

Harbor ski hill may be used for sledding

By JENNIFER A. SRIGLEY
News-Review staff writer

HARBOR SPRINGS — Lack of snow has kept Kiwanis Park from being used as a ski hill the past few years, so the city might turn the facility into a combined sledding and skating park.

City manager Fred Geuder's recommended talking to the Harbor Springs Kiwanis Club about changing the park's use. Council agreed.

"Times have changed as to what the best use of the facility is," Geuder said.

A group of area residents and consultants met this fall to discuss options for the park, Geuder said.

From the meeting, Geuder recommended the park's hill become a sledding area this winter and the city move the skating rink from adjacent to the city's baseball diamond to Kiwanis Park next winter.

The Harbor Springs community education ski program no longer uses the Kiwanis Park ski hill, said community education director Bob Doan.

"In 1973, when the ski hill opened, it was really needed, it's done a great deal for Harbor

Springs kids," Doan said. "Now it's difficult to even open the ski hill."

The city doesn't really have a sledding hill, he said. And an ice rink could be put on the parking lot where the leaves are put. The park's warming house could also be expanded to accommodate skaters.

"I'm a firm believer in using facilities to the maximum," Doan said. "This would be a good opportunity to combine the facilities."

If the skating rink were added to Kiwanis Park, one staff member would be able to supervise both activities, Doan said.

Connecting water to the park for a skating rink, which prevented the rink from being moved to the park previously, would be a large expense, Geuder said, but it's not impossible.

When council asked how the changes could be funded, Doan said a school district-wide millage for community schools recreation might be the answer.

"It would be less than a half, but more than 1/4-mill to run all recreation," Doan said.

West Traverse Township resident Jim Bartlett said a school dis-

trict-wide millage makes sense because people other than city residents use the facilities.

In other business, council approved the re-appointment of Lynn Glahn to the city Board of Review for a three year term.



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