

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 02/18/2020

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: Philip Weiss, John Hemingway, Russ Hamm, Stirling Edwards, & Emily Gamage
Attorney: Joe O'Donnell
Staff Present: Rachel Lenz, Jessica Stephens, and Erin Hill
Media and others: 10

6:00 p.m. –President Weiss declared the meeting open.

2. Approval of Agenda –Commissioner Hamm moved for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Edwards 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 Edwards pointed out a correction under President's Report that read "President Hemingway..." should be corrected to "President Weiss." Commissioner Hamm moved for approval of the regularly scheduled January meeting minutes. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes – 0 nays). Treasurer Hamm gave a description of the general fund and the consolidated fund and what each account is used for. Hamm then gave a summary of each account balance. Commissioner Hemingway moved to approve the bills and transfers and monthly financial statements. Commissioner Edwards second the motion. The January financial statements and February bills were approved on roll call vote (5 ayes – 0 nays).

4. Public Comment – None

5. President's report – N/A

6. Director's report – Director Lenz informed the board the annual Daddy Daughter event was scheduled for this Friday (2/21) at the Spoon River College Outreach Center. Lenz mentioned ceramics programming briefly, applauding Natalie Shelly for her work as all her programs have reached maximum enrollment. Lenz updated the board on the work being done to evaluate daily operations at the District and ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Commissioners received a *Be The Change* tote bag with reusable items inside to help them also reduce their carbon footprint. Lenz announced the District has officially partnered with Rocketbook, a reusable notebook with unique technology to increase efficiency in the workplace. Director Lenz reminded the public that when there is inclement weather the District will continue to close the gates at our local parks to help deter vandalism. Lenz closed with a thanks to their friends at the Macomb HyVee for choosing the McDonough County Special Recreation Association as the Charity for the reusable bag sales.

7. Informational presentation from Heather McMeekan, President of the Democratic Women of McDonough County – McMeekan thanked the board for allowing her the time to present the information she had prepared for them today. McMeekan went on to discuss concepts such as food deserts, foraging, food forests, and gardening library. Becky Danner, a resident who attended with McMeekan, read a letter to the board expressing her support for the development of a food forest in Macomb and how it would impact her family. Following McMeekan's presentation, President Weiss

thanked her for her time and reminded the board to send any comments or questions regarding the presentation to him following the meeting.

8. Presentation of draft Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #335 – President Weiss told commissioners they should have each received a copy of the draft ordinance in their emails and ask Director Lenz to give a brief explanation of the document. Director Lenz told commissioners the document had been on file since February 14th in accordance with state mandate for the public’s viewing. She then went into a brief explanation of the document and its use for transparency to the public. No action will be needed until the March meeting.

9. Presentation of Executive Director’s goals with possible action – Director Lenz distributed and read her goals for 2020 as follows:

1. Develop Community engagement through community forums and surveys.
2. Research Green infrastructure and practices and implement through district facilities where feasible.
3. Fundraise for Phase II Development at Veterans Park with emphasis on lighting for the youth baseball diamonds
4. Continue park modification, renovation, and beautification plan
5. Cultivate relationship with local legislators
6. Cultivate community relationships beneficial to the Park District

Commissioner Hamm moved to accept the Director’s goals. Commissioner Hemingway seconded the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes – 0 nays).

10. Report from attendees of IAPD/IPRA State Conference – Commissioner Edwards gave a brief overview of the sessions he attended. He said he went to sessions that specified they were for new commissioners. He said every session was eye opening as was the annual awards luncheon. Commissioner Edwards thanked Representative Hammond for joining them at the Luncheon. Edwards closed with his biggest take away being this should be fun. If ever being a part of the board stops being fun is when you should step away.

Commissioner Hemingway said the conference is one of the best he has been to and always a wonderful networking opportunity. He echoed a statement by Commissioner Edwards that it is money well invested to send District representatives.

11. Open Commissioner Presentation and discussion of future agenda items – Commissioner Hamm asked for a timetable for response to the presentation given by McMeekan.

6:53 PM Meeting adjourned on motion from Hemingway, second by Gamage. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Lenz, Secretary
Macomb Park District