site at Nixon Ball Field for a portable batting cage as proposed by Land O' Lakes, with the condition that they use a mat any time the batting cage is being used and the batting cage is locked upon completion of use before a game and stored outside of the playing area. Land O' Lakes will work with the DPW so that grass maintenance can continue during the season in the area of the stored cage.

Discussion: The situation was brought up that the Village would not be able to mow the grass under the stored batting cage. DPW prefers not to mow around objects, due to potential damage. Land O' Lakes could either give the

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Village a key to unlock it or have them come and unlock it and move it. It could be worked out with Land O' Lakes.

The batting cage can only be stored outside the playing area during the baseball season. It will need to be stored in another place off season. Land O' Lakes will work with DPW for maintenance of grass at the storage area.

Carried (6-0)

Motion (Lawson/Hallquist) to take off the table Item #1 to continue possible discussion and consideration on the Village Sponsored Batting Cages in Nixon Park. Carried (6-0). See continued discussion/motion under Item # 1 above.

### **Discussion of 2015 Vandalism Report**

Overall, the vandalism total dollar amount is less than some of the past years. There has been a lot of graffiti this year, especially at Penbrook.

Mike Gerszewski noted that regarding the roof damage at the triangle bathroom, there were some arrests made and we did get some restitution. Thank you to the Police Department for nabbing the perpetrators.

Through newsletters and personal contact, the Village tries to encourage people to observe the parks and contact the police if they see anything suspicious. The money spent on vandalism repair is money the Village does not have for park improvements.

### **Informal Report by the Park Board Committee that Reviewed the Veterans Memorial Projects**

Duane Lawson, Dick Landwehr, and Peggy Kallenberger looked at 11 exhibits several weeks ago. At that time they listed three to five of their favorites on a sheet of paper and submitted them for review.

DPW has concerns regarding maintenance/vandalism/long-term viability of structures once the project is built. There are elements of many of the projects that could be combined and be feasible.

DPW Director Einweck stated that a curb cut and a walk way will probably be needed so people can walk to the project from E. Park Avenue. The new project could be moved from the present location, but the flag is used for all the ball games and it would have to be visible from the stands.

The Park Board will eventually be giving their approval to a final project.

### **Recreation Director Items**

#### **Year End Report**

Recreation numbers were up by 500 this year from last year.

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Hartland Recreation increased trips through partnerships with Sussex, Menomonee Falls and now Pewaukee in order to add the amount of trips offered.

The Hartland/Lakeside Schools and Recreation Director Yogerst are trying to run more senior programs for the community. Bingo is held every third Thursday of the month at the Little Red School House during the school year. Starting this Wednesday Wii Bowling will be held every Wednesday. We still have Seniorcize, Sheephead and Line Dancing in the Community Room. Recreation Director Yogerst's goal is to create more senior programs.

The Recreation Department is sponsoring one ski trip on January 22 for grades 6 – 8. This is a school day off. In past years there were usually about 80 kids signed up.

Starting this past fall for before and after school care, we started a discount rate for families with more than one child needing care. Also, there is a price break for signing up for multiple days. A late fee was instituted this year and it has helped cut back on children showing up without registering and paying.

Parents have been pretty good about not being late for picking up their kids from after school care by 6:00 PM.

January 11 – 15, 2016 is the free try-it week for the punch card programs listed in the program guide.

**Announcements:** It is not contemplated that these matters will be discussed or acted upon. The following individuals may provide announcements: Park and Recreation Board Members or other Village Staff members

There will be an athletic user's group meeting before the Village Board Meeting on February 8. Notices will be sent out soon.

**Adjourn**

Motion (Bromberger/Cottrell) to adjourn. Carried (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Recording Secretary,

Lynn Meyer  
Deputy Clerk