

**HARVEY PARK DISTRICT (“HPD”)**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE HARVEY PARK DISTRICT HELD IN THE  
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE HARVEY PARK DISTRICT  
ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

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

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

President McCaskill called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. Commissioner Moore led with a prayer and pledge.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

President McCaskill stated that Commissioner Thompson wanted to attend the meeting via telephone conference and stated that if any of the commissioners seconded the motion, they would set up the conference call

**MOTION** to accept Commissioner Thompson via telephone conference was made by Commissioner Moore, however there was no second. [*Motion died.*]

**Letter E – Agenda Additions or Deletions:**

President McCaskill stated that the Board needed to approve several sets of minutes for approval. The minutes were e-mailed to all commissioners (cc'd the attorney and director), and there was also a hard copy in the Commissioners' packets. The first is the November 19, 2015 Regular Board Minutes.

**MOTION** to approve the November 19, 2015 Regular Board Minutes was made by Commissioner Moore. (Commissioner Owens asked for time to review them.) Seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

President McCaskill stated that the Minutes for September 20, 2015 were amended, and asked the Board to review them.

**MOTION** to approve the September 20, 2015 Regular Board Minutes was made by Commissioner Patterson, and seconded by President McCaskill.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – would like to review and put this on hold; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present. **MOTION PASSED.**

President McCaskill asked the Board to review the Minutes for August 20, 2015. [*Board reviewing minutes*]. President McCaskill then corrected the director regarding Executive Session minutes that were included in the packet as they should have been placed in the binder because there are legal and privileged information in the Executive Session Minutes. The director stated that she thought each commissioner were supposed to initial each Executive Session on the minutes and each one of those would go in the permanent archives. President McCaskill stated that they should have been reviewed in executive session and then voted on upon return. The director stated that she understood.

**MOTION** to approve the August 20, 2015 Regular Board Minutes was made by President McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

**Letter G – Treasury Report.**

Commissioner Patterson pass the report to the Director and she read from the January 21, 2016 submitted report as follows:

Account ending in 6730	--	\$ 2,544.87
Account ending in 1700	--	\$ 49,820.52
Account ending in 1376	--	\$ 11,466.76
Account ending in 3700	--	\$ 1,283.16
Account ending in 1570	--	\$ 430.00

President McCaskill stated that he would like to amend the Agenda to include the Bills List after Letter E.

**MOTION** to Amend the Agenda to include the Bills List was made by President McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

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

President McCaskill asked the Board to review the Bills List and compare it with what is in the corporate account (ending in 1700) which is \$49,820.52. He then asked the Board to review the total for December, 2015 which is approximately \$30,000. He asked the Board to go through the list to see what has to be paid and reminded the Board that there would be no tax received until possibly April, so HPD needs to hold on to as much as they could.

President McCaskill stated that everything on the list should be paid. He reminded the Board that they should not have to vote on IPARKs because it had been voted on to pay that bill in previous meetings; the UGrant Fund definitely needs to be paid; and everything else are normal bills. However, President McCaskill advised the Director that he did not agree with the bottom line figure which was \$30,000 and he believes it is more.

President McCaskill stated that the Minutes for September 20, 2015 were amended, and asked the Board to review them.

**MOTION** was made to table the Bills List until a new list was ran by President McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

Commissioner Patterson stated that he did not agree with some of the items on the bills list either.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

**Letter H – Old Business.**

No Old Business.

**Letter I -- New Business.**

Director McCaskill reported there are a couple of things that was brought to his attention. There are no late hours at the Park District and would like to keep the office open on Wednesday to 7:00 p.m. and change the Regular Board Meetings to Wednesdays as well. Some commissioners would like to attend other Board Meetings like the Library Board, which meets on Thursdays; School Districts are on Monday. Commissioner Owens reported that Township Meetings were held on Tuesdays. President McCaskill also stated that the citizens may want to talk to the commissioners for the first 30 minutes before the meeting starts.

