

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 06/16/15

MINUTES:

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

6:00 – 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 (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 May Macomb Park District Board of Commissioners regular meeting. Commissioner Pettigrew seconded the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).

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

**4. Public Comment** – none

**5. President's report** – President Hemingway extended his congratulations to Commissioner Pettigrew for completing the IAPD Boot Camp training for park district commissioners. Hemingway called for commissioners to identify possible Saturday dates in late July or August they would be available for a two hour retreat to better understand the director hiring process, which will include self-assessment, criteria identification and the search process. President Hemingway asked Attorney Joe O'Donnell for an update regarding the land purchase adjacent to Veterans Park. O'Donnell explained that the property to be purchased from the Kim Howe had been delayed because of her death before the final closing last year. Wells Fargo Bank is handling her estate properties and has contacted the district to proceed with the purchase and the process is again moving forward. O'Donnell hoped that the sale would be completed within the next 60 days.

Hemingway addressed the importance of filling the remaining position on the board and asked commissioners to direct interested citizens to contact the Secretary as he hoped for the board to be able to interview prospective before the August meeting. President Hemingway also reported that the movie in the park event last month was very successful and he wanted to acknowledge the importance of the community sponsors which made this and other special events possible. Specifically he thanked First Bankers Trust and John Armstrong for their commitment as well as Prestige Radio for their support. Commissioner Bloom added his concurrence with emphasis on public expressing appreciation to those that help and support events,

**6. Director's report** – Peterson also reported that the movie program in Veterans Park exceeded any projections. The district had hoped to draw between two and three hundred but crowd estimates were near or over a thousand. Peterson acknowledged the sponsor support from First Bankers Trust and added Pepsi and the Macomb Area Visitors and Convention Bureau for their continuing support for these and future events. He also thanked the

Macomb Police Department for responding to the situation by helping to direct traffic as the district was not prepared for the volume of traffic following the event.

Peterson stated that as is expected this is the time of year with the most activity for the district. The youth baseball and softball leagues will be completing their regular seasons in the next few weeks. The pool is open after a couple of delays caused by mechanical problems. Ball Fore is at full operation as is Downing. Lakeview camps are full and will continue for another month as will the SRA camps. Other programs currently underway include kite flying every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday through August, sand volleyball league, pottery programs and a number of others covered in our latest program publication in addition to being on our website. Commissioner Bloom asked if the improved website is proving useful to the public. Peterson responded that there has been considerable positive feedback regarding both the access to information as well as the on-line registration process as witnessed by the increase in credit card expenses due to the high numbers of registrants signing up over the internet. Peterson added that the change from seasonal brochures to bi-monthly program schedules in the McDonough County Voice is also working well.

Peterson reported that as covered last month the electrical service installation was separated from the Phase 2 Veterans development plans so as to allow the district to get quotes and proceed quickly with that element. As a result the quotes have been received which the project total will be slightly over \$12,000. The original estimate for this work was \$20,000 so this represents a considerable savings, thanks in a large part to the McDonough Power Co-op support. The installation is expected to begin within the next couple of weeks and should be completed well before the Flatland Jam on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**7. Committee reports** – Finance Committee – Treasurer Bloom reported that the district is continuing to monitor closely the Corporate and Recreation funds which remain behind on revenue and may have to reduce expenditures to keep the budget in alignment. Other funds in the General Account are at expected levels. The Consolidated Account is also in good condition but most funds are committed to proposed development primarily at Veterans. While the payroll line item in the account is higher than budgeted it as a result of doing lesser projects in-house thereby reducing the project contractor expenses.

**8. Report regarding the current status of facility development and operations** - Peterson reported that in addition to the Veterans Park electrical mentioned earlier work is continuing in preparation for the phase 2 development. The final specifications are being delayed until the final determination on the purchase of the land as it has significant implication on the proposed development. While the Veterans roadways are not a project for this year, Peterson explained that the anticipated pattern of ageing the road surface may be progressing to the point the final rock surfacing could be possible next summer, however as the park will likely have construction going on at the point waiting until at least 2017 is prudent.

Several of the small projects for Lakeview have been completed with conversion of the pond to a butterfly garden and construction of the new parking area remain as more substantial projects. Due to weather delays neither has been done as expected and likely will not be attempted until after the youth camps have concluded. Glenwood pool preseason projects are substantially completed. The painting and concession building improvements are finished and the private party area surfacing is done. The shade element for the private party area has not been completed as a suitable structure has yet to be determined. The reconfigured fence to allow more lounging area has been delayed and is being reconsidered at this time. Patton roadway resurfacing expected to be next year is being monitored and at this point it appears may be not be necessary until 2017. Ball Fore installed LED lighting on the mini course to replace the lights formerly used for moon light mini and other special events.

**9. Discussion of recruitment process to fill board vacancy** - Commissioner Hemingway asked if board members wanted to comment or discussion further the points he had presented during the President's report. Commissioners agreed that during this time of change for the district it will be beneficial to get a fifth member to assure maximum participation.

**10. Commissioner Presentation and discussion of future agenda items** - Commissioner Pettigrew stated that she appreciated the opportunity to attend the commissioner training program and that she considered it truly helpful. She complimented the IAPD and presenters for the excellent educational sessions which were both informative and encouraging for new commissioners. In addition Commissioner Pettigrew indicated the program also afforded the opportunity to network with other commissioners from around the state.

6:47 - Meeting adjourned on motion from Bloom, second by Pettigrew (4 ayes – 0 nays).

Respectfully Submitted

Ray Peterson