

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 3/26/15

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: John Hemingway, Jim Bloom, Pat Sowers & Richie Gabbei
Attorney; Joe O'Donnell
Staff Present: Ray Peterson
Media and others: 9

6:00 – President Hemingway declared the meeting open.

2. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the agenda with the deletion of items 13 and 14. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed (3 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 February Macomb Park District Board of Commissioners regular meeting. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed (3 ayes – 0 nays).

Treasurer Bloom stated that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the February financial statements and March bills. The February financial statements and March bills were approved on roll call vote (3 ayes – 0 nays).

4. Public Comment – none

6:10 Commissioner Gabbei entered meeting

5. President's report – President Hemingway stated that the district has several milestones that may not be apparent but are worthy of pointing out. The first is that April will mark the 1st anniversary of the district's full effort at converting from the traditional recreation programming model to an increased focus on single day and special event programs along with revitalized marketing. Superintendent Lenz will update the board and community regarding progress so far. Initial efforts have been successful impacting both programs and facility use.

The second is the implementation of the improved marketing approach combining the introduction of our new logo, new web site and social media marketing. The word is getting out to our citizens. The third is that with the anticipated action of tonight the second phase of the Veterans Park development will be started which should prove to have significant effect on future activities in the district.

President Hemingway recognized the serious effort made by both the district staff and our partners in the Macomb Community in this effort. On behalf on the board he expressed appreciation and stated that there will more excitement to come as this effort continues.

6. Director's report – Peterson reported that Veterans and Patton parks are now open for vehicle access. The work has started on the batting cages at the youth softball fields at Veterans Park. The WIU softball tournament scheduled for Veterans this coming weekend has been cancelled due to the weather, no word about reschedule. The annual audit of accounts by Ruesch, Butler and Associates is underway with the completed document expected to be ready for the May meeting.

Peterson informed the board that the district has again received the IPARKS safety grant, this year for nearly double of the last few. It will be used to purchase Red Cross supplies for the district training program and other safety related equipment. The Lakeview staff was able to burn approximately 20 acres of the prairie which will help rejuvenate the growth and reduce the invasive tree growth. The new sidewalk to the Everly playground has been installed which connects the playground to the parking area with an accessible pathway.

Superintendent Huston and the maintenance staff completed the repositioning of the chlorinator at the pool. Hopefully the flow problems experienced last years will be resolved. Peterson said that Huston is very concerned regarding the ability of the recirculation and filtration systems of the pool continuing to function for another year. Peterson reported that he attended the meeting of the Central Illinois Directors held in Chillicothe earlier this month. The proposed cuts to the IDNR grant programs were the primary topic of discussion. Peterson informed the Board that he will be attending training to renew his status as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector in late April.

7. Committee reports – Finance Committee – Treasurer Bloom reported that while the district is solvent there will continue to be some additional pressure on the operating budget this year. Most notably the Corporate Fund will struggle until sufficient tax distributions have been received. The consolidated fund is in very good shape but the district is embarking in significant development projects so there will be significant expenses over the next couple of years.

8. Public Hearing regarding the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #312 - President Hemingway declared the hearing open and called for those interested to address the board. There were no respondents to testify. Hemingway asked the Secretary if there had been any written testimony received. Secretary Peterson replied that none had been received. President Hemingway declared the public hearing closed.

9. Consideration and possible action regarding the 2015 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #312 - Treasurer Bloom moved to approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #312 as submitted. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed on roll call vote (4 ayes - 0 nays).

10. Presentation and possible action on Surplus Personal Property resolution 15-3 - Peterson explained that the three vehicles in the resolution were thought to be on an earlier resolution but just to make certain they are being submitted for approval so as to assure availability for the April auction. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve Resolution #15-3 Surplus Property. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed on roll call vote (4 ayes - 0 nays).

11. Report regarding special event development and facilities - Lenz - Superintendent Lenz reported that while there are no major changes anticipated for Ball Fore this year there will be more promotional activities and events added to build on the last year's successes. The Glenwood Pool will have a new manager and new hours of operation this year. In addition the former "baby pool" area which has been inoperable for several years has been changed to a concrete surface private area useable by small groups for birthday parties and other private gatherings. Areas of the deck and concession will be painted and improved to make it more attractive and useable. There will be a few special events and several promotional activities incorporated throughout the season.

Lenz then addressed events and programs thus far as well as those identified to occur over the balance of the year. Many of these would be difficult if not impossible without the improvements planned for Veterans Park. Movies in the park, a country music festival and a Quidditch tournament are slated for Veterans as first year events. As the development is completed over the next couple of years it is expected these events will grow as well as others will be added making event activities a significant part of the districts offerings.

12. Consideration and action on an Ordinance authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of park improvements, and for the issuance of \$1,450,000 General Obligation Debt Certificates (Limited Tax), Series 2015, of the District, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to the purchase thereof - President Hemingway and Treasurer Bloom explained the purpose of this action was to complete the earlier referenced improvements to Veterans Park to included youth baseball fields and a special event staging area. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve the Ordinance to be numbered #313 as submitted. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed on roll call vote (4 ayes - 0 nays).

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

14. Consideration and possible action regarding the purchase of real estate. - Omitted

15. Open Commissioner Presentation and discussion of future agenda items - President Hemingway distributed copies of a draft ordinance regarding board attendance to be considered at the April meeting.

6:38 - Meeting adjourned on motion from Bloom, second by Sowers.

Respectfully Submitted

Ray Peterson