

**HARVEY PARK DISTRICT (“HPD”)**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE HARVEY PARK DISTRICT HELD IN THE  
GLORIA TAYLOR BANQUET HALL  
14821 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS 60426  
ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016 AT 6:40 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Commissioners: Stafford Owens; Barbara Moore; Eric Patterson and Anthony McCaskill. Also present: Director K. McCaskill and Attorney Chris Clark.

President McCaskill called the meeting to order at 6:40.

Commissioner Moore led the prayer and pledge was said by all.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes.

President McCaskill asked the Board to look at agenda and state if there were any additions or deletions. [There was none.]

**Approval of the Minutes:**

President McCaskill stated: Approval of the minutes for April 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

**MOTION** was made by President McCaskill to approve the Minutes, and was seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

Commissioner Moore commented about the minutes. She stated that the Board talked about going to Springfield, but there was nothing in the minutes where a motion was made to close the Park District down for the staff. She stated that she reviewed the bills list for a bus for \$900 and there should have been a poll or motion that the board should have passed for this. Commissioner Moore stated: ***“For the Record:*** there was not anything in the minutes approving that trip.”

President McCaskill then responded that trip was for the Annual Conference and each commissioner received an e-mail from the Illinois Park District Association with the date and time. Secondly, the discussion about the Springfield trip was not just mentioned in last month’s meeting, but the month before (March). We have a video tape.

Commissioner Moore stated that she is not finished. She wants the record to reflect that the commissioners did not vote on the trip to Springfield nor did they vote on the close of business for the Park District. That’s it.

President McCaskill asked for the roll to be called approving the minutes.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes.

**Matters of the Public.**

President McCaskill asked for comments from the public.

Ms. Thomas stated that she paid the new increased rate for a rental for a birthday party for her grandchild. However, she has not heard of the Park District voting to increase the rate. She then requested the money that she feels the Park District overcharged her and stated that it is illegal to raise the rate without the commissioners voting on it.

Commissioner Moore confirmed that she did not vote on the rates being increased.

President McCaskill stated that they would revisit the January minutes. It was either December or January the Board did vote to increase the rate and asked for anyone to look at the website as the minutes are posted on the website, or he would get a copy to Commissioner Moore and Ms. Thomas.

Ms. Thomas stated that she wants her money back because she was overcharged.

Further discussions were had by Ms. Thomas and the Board Members on this issue.

Commissioner Moore stated: ***“For the Record:*** Commissioner Patterson is requesting that Ms. Thomas receives her money back.” Commissioner Moore asked how much was she overcharged. Ms. Thomas stated that it should have been \$115 an hour and was charged \$145 an hour. She stated that she put up a \$300 deposit. Commissioner Moore asked if she received her deposit back. Ms. Thomas confirmed that her deposit was returned to her, but not \$300, only \$250.

Commissioner Moore wanted to know what happened to the other \$50. Ms. Thomas stated that she had a birthday party for a 3 year old and should not have had to pay a deposit. Commissioner Patterson asked her to repeat. Ms. Thomas said she had a party for a 3 year old and paid \$175 and should not have been asked for a deposit.

President McCaskill stated that this is the Park District’s policy and the Board did approve a rate increase of \$25.

Ms. Thomas stated that she’s been to all the meetings and does not remember. President McCaskill stated that this is why Ms. Thomas should get a copy of the minutes – request a copy of the minutes.

Commissioner Moore stated again that Commissioner Patterson said that the Park District should give her money back. President McCaskill then stated that if Ms. Thomas receives money back, then everyone should receive his or her money back. Again Commissioner Moore stated that Commissioner Owens said he didn’t recall voting to raise the rates and she certainly does not recall voting on raising the rates.

Further discussions were had by Board Members on this issue.

Vanessa Wade took the floor and stated that she was saddened to hear that the Senior's Mother's Day was not happening, but I further found out that was a mistake. She stated that it did go on at the Community Center and it should not have happened there. She commended Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Owens and Ms. Thomas for a great turnout and wanted to thank them for not forgetting about the mothers.

