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MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 1/20/15

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: John Hemingway, Jim Bloom, Pat Sowers & Richie Gabbei
Attorney; Joe O'Donnell
Staff Present: Ray Peterson, Rachel Lenz, Adrianna Tuszynski
Media and others: 3

6:15 – President Hemingway declared the meeting open.

2. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the agenda with items 13 and 14 deleted. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).

3. Consideration of and action on the minutes, bills and transfers, and monthly financial statements – Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the minutes of the December Macomb Park District Board of Commissioners regular meeting. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).

Treasurer Bloom stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the December financial statements and January bills. The December financial statements and January bills were approved on roll call vote (4 ayes – 0 nays).

4. Public Comment – none

5. President's report – President Hemingway informed the board that he would be attending the 2105 IAPD/IPRA State Conference this weekend. Hemingway reported that work is underway updating the personnel manual and the portions he had seen are a considerable improvement from the previous document

6. Director's report – Peterson reported that current weather conditions are finally allowing for some skating at Ball Fore although the prediction is for warmer temperatures by the weekend. Thus far the attendance has been very low, in addition there are indications that the liner has leaks. Peterson indicated that he had met with representatives of the McDonough County Girls Softball League (MCGSL) regarding the proposed construction of batting cages at Veterans Park. The configuration has change from both cages on the East West axis to having one on the West and one on the North side to better accommodate conflict with the setting sun. Peterson explained that with onset of snow the roadways at Veterans Park, Patton Park and the east side of Glenwood have been closed to vehicle traffic. Furthermore he wanted to clarify a misconception which surfaced recently. The roadways are closed to protect the road surface but the parks remains open and useable.

7. Committee reports – Finance Committee – Treasurer Bloom reported the district account balances in the Consolidate and General Accounts which overall are in excellent shape. Individual funds within the accounts vary as to the long term solvency but the district remains in sound fiscal condition

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8. **Presentation and possible action on the 2015 operating budget** - Treasurer Bloom explained that this action would need to be delayed as the budget is not yet finalized. He requested the item be included as an action item at the February meeting.

9. **Presentation regarding the status of the new MPD website - Lenz.** Lenz distributed copies of early statistical information regarding site visitation, registrations and overall effectiveness. Included were demographic information and comparative analysis with other forms of media and advertising used by the district. While this is very early in the process and during the slowest season for public interaction with the district the data clearly showed the potential for a more effective website in the future. Commissioners expressed encouragement for continuing the effort and complimented the improvements made to the site.

10. **Discussion and possible action regarding IDOT construction easement - Lakeview** - Peterson referenced the earlier distributed copies of the map and proposal. Attorney O'Donnell confirmed that this was the same general area affected that was agreed to during the previous phase of construction. Following discussion Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the Resolution and related documents as submitted by IDOT. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed on roll call vote (4 ayes - 0 nays).

11. **Presentation and possible action regarding sign for the Glenwood Rocket - Sowers** - Commissioner Sowers presented his motivation for requesting the sign at the site of the former piece of play apparatus. While it is no longer in service for the purpose of play, local sentiment was such that the district preserved it as a decorative element in the park. Commissioners directed Peterson to investigate material and installation options and report back so to allow the sign to be installed when the weather permits. Commissioner Sowers moved to approve the wording as presented. Commissioner Bloom seconded the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes - 0 nays).

12. **Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed 2015 development projects** - Peterson reviewed the proposed facility improvements under consideration for Lakeview (new parking area, displays and walkways), the pool (conversion of the baby pool to private activity area and expanding the perimeter fencing to include some grass and shade areas), and Veterans (batting cages, special event area and continued investigation into proceeding with the phase two development of fields). Without exception the Commissioners indicated support for the proposed development projects. Commissioner Bloom stated that it had been mentioned that the ice rink at Ball Fore may again need improvement to continue. Peterson explained that it appears the liner may need replacement but with the current weather patterns the district is still trying to determine the extent of the damage. Commissioner Hemingway asked about participation levels for the rink. Peterson explained the record over the last five years but it will not be possible to determine exact use numbers until after March. Commissioner Bloom indicated that it may be prudent to examine the record of use, capital and operating expense to determine the future viability of the facility.

13. **Closed Session - 5ILCS 120/(2)(5) - possible purchase of property** - omitted

14. **Consideration and possible action regarding purchase of real estate** - omitted

15. **Open Commissioner Presentation and discussion of future agenda items** - None

6:49 - Meeting adjourned on motion from Bloom, second by Sowers.

Respectfully Submitted

Ray Peterson