

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 12/18/18

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: John Hemingway, Valencia Pettigrew, Russ Hamm, & Philip Weiss

Attorney: Joe O'Donnell

Staff Present: Rachel Lenz

Media and others: 1

6:01 p.m. –President Hemingway declared the meeting open.

2. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Weiss moved for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Pettigrew 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 Weiss moved for approval of the regularly scheduled November meeting minutes. Commissioner Pettigrew second the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays). Treasurer Hamm gave a summary of the each of the consolidated fund and general fund balances year to date. Commissioner Weiss moved to approve of the bills and transfers and monthly financial statements. Commissioner Pettigrew second the motion. The November financial statements and December bills were approved on roll call vote (4 ayes – 0 nays).

4. Public Comment – None

5. President's report – President Hemingway announced he would be running for a second term on the Illinois Association of Park Districts Board of Commissioners.

6. Director's report – Director Lenz updated the commissioners on the Letter writing campaign that had been going on, encouraging community members to send in letters of support to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the OSLAD grant proposal submitted back on October 1. Lenz had received 77 commitments and 46 copies of letters sent. Beyond the campaign end of the year meetings concerning budgets, staff evaluations, insurance, etc. were all taking place and going well. Director Lenz informed the board that the Park District would be closing for the standard Holiday break that they have done for many many years. Lenz discussed planning initiatives happening for 2019 including staff orientations and let the board know to expect some changes in operations with Ball Fore Family Entertainment Center. These changes are based off of number driven and evidence based data and Lenz hopes to see an increase in usage in the coming years. Director Lenz ended her report with an overwhelming amount of thanks to the community for the amazing amount of support extended to the District this year and more over thanks to the District's staff for the countless hours, effort, dedication, and belief in the new direction taken over the last couple of years.

7. Consideration and action on the 2019 Property Tax Levy Ordinance #330 – President Hemingway read into the minutes: ORDINANCE NO. 330 - 2018 AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND ASSESSING THE TAXES OF THE MACOMB PARK DISTRICT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019. Director Lenz provided a brief overview of the Levy development process and how the number listed in the levy were reached.

Commissioner Hamm moved to approve Ordinance #330. Commissioner Pettigrew second the motion. Ordinance #330 was approved on roll call vote (4 ayes – 0 nays).

8. Informational Discussion on Presidential Succession – President Hemingway wanted to take a minute to explain the nuances of the office of Board President with the upcoming election in January. The board president (also referred to here as “president”) is to be elected from current board members on a date specified by the board (*Code*, 4-8, p.39) or as becomes necessary (e.g., by resignation). The standard term of office is one year from the election date specified by the board (*Code*, 4-8, p.39) or for the remainder of a term in the case of an intermediate vacancy (e.g., created by resignation). In either case, the president shall serve “until [her/his] successor shall be elected” (*Code*, 4-8, p.39). Thus, if for some reason a new president is not or cannot be elected, the sitting president remains in office. As to qualifications, the president must be a member of the board of commissioners. This is the only qualification for the office of president required by law.

President Hemingway also took a moment to thoroughly go through the authority of the president derived from legal status of the board. The board is a *legislative* body and sets rules and policies for the efficient operation of the district” (emphasis added). The board’s authority is legislative only, and therefore neither administrative nor executive. Put another way, the board has broad financial, governance, and fiduciary authority but no managerial, programmatic or operational authority. The president of a park district board does not possess any independent executive powers other than those granted to him or her by board action.” The president, in other words, cannot issue orders to the executive director or to any other district employees, or take any binding action without an express grant of authority by the board. Again, the Macomb Park District Board has not provided grants of authority to the board president. Hemingway summarized with, a park district board is a legislative entity that *has* financial, governance, and fiduciary authority but does *not* have managerial, programmatic or operational authority. By extension, these limitations apply to board officers and members. The board president is not a manager or an executive, but one member of this legislative board charged with seeing that it functions effectively as such.

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

6:45 PM Meeting adjourned on motion from Hamm, second by Weiss. The motion passed (4 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Lenz, Secretary
Macomb Park District