President McCaskill then stated that there was also a Pre-Mother's Day event at the Park District and asked the Director to expound on the event.

Ms. Thomas then asked if the Park District if have programs of their own instead of copying off the seniors. Commissioner Patterson responded by letting Ms. Thomas know that these are the citizens of Harvey's programs and if anything is given at the Park District everyone is welcome to attend. However, if you choose not to come, that would be your choice. He reiterated that anything given at the Park District, Ms. Thomas and any other taxpaying citizen from Harvey is more than welcome to attend. Ms. Thomas asked Commissioner Patterson to let the director know.

Vanessa Wade stated that what Ms. Thomas means that there is always a fee to pay.

Director McCaskill stated as a point of clarity, this issue came up at a previous meeting. Again, if there is going to be an event held by the Harvey Senior Advisory Board, they must incur a charge. She continued to explain that she worked with Ms. Elaine McDowd. They both came up with a rate that was fair and a below-level rate and it was agreed upon that the date was set and Ms. Thomas made the decision to pull her team and program out of the Park District.

Director McCaskill explained that the reason why the date was not available is because Thornton Township High School was doing their testing programs at our facility and therefore the Senior Advisory Board could not be accommodated at that time. The students tested every day that week as they do every year. They had to do Juniors and Seniors this year. Ms. McDowd agreed that she would use the Holmes Facility and wanted it from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. as she needed preparation time for the meals and had to decorate as well. We agreed to schedule that day specifically for the Harvey Senior Program, however, Ms. Thomas made the decision to pull her program out and this was nothing the commissioners or the Park District neglected.

Director McCaskill stated that as the commissioners have instructed her if the Seniors are given free events, then other organizations would have to have free events too. Director McCaskill stated that she just wanted to make sure the record reflects that we agreed to schedule that date specifically for the seniors.

Further discussions were had by Board Members and Ms. Thomas on this issue and the issue of changing the date to Friday.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report:**

**MOTION** was made by President McCaskill to approve the Treasurer's Report, and was seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes.

**Approval of the Bills List:**

**MOTION** was made by President McCaskill to approve the Bill's List, and was seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes.

**Old Business:**

*[There is no Old Business.]*

**New Business:**

President McCaskill requested the Director to speak about the special projects.

Director McCaskill stated that there were two. The Little League Park is actually completed which is going very well. The children will have their first game this Saturday (May 21). The other project is that the Park District will be collaborating with the Water Reclamation because of the flooding in our parks. This will be done free of charge and won't cost the Park District anything. They will come out and level the fields in case of a bad rain, the children can still come out and play on the fields.

President McCaskill then reported that the Park District is going through an Administrative Review. It has been a long process. Some of the Park District's policies may not in the best of shape so the auditors gave us recommendations which has been e-mailed to all of the commissioners back in April and also included a copy in the commissioner's packets. He stated that he and Commissioner Patterson and President McCaskill met with the auditors during a Finance Meeting and that everything noted in red are the recommended changes. We should be depositing money every 48 hours, however, the auditors now recommend that we do this once a week. This is the only thing that is not in red as far as the changes are for our financial policies. The auditors would like to conclude the Administrative Review on Tuesday (May 24).

President McCaskill further reported that everything looks to be in good shape except the few small things that need to be changed in the policy review. He then welcomed questions as he sent this material to the commissioners back in April and again reported that this should conclude the Administrative Review.

**Approval to Accept HPD's Policy & Procedures Manual:**

**MOTION** was made by President McCaskill to approve the Park District's Policy & Procedures Manual, and was seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes.

President McCaskill then stated that during the Administrative Review, he requested the Board to do two things. The first thing is that we request the Auditors to go back and do a complete audit of FY13. They did a sample of FY13 and some of the things they found were very disturbing. The bank accounts from MB Financial – President McCaskill stated that copies could be made to anyone in the public. [A copy of documents was passed to Attorney Clark.]