**MOTION** was made to change the Regular Board Meetings from every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday to every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month by President McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Owens.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

President McCaskill stated that changing the office hours on Wednesday to 7:00 p.m. would be good because once the summer activities pick up, especially in the Parks, HPD would be able to showcase the buildings and the parks; and have the office open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the summer – just an idea. Also, he stated that there will be summer baseball and some parents would probably like to come in on Saturdays to pay their fees so staff will also be needed at the Park District as well.

**MOTION** was made to change the business office hours (for closing) to 7:00 p.m., on Wednesdays by President McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Owens.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

President McCaskill spoke at the Martin Luther King special and there was a great turnout even though it was very cold weather. He commended the staff on doing a great job.

President McCaskill then stated that the commissioners has a non-paying position and they try to attend a conference once a year if they can afford to. He stated that Commissioner Moore has a park named her for 18 years of service which is great and would like to do something special for the other commissioners.

President McCaskill wants to rename Taft Park to Commissioner Brenda Thompson as this is her 15<sup>th</sup> year as a commissioner and not only change the name, but post it at Holmes, which is HPD's museum so that people would know the history from Taft to Brenda L. Thompson Park.

Ashland Park which is Meger Evans should be changed to Commissioner Patterson who has been serving the Park District going on 13 years.

Kowanas Park (158<sup>th</sup> & Myrtle) should be changed to Commissioner Owens for his 5 years of service and hard work and also Commissioner Owens works with the Thornton Township and has help HPD with much needed services.

President McCaskill stated that there will be resolutions for each of the Park; 16-01-21 and would like that for the three parks that were just renamed. It needs to be a referendum put on the ballots so that people can understand the history of how the commissioners worked so hard to serve the people. Also, Commissioner Barbara Moore Park will be added in that Resolution.

Further discussions were had by Board Members on this issue.

**MOTION** was made to pass Resolution 16-01-21 to rename Meger Evans Park to Commissioner Patterson; Kowanas Park to Commissioner Owens; and Taft Park to Commissioner Thompson and to safeguard the names of the parks, including Barbara Moore, to add a clause in the Resolution to include a referendum in the resolution by President McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Owens.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – No; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not Present.

**Letter J – Administrative Report.**

Director McCaskill reported that the Board of Commissioners are expected to attend the IPE Conference on the 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> and if there are any questions or changes needed to be made, she needs to make the changes today. There are two major building projects. One is a cosmetic uplift at Holmes Park – the maintenance team has been repainting the park and stripping the floors because we are not in a position to replace or do any real renovations. The other major facelift is at King Park. The staff did a great job of getting it cleaned up. They have done an excellent job of cleaning out the storage and painting it. The storage has been cleaned out so it will be able to be rented upcoming in May.

Building Rentals: People are renting out the buildings at a very very high rate. The dance team started today. We are seeking partnership with Aunt Martha's Healthy Start Program for teenage and young adult parents.

The King event was very successful with over 120 attendees and the feedback has been very good.

President McCaskill asked the director if the parking would be a part of the per diem check. She confirmed that it would be. Once they leave, they can pay cash or use their own debit card. Director McCaskill stated that everything has been taken care of minus the parking: You have two options: You can pay for parking and bring your receipt in and accounting can reimburse you or if you want to add it into the per diem if you know you are driving and at the point of check-in, you let them know that your car is in the garage and they will send the bill back to the Park District. Arrangements can also be made for someone to take the commissioners in the Park District Van and pick them up at the end of the conference.

**Letter K – Matters of the Public.**

Ms. Thomas took the floor.

She stated that she asked for permission to give a Social on the first Tuesday of each month to feed the seniors of Harvey or any other community that comes in and want to eat. She states that she is not asking the Board for any money and that they are paying for it on their own.

She stated that as far as she knows they are still the Senior Advisory Board as the Board has not voted or told her anything. She states that she does not want to call for a date – the Senior Advisory Board makes their plans for the year. And has been doing so for 18 years.

