

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, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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 – Absent; Patterson – Yes.

President McCaskill called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Commissioner Moore led with a prayer and pledge.

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

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

President McCaskill announced that Letter D: Agenda deletions and additions: He stated, for the sake of time, Attorney Clark has some important information to give the commissioners, so the Board would like to change Letter E and go straight to Letter N, Executive Session.

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

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

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

[Break for Executive session at 6:42 p.m.]

Return from Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

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

Letter E – Approval of the Regular Minutes:

MOTION was made to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes by Commissioner Patterson, and seconded by President McCaskill

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

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

Letter F – Bills List:

[Board review Bills List]

Letter E – Approval of the Regular Minutes:

MOTION was made to approve the Bills List by Commissioner Owens, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

Commissioners: McCaskill – Yes; Moore – Pass (still reviewing); Owens – Yes; Patterson – Yes.

Letter G – Treasurer’s Report:

There is no Treasurer’s Report tonight.

Letter H – Matters of the Public:

Ms. Thomas took the floor.

She would like to know about the audit report – is it true or not true? President McCaskill stated that some of it is true and that is why the former director is in court for the alleged crimes. As far as the \$2 million dollars, the prior auditor was rolling over receivables that we never had. So the State’s Attorney and State Comptroller is questioning Armosha and everyone so most of that is true.

Commissioner Owens states that although Ms. Thomas has been around a long time, the Park District has to change things. He states that it hurts his heart. Vanessa Wade asked who takes the blame? The people or the Board? Commissioner Owens and President McCaskill stated that it is the Board’s fault because of changes within the Board, new Presidents, new positions.

Ms. Thomas stated that every commissioner should read the handbook from front to back.

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

Ms Thomas then stated that she attempted to rent the building for her granddaughter’s birthday party and brought \$200 with her and the secretary stated that she couldn’t give her a contract unless she produced an i.d. and wanted \$300 more to hold for a month. She stated that she worked for the Park District for 18 years and nowhere in the handbook does it say we have to give more money. Commissioner Owens said that Mr. Thomas also worked for the Park District.

Commissioner Owens stated that everyone is angry over anything. It’s simple, just bring your i.d. Ms. Thomas said she didn’t want any handouts.

President McCaskill stated that this is part of corrective actions and ***“For the Record: When people come to rent the Park District’s facilities, we return all deposits.”*** That was a part of our policy that was not being followed, but it does now. He asked them to look at the website and they are in place. Ms. Thomas said, ***“For the record: My husband did not make no money at***

the Park District. Ford Motor Company, 35 years.” Commissioner Owens said ok but how long did he work for the Park District?

Fran Wilder took the floor. She feels that Mr. Head needs a Park named after him. Commissioners Patterson and Owens stated that they would give up their Park. She then said that they should not give up their parks, but give Mr. Head one – it would be really nice because he did a lot of good. Commissioner Moore agreed.

Commissioner Patterson took the floor and stated that he has put his heart in the Park District and until people as a whole come together and stop bickering, we will never have anything. Someone has to take the back seat, and if it has to be him, then so be it. It is too much tension. The Park District do everything for the seniors, they name parks, but the children do not have any outlets.

A citizen said that HPD has wonderful baseball parks here.

Commissioner Moore reported that Mr. Head designed and did the blueprints for Dells Park and that should be the Park to be named after him.

Further discussions were had by Board Members and citizens on this issue.

Ms. Mirdena Coleman asked about the settlement regarding the gun range. Are they putting a water park up? President McCaskill informed Ms. Coleman that there is a company coming out to inspect the Park and remove the lead before we can do anything. The EPA has a 2.2 million trust fund that will level the land on March 2. MT2 will be coming out to give us the findings first.

Ms. Thomas requested a record of the Judge’s order who gave Brenda permission to call in. She said that President McCaskill said the judge gave the district an order to allow Brenda to call in on meetings. President McCaskill stated that he never said anything like that. What he did say was that there was never a resolution in place as far as the attorney general’s opinion.

Ms. Thomas said Eric you said it too. Commissioner Patterson and President McCaskill stated that they never said or saw an order from a judge allowing Brenda to call in. Commissioner Patterson stated that they did something like that for Julian but he doesn’t recall anything else. Commissioner McCaskill stated that the old policy for the Board was never identified. They were using the Attorney General’s ruling because there was not one in place at the Park District. Ms. Thomas stated that it is illegal to call in and vote over the phone. Attorney Clark stated that it was not illegal.

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

Letter I – Old Business:

The Park District is under administrative review – Dr. McCaskill has been in touch with the auditors.

Dr. McCaskill stated that they have completed the audit for FY2014-15. The auditors are trying to make sure that we keep up with the practices put in place for May 2015-January 2016. For example, the way we take contracts and payments at the front window: Every application must accompany i.d., copies of the checks or money order and that documentation has to show a paper trail from the front window to the bank. They are also looking at our handbook to make sure that everything stays in line as it relates to Illinois State Parks.

Dr. McCaskill continued: With regard to accounting and treasury, making sure that our money line up with any money we receive and with regard to our lawsuits – making sure that we stay on track with the payments with all the entities we made arrangements with, and that we follow any negotiable issues that will be put into pay a certain amount to those entities.

She also reported that regarding programming, the auditors are looking at the number of programs we bring in versus number of people that are actually being serviced by the program. They are coming out three times a week and believe they will come out less as we get further in line with these processes. So far, we are in compliance, but they want to see as of May, 2015, we continue the process.

