

HARVEY PARK DISTRICT ("HPD")

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HARVEY PARK DISTRICT
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF
THE HARVEY PARK DISTRICT ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 AT 6:30PM

PRESENT:

Commissioner: Brenda L. Thompson (via phone), Anthony McCaskill and Barbara Moore, Eric Patterson, Stafford Owens. Also present: Executive Director Dionne Cooper

President McCaskill call the meeting to order at 6:36pm

ROLL CALL (By Director Cooper:

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

Commissioner Moore led with a Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: None

MATTER FOR THE PUBLIC: No Comments

UPDATES AND REPORTS:

Director Cooper: Director, Maintenance and Recreation reports are as presented. Additional information in Director's. South Suburban College (Marion Jackson) is looking forward to working us, with their grant program. The grant work program is for ages 19 to 21 years old. I have a worksite agreement for your review.

Q. Patterson – What would they do?

A. Cooper – Mostly recreation and some park activities.

UPDATES AND REPORTS:

Com. Thompson – Requested that attorney come to the meeting to present some good news. We have been communicating with the EPA.

Attorney Hammond – There has been a lawsuit pending since roughly 2004 dealing with dumping and hazardous waste over by the gun range and the Harvey Park District was part of the process. The city was part of the process.

I have been having ongoing dialog with the EPA and Attorney General's office. I came to a head this morning and it came to a head this morning. The outcome: there is approximately 2 million dollars sitting in a trust fund which is 100% money that will be used on behalf of the "HPD" for the purpose of

cleaning up the area of the gun range, but also we have negotiated for the district to use it anyway you want. Which means you have the discretion to turn the gun range to a range or a park?

We meaning Brenda Thompson have been extremely instrumental behind the scene along with Dionne Cooper, who helped to guide the process. This is ready to happen right now.

The Attorney General and EPA were very impressed by the constant input, whether I liked it or not from Commissioner Thompson and Dionne. They were so impressed they suggested that they hold the shovels at the ground breaking.

Com. Thompson: Tell them about the lead.

Attorney Hammond: Commissioner Thompson beat me over the head with this issue. The bullets shot into the berm have value. We negotiated for the district to have possession and rights to the lead.

At some point the commissioners need to meet and make some very quick decisions. There have been efforts by the powers that be in higher government to use that money. Everyone has been beating them off because the money is in a trust for the HPD. It's advised that we need to act quickly.

Com. Thompson: I am a commissioner and only one vote; there would be a great advantage to turn the area into a park because there is no park over there.

Q. Com. Thompson: Can we use some of the money for a park?

A. Hammond – 99% was good news and .01% was not. They don't know how much it's going to cost to clean up the waste. In fact, if the waste is \$50,000 to clean up, that means you have 2 million minus \$50,000 to beautify the area. If it takes 1 million then you only have 1 million to beautify. Until they do the testing, they will not know the cost and how much you will have.

You have 2 million sitting in a trust. They were a quick decision on what you want to do? Do you want to beautify the area and turn it into a public park or do you want to go back to a gun range?

Q. Com. Thompson – What are the stipulations if we go back to a gun range?

A. Hammond – I asked about landscaping and design and they essentially said if you are going to use it as a profit making machine they are not going. But, if you are using it for a public park for the kids and families they don't mind using some of that money for designs for the area.

Again this is a shrinking pot. \$50,000 is going to be used by EPA for project oversight but, the balance is approximately 2 million. We just hope and pray there is no much environmental waste to clean up.

Q. Cooper - Is there a follow up date?

A. Hammond – we need to get back to them right away. My impression is tomorrow, but they can't make a move until the district decides on a direction.

Thompson – Asked if the board can vote tonight so we don't have to wait.

Pres. Mc Caskill – This is my first time hearing about this.

Com. Thompson – It's been very difficult to get everyone at meetings. This is why I asked.

Hammond: If you are no longer interested in a gun range they are going to flatten the land and contour it so you it can be designed for whatever you want to do.

Com. Patterson – Citizen don't want a gun range. I say it's a no brainer.

Hammond: For obvious reasons you can't do both.

Com. Moore – My suggestion is part park / waterpark/ nature walk.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Thompson that we accept the EPA info. and we want to turn the area into a park. Second by President McCaskill.

