

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 09/15/15

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: John Hemingway, Jim Bloom, Pat Sowers, Valencia Pettigrew & Steve Horrell
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 August Macomb Park District Board of Commissioners regular meeting. Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).

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

4. Public Comment – None

5. Commissioner Oath of Office - Secretary Peterson administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner Steve Horrell.

6. President's report – President Hemingway stated that on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioner he wanted to welcome Commissioner Horrell to the board in this critical time of expansion and change. He explained that in 2016 this board will further develop Veterans Park, continue promoting special events and hire a new director. Any one is significant but all in the same year means a lot of work and dedication. Hemingway said to that end the board retreat can move forward now that the district has the full complement of commissioners.

7. Director's report – Peterson informed the Board that he is starting to assemble departmental request for projects and equipment for 2016. The request will be reviewed and prioritized to create the 2016 Consolidated Account budget with the understanding that the most significant expense will be the Veterans Park Phase 2 development. Peterson stated that the district does not yet have a certified contractor confirmed to conduct the inspection of the structure and systems at Glenwood Pool but expects to reach agreement soon. The district has decided to down size the proposed parking area for afterhours visitors at Lakeview Nature Area. Doing so will allow the district to do the construction with district staff thereby reducing cost. The smaller area can be enlarged easily should usage indicate the need for additional parking. Peterson reported that district received a 36% property tax distribution, the remaining 10% is expected in late November or early December typically. Due to the proposed State of Illinois legislation the superintendents are reviewing the possible effects and making recommendations should cuts of services be necessary.

8. Committee reports – Finance Committee – Treasurer Bloom reported that all accounts are strong but reminded commissioners that while there remains some remaining tax receipts from property taxes and the personal property replacement tax (PPRT) there will be considerably less incoming revenue until next spring. Therefore these balances must sustain the district for several months. In addition while the Consolidated Account has a very large balance the majority of those funds are dedicated to the Veterans Park Phase 2 project.

On behalf of the Dog Park Committee, Commissioner Petigrew reported that the committee recommends the district install a camera enabling the public the option to view the dog park through the internet. This installation would allow visitors to see conditions and activities at the park before deciding to visit at that time. In that way it would help to prevent some of the user conflict reported and afford the district and others the ability to monitor vandalism or other issues of conduct at any time. The cost would be approximately \$850 for installation and \$165 and month which is considerable less than providing on site staff or implementing regulations that would at best difficult to effectively enforce. In addition the option of constructing a second entrance must be reexamined since the original quotes were considerably higher than anticipated.

Commissioner Bloom suggested the director proceeded with the camera option as it is within the director's discretionary authority to implement. The board concurred without dissent.

9. Report on Summer Fall special events Lenz - Superintendent Rachel Lenz reviewed the recent special events held at Lakeview, Ball Fore and Veterans parks. Events had a wide range of participation, as the events were designed and marketed with that intention. Lenz offered examples as the small family events at Lakeview such as National Marshmallow Day drew only a few families whereas the recent Kite festival drew over 1800 visitors. In addition she cited the improved Moonlight Mini at Ball Fore brought in 800 hundred participants for a round of golf on the near dark course and the largest crowd to date for Movies in the Park exceeded 1000 visitors. Another major event which indications are that it is expected to grow significantly next year was the Fall Music Festival which drew over 1500 visitors. Lenz explained that many of these events would not be possible without a number of area business and organizations sponsorship and support.

As the first year of serious efforts to provide special event programming Lenz expressed that she felt events to be successful however, there has also been a lot of learning taken place to improve events in the future. Lenz stated that there are three events scheduled at this point for the near future, the final Moonlight Mini and movies in the Park. Additionally and most significantly the Regional Quidditch Tournament to be held in Veterans in late November. Other smaller events in association with the upcoming holidays and winter activities are under consideration at this point. Lenz reported that there are other events being researched for 2016. As our skills advance and with improved facilities she expects the next year to be very successful

10. Report on current status of the Veteran's Park Phase 2 development - Director Peterson explained that the pre-bid meeting was held on September 3rd with only a few potential bidders in attendance. A review of the deduct alternatives were reviewed and it was explained that the determination of lowest bidder may dependent on the district's decisions regarding these deduct options. The bid opening is scheduled for September 22nd. Depending upon the results it may be necessary for the board to call a special meeting to review the various options in an effort to keep the price at or near the 1.4 million dollars allotted for the project. Peterson indicated that If an acceptable bid is determined, it would be to district's benefit to award as soon as would be practical to allow as much work as possible in 2015 so as to not lose the balance of the current construction season.

11. Report on the current status of the CAP (Y group) committee meeting - President Hemingway reported that he was not able to attend the meeting and Commissioner Bloom had volunteered to represent the district at this month's meeting. Commissioner Bloom reported that the group investigated the options and potential for

continuing the effort with the assistance of a firm experienced in both this type of facility and working with a coalition of agencies and organizations on the possible undertaking. Bloom explained that as yet there is not a clear definition of the individual roles and responsibilities of the parties involved. He explained that the governmental bodies include the district as well as the City of Macomb and the Macomb School District that must assure compliance with statute and obligations differing from the private organizations. In addition Bloom stated that the uncertainty regarding proposed property tax legislation may also impact involvement. Bloom stated that he had contacted State Representative Hammond to express his personal concerns regarding this effort. President Hemingway thank Commissioner Bloom for his attendance and indicated that depending upon his availability he may have to ask him to attend should another conflict arise.

12. Consideration and possible action on Resolution 15-4 IMRF Long Term Care Program - Hemingway explained that this action would clear the way for qualified employees to participate in the program endorsed by IMRF. He clarified that participation was voluntary by the individual and paid for by the individual thereby at no cost to the district. Commissioner Bloom moved to approve Resolution 15-4. The motion was seconded by Horrell. The motion passed on roll call vote (5 ayes - 0 nays).

13. Consideration and possible action regarding the Board retreat - Hemingway explained that the retreat will educate and review the duties and responsibilities of the commissioners and cover the information provided by IAPD regarding the search and hiring process for a new director. Hemingway said that according to information from commissioners the preferred date he was proposing for the retreat will be on October 10 and expected to take approximately 2 hours, the time and location to be determined. No objections were expressed by the commissioners. Hemingway assured the commissioners that he would get back to them as soon as possible with balance of the details

14. Open Commissioner presentation and discussion of future agenda items - none

6:47 Meeting adjourned on motion from Bloom, second by Sowers