Commissioner Moore asked if they asked for a date for the Socials for once a month and had not been granted that date. Ms. Thomas stated that she has not received anything and talked with the director and was promised that she would get dates tonight in writing. That is what she wants.

Further discussions were had by the Board and Ms. Thomas on this issue and also the issue of rentals and fees.

President McCaskill informed Ms. Thomas and all the other citizens that he has received a request from a Latino organization that wants to use the facilities for free. They were asked to come in to fill out a rental agreement and they stated that they don't want to pay because the Park District is discriminating against them with African Americans. This is becoming a huge problem. We cannot play favoritism with different organizations.

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

President McCaskill explained that there is six or seven organizations that would like to rent or even get the same thing that the seniors want. We must have a universal policy.

Commissioner Moore then stated that the seniors have been having a monthly social for 18 years. What has changed? Commissioner Patterson stated that he is totally lost about the whole thing and he was under the impression that Ms. Thomas was having a social. Director McCaskill stated that she has been in contact with Ms. Dowd the correspondent for their group and Ms. Dowd present two lists: One for meetings and the other for Socials. Director McCaskill explained that they would work with the Park District to move things around to schedule their events. However, Ms. Thomas wants to host her events separate from what the Park District does.

Commissioners Patterson and Moore asked why does it have to be separate and why can't they do it together or combined. Ms. Thomas says she doesn't have a problem, but can't work with everybody.

Commissioner Moore stated, hypothetically, if their socials are not combined, then would the other pay? President McCaskill stated that the soccer program even wants to use the facilities free and HPD are having problems.

Vanessa Wade stated that Ms. Moore called her and asked her to put together a meeting with Ms. Thomas, Ms. Brown and Miki. I was told that I was not allowed to do that.

Director McCaskill stated, for clarity, that they have been hosting to socials a month since August of last year. Ms. Thomas does not want to do this with HPD and Ms. Brown, they want to do it as the Senior Advisory Board, which is separate and apart from HPD. They are the Community of Harvey Senior Advisory Board. Ms. Thomas corrected Director McCaskill and stated that they were still HPD's Senior Advisory Board.

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

President McCaskill then stated this has been discussed over and over and over, in October and before that. If we allow one organization to use the park free, then we must allow all and we can not afford to do this.

Commissioner Patterson stated that this was discussed with the attorney also. We can't do it for one entity, not just the Senior Advisory Board, but all the seniors because we can be sued for this. Commissioner Moore agreed.

Director McCaskill stated that, for clarity, everything was collaborative in 2015. This is new for 2016. We intended on having the socials on the first Tuesday of the month, however, Ms. Thomas' group would like to have a separate social on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday.

No one wants to take directions from Ms. Brown and no one wants to take directions from Ms. Miki so the Board was included in these conversations.

Commissioner Moore stated that all senior meetings and socials will be combined.

*[Arguments between Ms. Brown and Ms. Thomas erupts]*

More discussions were had by the Board, Ms. Thomas, and the Director on this issue.

Vanessa Wade requested for her personal belongings to be picked up tonight. That request was granted.

Director McCaskill stated that each commissioner received a letter from the City of Harvey, Mayor Eric Kellogg, on January 19, 2016. Before reading the letter, President McCaskill informed the Board and citizens of Harvey that Attorney Clark is a resident of the City of Harvey and paid for and had a rental agreement with HPD to conduct a meeting with the Park District. He did rent the hall as an aldermen, but as a resident of the City of Harvey.

There was a letter submitted by Commissioner Moore regarding that issue and would like to address that letter, and also address the letter from the Mayor as well. Basically, the letter says:

*"Please be advised that Christopher Clark of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward has attempted to call an illegal Finance Committee Meeting on January 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Alderman Clark indicates that this illegal finance meeting will be held at the Harvey Park District."*

Director McCaskill then said whatever issues they have going on across the street should not have anything to do with us over here. If a person wants to rent and pay for a facility, the Board has never got into how a person rents and never got into anyone's business as long as that person follows the rules that we set forth. The rules were followed and we have checked our policy and read the contract as well.

