

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 12/15/15

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: John Hemingway, Jim Bloom, Pat Sowers, Valencia Pettigrew & Steve Horrell  
Attorney Joe O'Donnell  
Staff Present: Ray Peterson, Rachel Lenz  
Media and others: 3

6:02 – President Hemingway declared the meeting open.

**2. Approval of Agenda** – Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes – 0 nays).

**3. Consideration of and action on the minutes, bills and transfers, and monthly financial statements** – Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the November minutes of the Macomb Park District Board of Commissioners regular meeting. Commissioner Horrell seconded the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes – 0 nays).

Treasurer Bloom stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the November financial statements and December bills. The November financial statements and December bills were approved on roll call vote (5 ayes – 0 nays).

**4. Public Comment** – None

**5. President's report** – President Hemingway updated commissioners regarding the status of the information requested from the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) for their assistance with the candidate search for the Executive Director position. Hemingway indicated that he hoped the information would be compiled and ready to submit sometime in January. Hemingway referred the consideration of compensation, budget impact and comparative research to the Finance Committee.

Hemingway stated that again this year the Board of Commissioners meeting is during the WIU spring break. He proposed that as in the past the board agree to move the March meeting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday (March 22). Without exception the board concurred and Peterson was directed to make the necessary change to 2016 schedule.

**6. Director's report** – Peterson reported that the fall rains have stopped development progress at Veterans Park. The district is down to minimal and will remain so for the next couple of months. Peterson reported that the park remain open as there has been no snow affecting the roadways, however if sufficient snowfall occurs Veterans and Patton will be closed until warmer weather to protect the road surfaces.

The Quidditch Tournament was played in very challenging conditions. The wet cold weather forced discontinuing play on Saturday afternoon during the round robin portion of the tournament. Sunday's elimination play was played in full which required considerable effort from both players and staff. While the tournament was a success the conditions prevented the event from being a spectator draw. The fields were impacted but the staff feels that damages to be such that favorable winter conditions will correct most of the problems. The district suggested the

National Quidditch Association consider changing the dates for the Midwest regional to October to reduce the likelihood of cold weather.

The district has advertised for individuals or organizations interested in operating the adult softball leagues for 2016 to notify the office of their interest. After the holidays those indicating interest will be reviewed and discussions held.

**7. Committee reports** – Finance Committee – Treasurer Bloom reviewed the account balances as the close of 2015 nears. Accounts show good positive balances and appear to be ending the year within budget parameters. Bloom reminded Commissioners that while the Consolidated Fund is very high there will be extraordinary expenses coming up in 2016 due to the development of Veterans Park Phase 2.

**8. Consideration and action on the 2016 Property Tax Levy Ordinance #316** - Treasurer Bloom explained that he had met with the staff multiple times to maximize the accuracy of the levy. The Finance Committee approved the document as submitted. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve Ordinance #316. Commissioner Horrell seconded the motion. The motion passed on roll call vote (5 ayes - 0 nays).

**9. Report regarding the Citizen Action Project consultant meeting - Hemingway** - President Hemingway reported that the firm researching the viability of the Community Center, Reisinger and Associates had a series of one on one meetings with representatives of the various organizations involved. The meeting focused on the perceived needs and expectations of the Macomb Park District and a review of options for cooperative efforts. In response to a question from Commissioner Horrell, Commissioner Hemingway explained that at this preliminary point no timeline has been established.

**10. Distribution and report regarding the second draft of updated personnel policies - Lenz** - Superintendent Rachel Lenz reviewed the latest revisions to the proposed new personnel policies. She requested additional feedback from Commissioners with objective of having an actionable document prepared for the January Board of Commissions meeting. Following discussion the board indicated that they felt January might be too aggressive for an issue of this significance. Commissioners agreed to get feedback to Superintendent Lenz by the end of February with the intent for action in March or April. Commissioners also extended their appreciation to Lenz and staff for the creation of this important document. President Hemingway added that the along with updating the personnel policies a sound fiscal policy would be useful to prospective director candidates and Finance Committee will be responsible the creation of the policy.

**11. Closed session 5 ILCS, Par. 120/1, 2(c)(1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body** - President Hemingway stated that the board was not ready to discuss the issue at this time therefore the closed session is not needed.

**12. Open Commissioner presentation and discussion of future agenda items** -President Hemingway reminded commissioners that with the new year Officers and new commissioners will be required to take the Secretary of State training on the Open Meetings Act. Commissioners wished all happy holidays and thanked the staff for another successful year for the Macomb Park District.

6:24 Meeting adjourned on motion from Bloom, second by Pettigrew

Respectfully submitted

Ray Peterson, Secretary  
Macomb Park District