

MACOMB PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 09/15/2020

MINUTES:

Commissioners present: Philip Weiss, Stirling Edwards, Russ Hamm, & Emily Gamage

Attorney: Joe O'Donnell

Staff Present: Rachel Lenz, Julie Eggleston, & Rok Locksley

Media and others: 3

1. 6:04 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 (4 ayes – 0 nays).
3. **Consideration of and action on the minutes, bills and transfers, and monthly financial statements** – Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the regularly scheduled July meeting minutes. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion passed (4 ayes – 0 nays).

Treasurer Hamm gave an overview of the consolidated fund and general fund balances. Hamm noted that Director Lenz and staff have done an excellent job adjusting expenses as revenues are not coming in. Hamm also informed the board the District received the next tax distribution of 10% allocation at \$134,529 on August 31; approximately 35% of the distribution is yet to be distributed to the District. Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the bills and transfers and monthly financial statements. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The August financial statements and September bills were approved on roll call vote (4 ayes – 0 nays).

4. **Peace Fellow Graduate Assistant welcome & introduction – Jason “Rok” Locksley** – Rok provided a brief history about his background and experiences. Mr. Locksley, hailing from a small town in Virginia, began as a theatre major who went on a personal quest to gain more life experience to inform his art. The guiding principal behind his exploration was and continues to be, “When I become comfortable I change...I have to change something in my life.” Experiences that shaped Locksley’s life include, but are not limited to, one year of living in the woods, one year in AmeriCorp in CCC, three years with the PeaceCorp residing in Moldova (Romania), transitions as a recruiter for the PeaceCorp, which led him to Western Illinois University, just over a year in the Philippines, and then back to WIU after being evacuated due to COVID to participate in the RPTA graduate program. Projects Mr. Locksley has taken part in include building parks/playgrounds, animal shelters, youth center, outdoor leadership center, and more.
5. **Public Comment** – None
6. **President’s report** – President Weiss informed the board that he received Dr. Robinett’s report from his research he conducted for the Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, which he believes will be very beneficial to the continued work to the Strategic Plan. Weiss also informed the board that he watched the IAPD Webinar on board responsibilities and strategic plan development. He encouraged the commissioners to take the opportunity to watch it as well as he found it very informative. President Weiss end with a congratulations to Director Lenz and her staff on the excellent event kick off for the Patton Park Project, as well as the Commissioners who were able to attend/assist and Representative Norine Hammond for coming out as well.

7. **Director's report** – Director Lenz kicked off her report announcing the Park District's "SafeSix" campaign, encouraging community members to wear facial coverings and practice safe social distancing. Lenz expressed her excitement with the turnout and positive feedback received during the first Patton Park Project reveal event. She also took the opportunity to thank the staff for the extra attention given to developing the materials for the event, the commissioners for dedicating their evening to supporting the event, Lisa from Magnolias, media outlets that showed up to help spread the word about the project, and Representative Norine Hammond not only for showing up to the event but for her continued support of the Park District initiatives and her encouragement. Lenz also mentioned a multitude of community organizations that had representatives attend the event or have began a partnership with the Park District to assist in this development: Macomb Beautiful Association, McDonough County Humane Society, Gossel's Dog House, Spring Lake Park, Prairie Land Conservancy, and U or I Extension. Lenz distributed donation forms, tribute tree/memorial bench form, and dog park impression stones. The next Patton Park Project "Open House" events will be September 25 from 4:00 – 7:00 and September 27 from 1:00 – 4:00.

Lenz announced the next and final Movie in the Park for the season is set for September 18th and they will be showing Onward. Ball Fore Family Entertainment Center is (hopefully) scheduled to open within the next two weeks, pending any unforeseen delays. The Macomb Park District has been approved for a \$27,000 allocation with the state COVID relief program, Local CURE. Lenz had the opportunity to serve on the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Governance Committee, interview applicants for the "At-Large" board seat. Adult Softball will be hosting a Fall League. Lenz finished her report congratulating the city, the Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Macomb Rotary Club for the recent work and unveiling of the Lincoln Topiary Statue.

8. **McDonough County Special Recreation Association update – Julie Eggleston** – Program Supervisor Eggleston started off thanking the board for allowing her to work with the MCSRA and continue its legacy in the community. Eggleston shared with the board the development/updating being done to several SRA documents, new program opportunities being built through virtual platforms, new partnerships being built to expand the SRA's current reach/service area, development she is working on to build the volunteer opportunities within the MCSRA, developing an internship program, and much more.
9. **Selection of First Midstate Inc. as Underwriter/Placement Agent and Chapman and Cutler LLP as Bond/Disclosure Counsel to the Underwriter/Placement Agent with respect to the District's General Obligation Park Bonds, action possible** – President Weiss shared that the District has been working with First Midstate for approximately 14 years to complete the bond process. Lenz informed the board that interest rates are extremely low this year. Commissioner Hamm moved to select First Midstate Inc. as Underwriter/Placement Agent and Chapman and Cutler LLP as Bond/Disclosure Counsel to the Underwriter/Placement Agent with respect to the District's General Obligation Park Bonds. Commissioner Gamage second the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote (4 ayes – 0 nays).
10. **Open Commissioner Presentation and discussion of future agenda items** – N/A

7:01 PM Meeting adjourned on motion from Edwards, second by Gamage. The motion passed (4 ayes, 0 nays).

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Lenz, Secretary
Macomb Park District