Ms. Thomas requested a copy. President McCaskill stated that she could have a copy and continued that for the month of October and December – the highlights for check number 1906 for \$1,000; check number 1915 for \$1,000; check number 1919 for \$1,500; check number 1840 for \$500; and check number 1980 for \$1,000. What they were able to find is that the Park District has a lot of missing receipts for these transactions. These particular checks were for our Annual Coat Drive and there was a total of \$5,000, which were not Board approved. There was \$5,000 of non-receipts for the coat drive. One of the things that stood out and very mind-boggling, are that one of the checks were actually cashed after the Coat Drive event was over. On 12/23/13, check number 1980 for \$1,000, was cashed after the Coat Drive.

President McCaskill requested that the Board give the auditors a chance to do a complete audit of FY13 as they have other recommendations once we can get a motion for them to do the complete audit of FY13's back records and ***"For the Record:*** The check that was made from MB Financial Bank – the account is actually closed, however the name on the checks was made to the order of "Barbara Moore" a total of five checks, signed by Barbara Moore and Dionne Cooper, with no receipts." President McCaskill also stated: ***"For the Record:*** None of these checks were board approved."

President McCaskill stated that he would like the auditors to go back and go through each and every bank because the audit that we received from Omatosha & Associates was not a clean audit. They did not match up receipts with bank statements or anything of the sort. He then stated that the Park District needs to pay attention to its finances so as the Board moves forward, we can have everything right.

**Approval of the FY2013 Audit:**

**MOTION** was made by President McCaskill to approve the auditors to go back and audit FY2013, and was seconded by Commissioner Owens.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes.

President McCaskill reported that one of the things that they talked about was check signing. According to what was told to President McCaskill and based on the minutes, prior to him becoming a commissioner, was that the staff person that was added to the account was for emergency purposes only.

President McCaskill then stated: ***“For the Record:*** I looked at the Bank Statements and the Resolutions from MB Financials and Commissioner Owens resigned back in June of 2013. I was voted in as a commissioner in June of 2013 and did not become a signer on the account until March of 2014.” There are a lot of questionable items that went out the door without board approval. He reminded the Board that there is ongoing litigation against Mr. Williams who was the accountant on board during this time frame.

President McCaskill also reported that it was recommended by the States Attorney that the Park District file a Police Report with the Harvey Police Department. Once the report is filed, then the States Attorney would take over the case and do their own forensic audit because they have also subpoenaed every bank record from the Park District per the request of the auditors.

Commissioner Moore then stated: ***“For the Record:*** No. 1, Harvey Park District has never given Barbara Moore \$5,000 for a coat drive. No. 2, I turn in every receipt. There was a complete file with every one of my receipts in it.” In addition, for President McCaskill to state that Barbara Moore received \$5,000? She states the most that she has ever received is \$1,000. When money comes in, they compare if Commissioner Moore receives \$250, and may receive another \$250, and another. They add all of those checks and writes Commissioner Moore one check. That’s the bottom line.

President McCaskill stated: ***“For the Record:*** If you want to go to the first page which is 12/03/2013, -- *interruption by Commissioner Moore: “When you’re shredding, you should find out where my receipts are”* – Check No. 1906, there is a check for \$1,000; if you go to 12/11/2013, Check No. 1915, there is a check for \$1,000. That’s \$2,000. If you flip the page and go to Check No. 1840, there is a check for \$500 on 10/31/2013; if you go to the last page, 12/23/2013, Check No. 1980, there is a check for \$1,000. If you add up the total amount of checks just for the 2013 Coat Drive, it is \$5,000.”

Vanessa Wade then stated that is not right. President McCaskill responded and asked if he could finish. The Park District collected \$1,400 in donations that was actually deposited into our corporation account and we gave 66 children coats in 2013 based on the raffle numbers that was given out. Commissioner Moore asked 66? She then stated that she has always given out 300 or 400 coats and does not know where he is getting information from and it is not true. President McCaskill stated that for Commissioner Moore to state that she has not received over \$1,000 is not true. Commissioner Moore stated that she has never received no more than \$1,000.

