

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 4/18/17

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: John Hemingway, Pat Sowers, Valencia Pettigrew, Steve Horrell, & Russ Hamm

Attorney Joe O'Donnell

Staff Present: Rachel Lenz, Megan Pierce, and Intern Megan Hoenig

Media and others: 4

6:10 – President Hemingway declared the meeting open.

2. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Sowers moved for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Pettigrew 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 Sowers moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pettigrew. The motion passed (5 ayes - 0 nays). On behalf of the Finance Committee Treasurer Hamm recommended approval of the action on the March financial statements and April bills and transfers. Commissioner Sowers second the motion. The March financial statements and April bills were approved on roll call vote (5 ayes - 0 nays).

4. Public Comment – None

5. President's report - Hemingway discussed attention that will be put towards the development of a naming policy to assist in standardizing the procedure for interested parties who would give larger donations to the District in exchange for the naming rights to a facility.

6. Director's report – Director Lenz announced the new Superintendent of Events, Megan Pierce. Lenz also mentioned the upcoming Foos for Families Tournament that the Park District is hosting in conjunction with Dr. Jeremy Robinett from Western Illinois University and Carrie Depoy from The Center for Youth and Family Solutions. Lenz also discussed the upcoming Family Workshop at Lakeview Nature Center, the Park District's presence at Earthfest, and the new pop up concert series, Randolph St. Rendezvous. Director Lenz mention that people have been on the new Veteran's Park fields and asked the public while the fields sod set so the fields can be in the best condition possible for our youth when they open next season. Finally, Lenz mentioned the new anticipated OSHA requirements the State was imposing is coming to fruition and she starting to take action through previously mentioned ideas and development of staffing.

7. Committee reports – None

8. Operational Status of the Glenwood Pool discussion and possible action - Commissioner Hemingway opened the floor for discussion from the Commissioners. Commissioner Horrell asked if both the Park board and the City Committee of the Whole could meet together to discuss this as a joint partnership to have less back and forth of communication and questioning. Commissioner Hamm mentioned the need to developing a better understanding of timetable that was brought about by the Benton and Associates letters, as well as the Park District's role through the next year of this process. Hamm mentioned this dilemma is not an unexpected event as it has happened over the last several years and asked how much both entities would be willing to continue to pour into this failing structure.

Commissioner Sowers also added that since he has started on the board this has always been a problem and as a citizen of Macomb he does not see anyone reaching out to the citizens to see what the community is wanting. President Hemingway referred back to the Intergovernmental Agreement, Section Three Article 2, "A referendum on a new pool shall be on the ballot no later than November 2015." Although the Park District fully intended on pursuing the referendum but it did not happen.

Further discussion developed between Commissioner Hamm and Commissioner Hemingway about the length of commitment the Park District was required to follow through with. Discussion was also held about the two Benton and Associates letters, the second of which was brought to the Park Board's attention shortly before the board meeting.

The Board Attorney asked if the licensing company and insurance company had been or should be contact so they are aware of the developments and what minimum requirements would need to be met to fulfill their standards. Director Lenz stated her intent to follow through with that request. Attorney O'Donnell also made the Board aware that with our knowledge of the lack of structural integrity the District is now vulnerable to hosting liability should the structure fail with the minimal structural reinforcements being suggested. Director Lenz followed up with a concern that the only safety that is being talked about is the structural safety and brought light to the fact that children would be allowed to swim in this pool that is not meeting the minimum standards.

Commissioner Hemmingway asked the board to agree to hold off any action until the city provides the board a firm proposal stating genuine cost estimates for the recommended repairs. After receipt of the quotes and timelines the board could host a special meeting to discuss the implications. Director Lenz also asked that the board also be sensitive to the understanding that no staff have been hired as she is not sure the pool will open and staff are not prone to accept positions that could fall through. Commissioner Hamm also asked the board if this funding is worth the usage the pool is getting when these funds could be going to other projects that the Park District has or is undertaking.

Commissioner Hemingway recommended the board set up a special meeting for May 2nd at the Macomb Park District main office, in which the city could have adequate time to provide the Park District with the specifications of the repairs they are proposing.

9. Discussion of Macomb Park District Board of Commissioners Membership. –

Commissioner Sower announced his stepping down to from the board due to relocation. Sowers thanked the community for allowing him be on the board for such an extensive period of time and the district staff for all the work that they do for the community.

Commissioner Hemingway made a motion to introduce a Resolution to thank Commissioner Sowers for his service to the district. Commissioner Horrell second the motion. The motion passed (5 ayes, 0 nays).

Commissioner Horrell made a motion to take a five minute recess. Commissioner Hamm second. The motion passed on consensus.

10. Discussion of Board Officers and possible action – Commission Hemingway announced the need for a new Vice President for the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Horrell nominated Commissioner Pettigrew. Commissioner Sowers second the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain).

11. Open Commissioner Presentation and discussion of future agenda items - None.

7:42 PM Meeting adjourned on motion from Sowers, second by Hamm.

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Lenz, Secretary
Macomb Park District