He then advised the Board to please understand that the City has no right to send us a letter try discourage us from renting our facilities to any resident of Harvey, it simply has no bearings on what we do at the Park District. We have a levy, we have audits on line, we have many programs, we have all the things we need to run a Park District. So whatever is going on across the street, please leave it across the street. President McCaskill stated that he will respond to this letter in rebuttal to this because it is wrong for the City to tell the commissioners how to run our

parks. This had to be addressed for the public record as it was disrespectful to each and every commissioners.

Commissioner Moore stated, ***“For the Record: The reason why I sent the letter concerning a meeting over here because the committee meeting is in court.”*** She then asked Attorney Clark if it was in court and Attorney Clark answered that it was not.

He continued explaining that not only is the City of Harvey wrong for this but also wrong for asking for Board minutes to explain how and why we rented the facility to Attorney Clark. Again, Attorney Clark paid for the facility as a resident of Harvey and Eric Kellogg and no one else is going to tell the commissioners how to run the Park District.

Commissioner Moore stated that her issue is if you have a meeting concerning across the street then the meeting should take place across the street. When the SEC filed charges against the City of Harvey and Keith Price was the President of the Library, Eric Kellogg would not allow the Chambers to be open so they moved their Board Meeting the Library and the news media was there so let's not play politics. That's fact. Let them keep their drama over there and we keep our drama over here and not intertwine it. Attorney Clark is our corporation counsel and also an alderman for the City of Harvey. That's it. President McCaskill's letter was delivered by the Harvey Police, and the very next day, he was also served a ticket for having an expired licenses plate, but his plates does not expire until October 2016 and was told that the Mayor ordered the police to issue the ticket to President McCaskill.

Further discussions were had by the Board on this issue.

#### **L – Commissioners Report.**

Commissioner Owens stated that his daughter is sleep and that and we are wasting a lot of time arguing about this.

Commissioner Moore stated that she stays in close contact with Mr. Head and reported that Mr. Head is very ill and is in South Suburban Hospital. Please keep him in prayer. President McCaskill requested that the Park District send flowers to his room.

Commissioner Patterson stated that everyone needs to lift each other up in prayer, not just Mr. Head, but everyone – the City of Harvey as a whole. We can sugarcoat, but we need prayer – everyone needs prayer at the end of the day. He stated that he has visited different Park District meetings, for instance in Tinley Park. That meeting lasted about 15-20 minutes. He does not agree with the TV and requested the TV be turned off of him. It is too much tension at the HPD meetings and too much and to do right in Harvey is to do wrong. The Park District needs prayer.

[Applause]

Further discussions were had by the Board on this issue.



Attorney Clark took the floor to speak to the citizens concerning Brenda Thompson. She has been a hero of this community most of his adult life. She has supported this community in her attempts to improve the City of Harvey in the best way she could. As a parent, she has wonderful daughters and family members whom she has always loved. She has always been willing to sacrifice for the love of her community. For years and years, decades, Brenda Thompson has done that as a commissioner here at the Harvey Park District. As Commissioner McCaskill stated earlier, to name a park after her, in Attorney Clark's personal opinion, that is most fitting because she has given so much to this community. People who don't like her respects her and people who likes her, love her. He stated that he said that to say that it is with regret to report that Ms. Thompson contacted him and informed him that she would be resigning from the Park District effective February 16, 2016. She wanted to be at the meeting tonight but was unable to due to other commitments that she has, but she wants to extend her love and affection to the Harvey Park District, the Board of Commissioners, and to the residents of the City of Harvey and will always keep you in her heart and in her mind. He asked that Brenda Thompson receive applaud for her hard work here at the Park District and in the City of Harvey.

*[Applaud]*

**MOTION** was made by President McCaskill to Break for Executive Session, and was seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not present

*[Break for Executive Session – 7:50 p.m.]    Attorney Privileged Info*

Return from Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.

**ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):**

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Yes; Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes; Thompson – Not President.

**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 – Not President.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.