

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 06/21/2023

MINUTES:

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

Attorney: Emily Sutton

Staff Present: Rachel Lenz, Julie Eggleston, & Bethany Erickson

Media and others: 1

1. 6:03 p.m. – President Weiss declared the meeting open

2. Approval of Agenda Commissioner Hamm moved for the approval of the agenda. Commissioner Armstrong second the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes – 0 nays).

3. Consideration of and action on the May meeting minutes, bills and transfers, monthly financial statements – Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve the May meeting minutes. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes – 0 nays).

Treasurer Hamm gave an overview of the balances for the consolidated fund and each of the general fund accounts. Hamm shared the District received the first tax distribution of \$286,536; approximately 20% of the total distribution. The District also received a PPRT check for \$48,237. Commissioner Gamage moved to approve. Commissioner Selders second the motion. The April financial statements and May bills were approved on a roll call vote (5 ayes – 0 nays).

4. Open public presentation to Commissioners – N/A

5. Election of Officers –

President – Commissioner Armstrong moved to elect Philip Weiss as President. Commissioner Selders second the motion. Weiss accepted the nomination. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays.)

Vice President – Commissioner Weiss moved to elect Molly Selders as Vice President. Commissioner Armstrong second the motion. Selders accepted the nomination. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

Treasurer – Commissioner Weiss moved to elect Russ Hamm as Treasurer. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. Hamm accepted the nomination. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

Assistant Treasurer – Commissioner Hamm moved to elect Emily Gamage as Assistant Treasurer. Commissioner Selders second the motion. Gamage accepted the nomination. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

Secretary – Commissioner Selders moved to elect Rachel Lenz as Secretary. Commissioner Hamm second the motion. Lenz accepted the nomination. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

Assistant Secretary – Commissioner Hamm moved to elect Chris Frankhauser as Assistant Secretary. Commissioner Armstrong second the motion. Lenz accepted the nomination on Frankhauser’s behalf. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays)

6. President's report – President Weiss started with reminding the board about the Commissioner retreat on June 26th starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Macomb Park District office and gave a brief overview of what would be covered during that time.

7. Director's report – Director Lenz an update on progress being made with the Patton Park Project. Approximately 1,900 TerreWalks panels on site, ready to be installed. Another sail shade structure has arrived with several more on the way for two of the existing play pockets. Lenz shared details about upcoming events including Boogie Bash with DJ B-Tight, Little Lunchers in partnership with the Macomb Public Library, as well as Nature’s Fireworks at Lakeview Nature Center. Lenz also shared that July is Unplug Macomb month; a campaign that encourages people to ‘plug into’ recreational opportunities local park and recreation agency’s offer. Lenz closed with a glowing report on the transfer to the Azure Cloud system.

8. Consideration and possible action on entering into an agreement with Progressive Business Solutions – presentation by Shawn Ajazi

9. McDonough County Special Recreation Association Summer Update – Julie Eggleston – Eggleston went into detail about the most recent satisfaction survey completed by a therapeutic recreation class at WIU. Items covered were program satisfaction, barriers to participation, ease of engagement and more. Eggleston shared a quote from the parent of a regular participant that shows the reason why the staff at the MCSRA do what they do:

“When I say this organization is a blessing, those are not just words. That is feeling straight from my heart. Being a special needs parent is something in its own world – you don’t always feel understood and sometimes feel in your own category. This organization has broken those barriers down. Not only do I feel understood, I feel heard and helped. Our whole family gets something from the programs. We are participants for life. Before I found you, [Sic] didn’t have much to enrich his life and he truly didn’t have friends. You really did change his life. There aren’t words for that but I want everyone to know that. I want you to read this statement to the board. There may be lots of programs, but MCSRA should be in the spotlight. Julie, Sharon, and Denita are angels.”

President Weiss thanked Julie for her time and the work that her and her team are doing.

10. Consideration and possible action to authorize Executive Director to proceed with IMEG in the creation of specifications, advertisement and collection of bids for the board walk and fishing pier structure in Patton Park– Director Lenz shared an updated rendering of the boardwalk, which included an extension of the boardwalk over the emergency spill way. Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve authorizing Director Lenz to proceed with working with IMEG to bid out the boardwalk and fishing piers. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

10. Presentation and possible action on Commissioner Handbook – President Weiss said there was a quick correction that was remedied and an updated version sent out to everyone that afternoon. Director Lenz gave a brief overview of what is covered in the handbook such as board governance, board officers and their duties, fiscal responsibilities, etc. Commissioner Selders moved to approve the Commissioner Handbook. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

11. Open Commissioner presentation and discussion of future agenda items – Commissioner Armstrong shared his experience attending the IAPD Bootcamp in Peoria. Armstrong also took a moment to give kudos to the maintenance team.

6:52 PM – Meeting adjourned on a motion from Gamage, second by Selders. The motion passed (5 ayes – 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Lenz, Secretary
Macomb Park District