President McCaskill responded by stating that this was never Board approved – since everyone wants to talk about how we pay our vendors, and not having board approval, however, it is nothing for him to argue about.

Vanessa Wade then stated that this is nepotism and repeated this is nepotism. President McCaskill asked Ms. Wade to look up the definition of nepotism. *[Arguments]* Dr. McCaskill does not work for Anthony McCaskill. Dr. McCaskill works for the entire Harvey Board of Commissioners. She is highly qualified and over-qualified. If we want to have discussions about prior directors and their qualifications and credentials, President McCaskill welcomed the discussion.

Further discussions were had by Board Members on this issue.

[Interruptions – conversations about running race for mayor]

President McCaskill stated that he is not making anything up and that he was getting his information from the auditors. President McCaskill then stated that these are merely the facts being presented to the public.

[More interruptions]

Ms. Thomas said we don't need to bury anyone here.

**Administrative Report:**

Director McCaskill stated that there is no administrative report as she has discussed the two items discussed under special projects.

President McCaskill announced that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gloria Taylor Banquet Hall.

There are no legal updates. Attorney Clark stated that there will be legal updates prior to the next meeting.

Commissioner Patterson then took the floor. He stated that everyone's concerned with everything besides the Park District. He stated that everyone should pay attention to their parks. He reported that the employees are working very hard to make HPD's parks beautiful so that family's can have fun. He continued reporting that he and President McCaskill are out there day-to-day to make sure that things are looking good in our parks even though it has been raining a lot in May. Commissioner Patterson stated that this is the reason the grass has not been cut because of the rain – it looks like a lake. Please look at your parks and he welcomed anyone's ideas or suggestions as he will always try to accommodate the citizens of Harvey.

President McCaskill also added that they finished Little League painting although someone tagged it with graffiti and we had to send the staff back out to correct it. They also tagged it with gang signs – the swing sets at Taft and at Little League. Commissioner Patterson also reminded everyone that HPD does a lot to repainting. The citizen said the lights are even out on Halsted.

A citizen suggested putting more lighting around the park area. President McCaskill reported that the lights were being busted out by bricks. They must be repaired. Commissioner Patterson stated that we put the lights in and someone busts them out. All we can do is keep repairing them. President McCaskill then reported that they have done plumbing – a new hot water tank was installed. He reminded everyone that there is a game Saturday so that the field can be utilized.

President McCaskill concluded stating that HPD is doing the best they can, however, the number one objective for the commissioners is to adhere to policy and oversee the budget, however, in order for us to do that – for an example: There was a misquote in HPD FY2016 stating that Harvey Park District has over 2 million dollars which is not true. The money keeps rolling over and not getting rid of the actual debt. That is what we are trying to do now. We cannot move forward as a District financially, ask for money, for instance, bonds, loans, etc. until we clean up the past. That is what we are trying to do now with the Administrative Review. This is not an attack on one person, but an attack on everyone who has ever sat behind the seats of a commissioner. It makes no sense that we received \$15,000,000 in bonds in the last 23 years with the exception of the last 3 years. We also collected tax-levied money. If you look at that money and have to put a roof on Holmes, King Park, the Administrative Building, and Little League Park; where did the money go that had to be allocated? These are questions that banks and financial institution wants to know when we are asking for a bond. HPD have mismanaged money over and over again. President McCaskill stated that he was not speaking because he was not there, but these are facts. The proof is in the pudding. We are only collecting 38% of the tax levy, the budget is \$854,000 so we have to cut back and pay off some of the debt. As a credit to the commissioners, we've worked hard to come out of the hole (\$4 million dollars). We are only \$435,000 in debt which incredible in the last 3 years. We are moving forward. People are saying that we spent \$10,000 for the trip to Springfield. That is not true – we spent less than \$2,000 and all the commissioners attended. Let's just talk about the facts and try not to argue and move the Park District and the community forward.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Yes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.