Commissioner: Thompson – Yes Owens – Yes Patterson – Yes Moore – Yes McCaskill – Yes

UPDATES:

Concerns (Utilization of Holmes field for football) documents given by Pres. McCaskill for public record. Read aloud by Director Cooper.

Jesse White Stat of IL. Non-for- profit Corp Act. Certificate of Liability Insurance. Address: Rodney Harrison – Markham Patriots Youth Football and Anthony McCaskill. 142 E. 154th Street Harvey, IL. 60426. Certificate of Insurance listed HPD on the insurance.

Q. Owens – What is this about?

A. McCaskill – You asked how a team from Markham IL. Comes to Harvey and utilize space. For the record. 48 kids live in Harvey and 35 of them go to school district 152.

INTRODUCTIONS / RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Jenkins from – “Getting Better Fitness” Presented a request to bring his Boot Camp program to the Harvey Park District.

Pres. McCaskill – When you get a chance, schedule a meeting with Director Cooper, so she can figure out a program as she see fit.

Attorney Christopher Clark – Come to the HPD to see if he can work pro bono to help the park district collect a debt from several individuals prior to some commissioners here. There are some people who owe the district up to \$50,000 in restitution and two others that were or playing commissioner that may owe money as well.

“Attorneys can only go so far in my opinion. “We believe we can at least try to recap some of this money. I want to do everything we possibly can to recover all monies from everyone who owes us. It sends a message that you can't come to our city and just do anything you want to do.”

Q. Com. Thompson: for our Attorney: Even though Attorney Clark is offering to do this work pro bono. Could you explain to me the procedures if anything? So we have to retain him or what? Explain the process.

A. Hammond – I would want to see several things. 1. An engagement letter spells out the terms of retention. 2. Who is paying filing fees, transcript fees and all the expenses? 3. How long is the relationship going to be? 4. What's the catch? I mean is this for compensation later or what?

Also, in my understanding you can't go after government officials "Tort immunity act" prevents them from being sued. You can be sanctioned or fined for false pleadings. Also a copy of any professional liability insurance for council. Finally, the board would need to vote on any attorney. You can't have an attorney representing the HPD without board approval.

We would need board approval, engagement letter, professional liability coverage and copies of the pleadings before their field to protect the park district.

(further board discussion continued)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Com. Patterson – Building Fund \$32,715 - Corporate Fund - \$7022 – Payroll Account \$40,426 for a total of \$80,162. Well Fargo \$227,540 (this cannot be touched) and 5/3rd Bank \$500 for a grand total of \$308,203

Ms. Cooper came up with a budget to keep us a float. As of Sept. 1, we should be at \$75,000. We are at \$80,000. (Ahead of schedule) The budget that we came up with, the cuts we made are actually working. This is a temporary thing. We are going to continue to stay on schedule with the budget we planned.

MOTION: made by President McCaskill to approve the bill's list. Second by Com. Moore.

Commissioners: Patterson – Yes Moore – Yes Mc Caskill – Yes Thompson – A Owens – A

MOTION: made to approve the Sept. 4 minutes

Minutes read aloud by Director Cooper

(further discussion had by board and senior advisory board members.)

MOTION: made by Com. Moore to approve the minutes for Sept. 4 Emergency Meeting, second by Pres. McCaskill.

Commissioners: Patterson - Y McCaskill – Yes Moore – Y Owens – Abstain Thompson – A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cooper – Audit is in its final stages. We are looking for a special meeting within the next 10 days, so we can approve and we can pass the budget, which ties directly into a line of credit or whatever funding that we can obtain. We have to have two good years. We hope to have this all complete by Sept. 20, 2014.

Well Fargo Bank Resolution – they have the original documents, they are also waiting on the audit so that this can be restructured as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Com. Moore – We have been awarded \$200, 00 for improvements to the King Recreation Center Building from Senator Harris. Ms. Thompson and I worked hard on this project. We are the only ones in the city of Harvey to receive money from the Governor’s Office and all \$200,000 will go toward the King Building. He told us that if \$200,000 doesn’t do everything we want, we can come back and lobby for more.

Cooper - We need to sign the letter for the Grant tonight for the process to begin.

FUTURE MEETING

Finance Meeting – scheduled for the week before the regular meeting. October 14, 2014 at 10am.

MOTION was made by President McCaskill to adjourn. Second by Com. Moore

All Ayes.

Adjournment at 9:15pm