



222 Lewis Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone (715)425-0900
FAX (715)425-0915

AGENDA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
5:15PM

The meeting will be held virtually and there will not be an in-person attendance option. The public can attend either via the weblink or call-in phone number below.

WebEx Link for public attendees: <https://tinyurl.com/RFParkBoard11182020>
Call-in phone number: 1-844-992-4726 Access code: 132 324 4992

5:15 p.m. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Minutes of September 16, 2020 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Non-Agenda Related Topic

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. DeSanctis Schoolhouse Discussion-Tom Schwalen**
- 2. Brandon's Park – Mike Stifter**
- 3. Hoffman Park Camping and Dump Station Rules -Cindi Danke/Mike Stifter**
- 4. Glen Park Playground Donation-Cindi Danke**

OLD BUSINESS

- 5. Park Update – Sterling Ponds Disc Golf**

ADJOURNMENT

Council members may be in attendance for informational purposes only.

No official Council action will be taken.



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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.
Virtual meeting (public via weblink or call-in as listed on agenda)

Members Present: Patricia LaRue (Chair), Sean Downing (Council Rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Jim Nordgren (5:20), Melissa Pedrini, and Susan Reese.

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Cindi Danke-*Recreation Manager*, Brenda Rundle-*Recreation Assistant*, Scot Simpson-*City Administrator*; Jason Stroud-*Assistant City Administrator*, Brandt Johnson-*Assistant to City Administrator*; Mike Noreen-*City Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator*

Others Present: Ben Fochs-*local citizen*; Andrew Reese-*local citizen*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:17 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Downing/Dobbertin to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 (joint with Historic Preservation Commission). Carried 7-0. MSC Nordgren/Pedrini to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Pedrini asked for updates about Brandon's Park. The old, wooden playground equipment was recently removed due to age and safety concerns. It was not City equipment. Brandon's Park is an entryway to a trail. At this point there is no money in the budget for new equipment. If it's feasible to move some equipment from Glen Park when new equipment is put in there, that will be considered.

NEW BUSINESS

Cindi Danke gave an update about spring and summer recreation changes due to COVID-19. All spring activities were canceled. Smaller summer camps were held with 202 participants, led by recreation staff or volunteers. Swimming lessons for 400 participants at Glen Park Pool were held with smaller groups and it worked well to have parents in the water with the younger children. After a slow start due to COVID-19, park shelters have brought in over \$7,000.00 so far this calendar year. The camping season started late (opened May 25th instead of April 15th), but as of 9/1/2020 has brought in over \$21,000.00 in camping and dump station fees.

Jason Stroud explained that our previous City Forester Nate Croes (1.0 FTE Public Works, with about half of his time dedicated to forestry duties) recently resigned and relocated with his family. State statute does not require the City to have a forester; however, to retain our Tree City USA designation, we do need to have an official City Forester. Due to COVID-19 the City is unable to hire a full time City Forester, but the City's current Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator, Mike Noreen, has the interest and capacity to fill this position. Mike has a background in private sector tree farming and landscaping. In addition, he studied forestry and natural resources management. Some of Mike's conservation and efficiency job duties will go to other staff members to free up some of his time for forestry duties. A focus on Emerald Ash Borer management and the gravel bed trees are important to one Park Board member. City staff would like to bring an official endorsement from Park Board to the City Council.

MSC Gaulke/Reese to support the resolution appointing Mike Noreen as City Forester. Motion carried 7-0.

Cindi Danke discussed River Falls Disc Golf Club's desire to add an 18-hole disc golf course at Sterling Ponds Park to be called Sterling Hill Disc Golf Course. Andrew Reese, River Falls Disc Golf Club member was available and provided a written plan and map to Park Board in advance of the meeting. There is already a popular, free 9-hole course at Hoffman Park, and he feels the community would enjoy a second course in River Falls. With permission of the Park Board, the River Falls Disc Golf Club volunteers have already started clearing buckthorn, so they don't miss the best season for this type of work. The group will fundraise for the purchase of baskets and tee pads. The group would like the City in the future to provide garbage and recycling containers and a portable bathroom. It is slated to be open spring of 2022, or possibly even fall of 2021. Parking could be available on the old logging road, which Andrew states is also a good emergency access dirt road. The disc golf course would need very limited maintenance, perhaps mowing once per year and continued buckthorn removal. Ultimately, the City would oversee future maintenance. Andrew was encouraged to return every six months to update Park Board.

