

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 2/17/2024

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: Molly Selders, Neil Armstrong, Emily Gamage, & Russ Hamm

Attorney: Emily Sutton

Staff Present: Rachel Lenz & Blake Severs

Media and others: 3

1. 6:00 p.m. – Vice President Selders declared the meeting open.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Commissioner Hamm moved for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Gamage seconded the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).
3. **Consideration of and action on the minutes and, bills and transfers, and monthly financial statements** – Commissioner Hamm moved to approve the regularly scheduled January meeting minutes. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).

Treasurer Hamm gave an updated report on the consolidated fund and each of the general fund accounts. Hamm informed the board the District received a PPRT distribution in the way of \$22,183 on January 11th. Commissioner Gamage moved to approve. Commissioner Armstrong second the motion. The February financial statements and March bills were approved on roll call vote (4 ayes – 0 nays).

4. **Public Comment** – None
5. **Report from attendees of IAPD/IPRA State Conference** – Commissioner Armstrong thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the conference. Armstrong stated he had attended a multitude of sessions such as *Serving our Disabled Veterans*, *Board Member to Board Leader (Session 1 & 2)*, *So You Wanna Stay Out of Jail*, *Boardmanship (Session 1 & 2)*, and *Role of Board Members & Leadership in a Crisis*. Armstrong said he had several key take aways from each he would be happy to share in more detail for those who are interested. He went on to give the District kudos as we are a recognized and respected agency at the state level. Armstrong also shared that during the annual awards luncheon, where the District was joined by Representative Norine Hammond and her family, Representative Hammond was awarded the Legislator of the Year award for her outstanding commitment and contributions to parks and recreation in Springfield.

Lenz shared her attendance was different this year as she served on the Joint Conference Committee, tasked with planning the event each year. She shared the behind the scenes effort that the volunteers put in to bring this conference to life was truly astounding. This year the conference boasted just under 4,000 attendees. Lenz shared that beyond having the opportunity to give back to the conference, the networking opportunities that were made possible through that service will only be a positive for the Macomb Park District. Lenz said as a testament with the quality of conference that is put on in Illinois, Kristine Stratton, Executive Director of the National Park and Recreation Association, was in attendance as well.

Superintendent Severs shared the Soaring to New Heights conference was filled with learning opportunities, professional connections, and understanding the scope of the parks and recreation world, not only in the state but in the nation. He attended seven sessions including *Active Crisis Management*, *Camera Surveillance Systems*, *Legal Aspects of Video Surveillance*, *General Safety in Parks*, and *E-Sports* to name a handful. Severs has already made multiple changes to policies based on the information he learned. He truly appreciated the

opportunity to gather with like minded individuals with the goal of building memories through play and discovery.

6. **President's report** – Vice President Selders shared that President Weiss was unable to attend tonight's meeting but reminded commissioners to turn in their statements of economic interest to the county as soon as possible.
7. **Director's report** – Director Lenz shared that even though there have been warmer temperatures than normal, the District will not be opening bathrooms until April 1st as always. She encourages park goers to please plan accordingly until then. Lenz shared that preliminary work on Patton has begun and asks the public to please be careful when near construction areas. She also shared with the board that upfront purchases of materials and equipment will likely skew budget numbers as work was able to start earlier than anticipate.

Lenz shared the new event Puzzle Wars is a huge success and the event hasn't even occurred yet. The event sold out two weeks prior to the date with phone calls coming in daily asking to be snuck in or added to the list. Lenz closed her report with her participation in the Macomb Dessert Auction and thanked them for continuing to have her participate in that fun event.

8. **Consideration and possible action on Patton Park Fishing Piers Bids** – Vice President Selders shared the District received two bids, the lowest bid was with Micheal Knapp Construction at \$110,000. Lenz shared that number is still slightly higher than what was anticipated but believes that is just were construction costs are at right now. Commissioner Gamage moved award Micheal Knapp Construction the contract at \$110,000. Commissioner Armstrong second the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote (4 ayes - 0 nays).
9. **Presentation of draft Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #348** – Director Lenz gave a brief overview of the B&A Ordinance #348. The estimated expenditures is at approximately 2.1 million with an estimated revenue of 1.7 million. Lenz explained the negative budget is due to the upfront spending for the OSLAD grant that will be reimbursed once the project is complete. Lenz said the proposed B&A from the previous year was structured the same and thanks to the staff's efforts there were significantly less expenditures, ending the year slightly ahead of the anticipated cash on hand. Vice President Selders shared the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is available for public review at the District's main office.
10. **Presentation of Executive Director's goals with possible action** – Director Lenz went through the goals distributed to Commissioners as seen below:

Pursuant to Article 11.B of my contract I am submitting the following goals:

1. *Complete development of Phase II of Patton Park renovation*
2. *Explore additional funding opportunities for Patton Park Development and other park improvements*
3. *Assist in completing the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency Act requirements*
4. *Prioritize Strategic Initiatives with District staff, specifically defined through department annual goals*
5. *Explore collaborative initiatives for multimodal transportation throughout Macomb with the City of Macomb and other relevant community partners*

6. *Continue park modification, renovation, and beautification through remaining facilities*
7. *Cultivate relationship with local legislators*
8. *Cultivate community relationships beneficial to the Park District*

Commissioner Hamm moved to approve the Executive Director's goals. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).

11. Open Commissioner Presentation and discussion of future agenda items – N/A

6:31 PM Meeting adjourned on motion from Armstrong, second by Gamage. The motion passed (4 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Lenz, Secretary
Macomb Park District