MSC Gaulke/Downing to endorse the proposal from River Falls Disc Golf Club to build the Sterling Hill disc golf course at Sterling Ponds Park. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Dobbertin/Downing to adjourn the meeting at 6:00p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Recreation Assistant



MEMORANDUM

TO: Park and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Cindi Danke, Recreation Manager

DATE: November 18, 2020

TITLE: Staff Report

- DeSanctis Schoolhouse Discussion**
Approval of the housing development adjacent to DeSanctis Park included extending the water and sewer to the School House. This work was completed November 5. We took the opportunity to get the water line extended into the crawl space below the restroom while the excavation was open, so that is completed. We will now put plans together for siding replacement and completing the plumbing system for the restroom. There was no kitchen type sink and serving counter included for the classroom, wondering if that should be included in the plan. Tom will be available during the meeting to answer any questions.
- Brandon's Park**
Public works staff took most of the 40-year-old playground equipment (not the city playground equipment) out of Brandon's Park end of August. Neighborhood participants started to ask at that time if we were going to replace it, the question is still being asked. Park Board to discuss.
- Hoffman Park Camping and Dump Station Rules**
Please review the camping rules and rules for dump station both included in packet. as new signs will be made for next year. We could consider increase the dump station fee, at this time we charge \$2.00, but for the campers it is free. Most area dump stations do not allow people to dump unless they camp. For the last several years we have received approximately \$1000.00 for the honor system at the Hoffman Park dump station. \$27.608 was collected for the campground revenue with a short season.

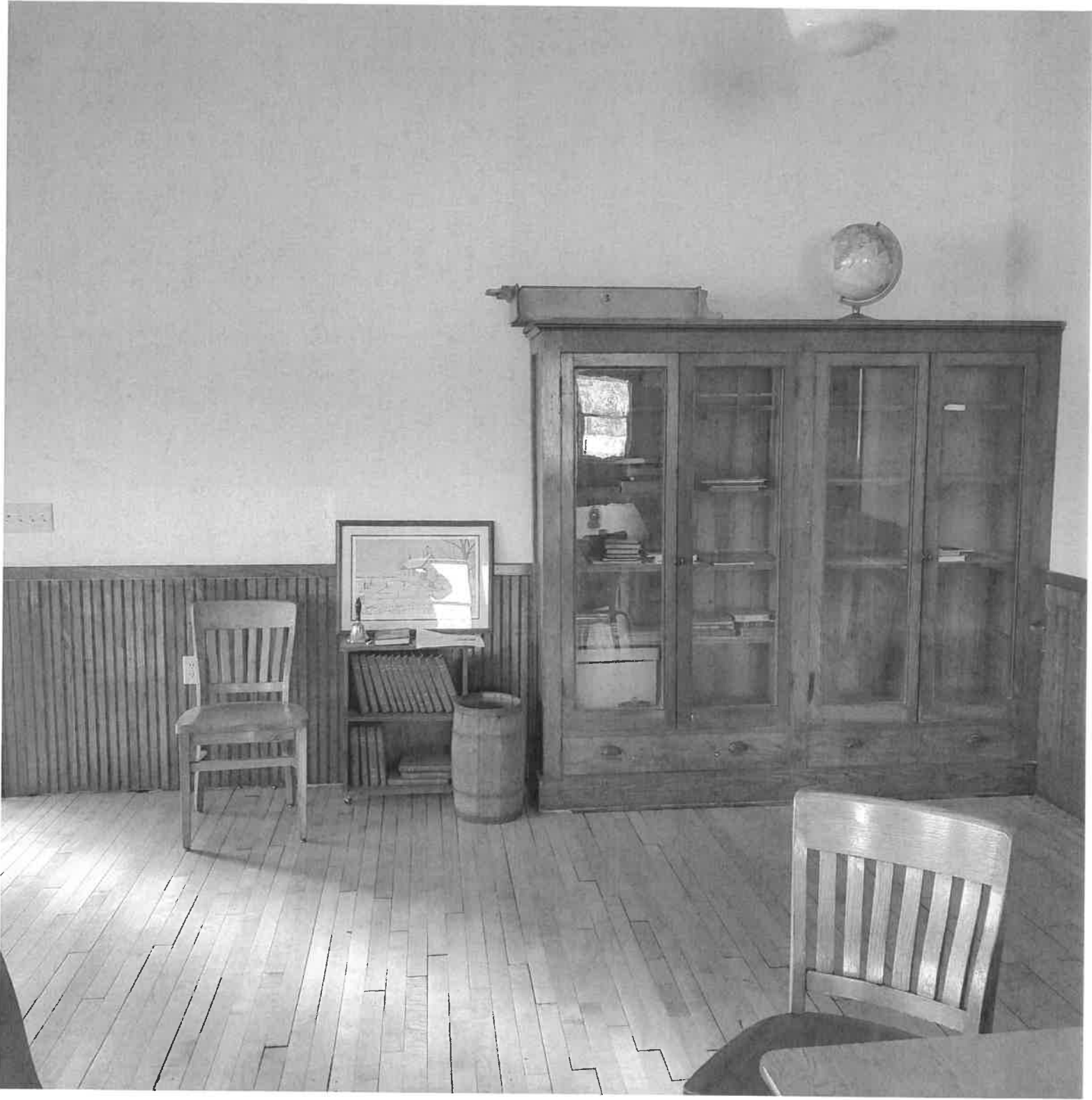
Suggestion to change dates open to “Campground is open April 15th to October 31st; however, water and dump station may be closed sooner due to weather if necessary.” Staff has found that with UWRF football/soccer season hosting games until end of October we have had many asking to stay pass the October 15th deadline now in rules.

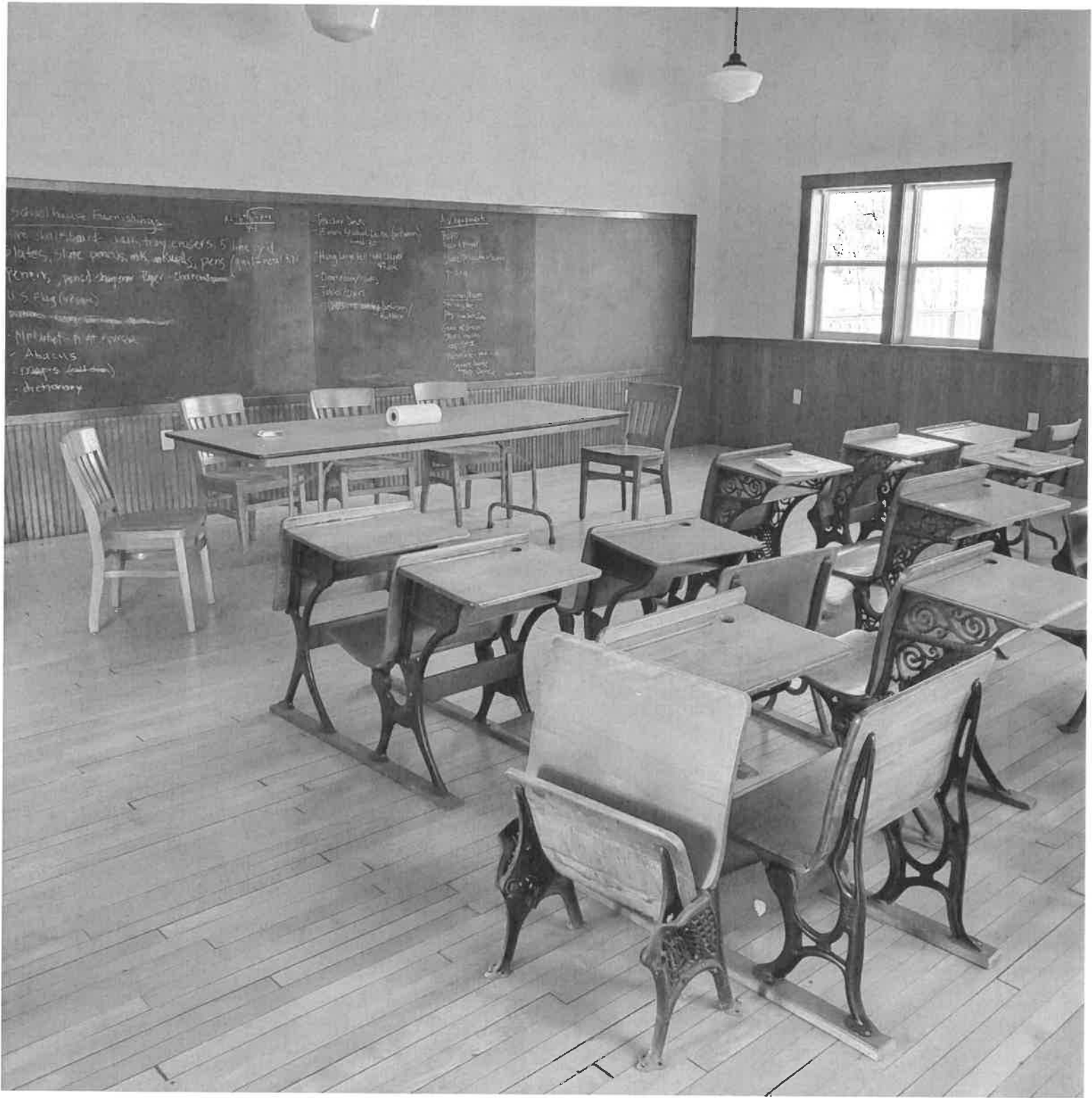
4. Glen Park Playground Donation

A donation will be given for playground equipment in the new location sites at Glen Park, it is not enough monies for all three location sites, but it is a start on new playground equipment. We have also been getting some requests for swings at park, the old ones were taken out about 8 years ago.

5. Park Update – Sterling Ponds Disc Golf

Jason will provide an update on a few issues with developing Sterling Ponds hill into a disc golf site.







Hoffman Park Camping Rules

Open weather permitting April 15-October 15

15 sites available first come, first served (no reservations accepted)

Bathrooms, Shower Facilities and Dump station available

1. Site with electricity is \$20.00/night. Tent site without electricity is \$10.00/night.
2. **Pay camping fees first night of stay for your length of visit or daily by 9:00AM.**
3. Length of stay **14 days in and 7 days out for campsites, Nonelectric sites/Tents are 5 day rule.** Stays longer than 14 days needs approval from the City of River Falls. Call 715-425-0924.
4. Check out time is 2:00PM.
5. Quiet time is 11:00PM.
6. Clean up your camping site before leaving.
7. No parking on the grass.
8. **Move tent location every few days to prevent grass damage, if not in tenting area.**
9. Pets must be leashed. Owner promptly removes and disposes of, in a sanitary manner, any excreta deposited by a pet. (Municipal Code 12.04 (9) (c)).
10. The City of River Falls assumes no responsibility for theft, damage or injury.

We hope you are enjoying your stay in River Falls. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our Recreation Office at 715-425-0924 or the Police Department at 715-425-0909.

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
WASTE WATER DUMPING STATION**

**DUMPING FEES ARE INCLUDED IN THE
SITE FEES FOR REGISTERED CAMPERS.**

**IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED FOR CAMPING
AT HOFFMAN PARK, PLEASE PAY \$2.00 FEE
AT CAMPGROUND REGISTRATION SITE.**

**HELP KEEP THIS PLACE CLEAN.
IF YOU SPILL, CLEAN IT UP. FAILURE
TO DO SO WILL PROHIBIT YOU FROM
USING THIS FACILITY.**

**DUMPING ANY MATERIAL OTHER THAN
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE WASTE
IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!**

ORD. NO. 13.08

\$2.00
Pay
Here