The benefit of the administrative review, if we can demonstrate that we have sound practices in play, it puts the Park District in a better position because we presently do not have a good rating and we are credit worthy and can start applying for grants. This is the benefit of administrative review to show that we are trying to get the Park District back on target.

President McCaskill stated as the Board spoke on this in Executive Session: ***“For the Record: Resolution 2016-7-02”***

“Commissioner Brenda L. Thompson, elected on April 5, 2013, sworn in May 9, 2013, and retired on February 16, 2016. On February 17, 2016, the Board accepted the resignation of Commissioner Brenda L. Thompson, elected on April 5, 2013, and sworn in on May 9, 2013. A copy of this resolution will be placed in the permanent Harvey Park District archives. This resolution is witnessed by the public, the Board of Commissioners and the corporate counsel of the Harvey Park District.”

MOTION to accept the 2016-7-02 Resolution was made by Commissioner Owens, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

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

President McCaskill announced that while in Executive Session, the Board gave Attorney Clark permission to negotiate with Lagastee-Mulder, the Gloria Taylor Building. Just so the public know that it is approximately \$400,000 owed to Lagastee-Mulder. Attorney Clark stated that this is negotiations.

Further discussions were had by Board Members and Attorney Clark on this issue.

MOTION to give Attorney Clark negotiating powers with Lagastee-Mulder for the FY2017 budget was made by President McCaskill, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

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

President McCaskill stated that the line items in FY16 will be discussed with Commissioner Patterson as he has discussed with Mary, the Park District’s bookkeeper, we are over the budget. We are trying to work with an \$840,000 budget, but we only received \$539,000 so we will have to make adjustments. Everyone across the country and we must adjust too. Commissioner Patterson stated that the Park District can’t even apply for a bond and Commissioner Owens stated that some of the Banks won’t even let HPD bank with them.

President McCaskill stated that one of the reasons is that there is no State budget in place so it is very difficult for a bond company because it has no ratings. A lot of companies are shying away from giving any company a bond.

President McCaskill talked about the official notice of electronic communication. The Park District has issued e-mail addresses for each commissioner of HPD, it is FOIA. I suggest that if the commissioners are using their personal address, we have an IP person to change that for them and it is highly recommended that you use your Park District e-mail addresses.

Letter K – Administrative Report:

Director McCaskill reported regarding Events, Buildings and Parks.

Events: The Harvey Twisters took 2nd place out of 248 teams. [*Applause*] Small Fry Basketball team have enrolled and their season will be starting and have permission from School District 152 to have our staff on site at the buildings to pass out flyers we have for our children. Black Wall Street will be flying in from New York on Saturday, March 5, to have their event at Gloria Taylor for their surviving members of Black Wall Street.

Director McCaskill reported that HPD has a Hip-Hop Event and line dancing classes upcoming – March 1st. We have the South Suburban Youth baseball league who asked Harvey Park District to participate so we presently belong to a charter and a track team process as well and made it to Jacksonville, Florida for nationals. We also have a fitness program. We have a job fare scheduled for March 18 – information up front for that.

Also in the commissioners’ packets is information regarding collaboration Thornton Township Holiday dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 8th at Gloria Taylor. We have limited seating for Flower and Garden Show.

HPD is recruiting children ages: 7-10 to assist to plan events specifically with that age group. HPD has been instrumental with senior projects so we are now trying to help the teens and younger children as well.

Buildings: The Park District in the last phase at Holmes. It has been completely painted with exception to some of the classrooms and all renovations have been completed and it is looking a lot better. King Park – Phase 3, we are in the last phase. Everything is done from the foyer to the hallway. All of the autos are operable and have been repaired.

We have some very structural problems at the administrative building that needs immediate attention and the director plans to sit and meet with the commissioners regarding this.

Parks: The team and Mr. Jackson is very instrumental as we are trying to prepare our parks for the baseball season. We will open both fields and have identified ourselves to have the South Suburban Youth Baseball league at our parks.

HPD is in compliance with the issues that needed to be addressed. Once the weather breaks, we can then actually see what equipment needs to be replaced.

HPD has been accepted by the National Association of Park District. We are 1 of 15 Park Districts nationwide to participate in crowd-funding program. They will assist us with a goal of \$10,000 and we will put that towards are parks and programs.

Will apply for the grant called Power Play, which is a philanthropic grant.

Letter L – Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Owens stated that this is his second term and have kids in the neighborhood and have children. It hurts him to come to the meeting and watch bickering and fighting. He stated that he’s been through 5 directors, different commissioners, fighting lawsuits, etc. He wants the Park District to be about the children. The Park District needs better leadership.

Commissioner Owens spoke further about the condition of the Park District, the staff, the citizens, and the need to create opportunities for the younger citizens, and the need for change to make it better. [*Applause*]

President McCaskill stated he wanted to piggyback and he agreed whole-heartedly, but he still agrees with Commissioner Patterson: “To do right in Harvey is to do wrong.” Those who are trying to follow policy and procedures are being ridicule for doing wrong.

President McCaskill stated that people have raped the Park District of money. \$491,000 was paid to one attorney in 2 ½ years; \$179,000 was paid to another attorney in 8 months and no one has won any lawsuits. Yet people claim and talk about our Harvey attorney, who saves us money and we don’t pay him ½ of the money we have paid other attorneys.

President McCaskill further spoke about issues in the Park District and invited everyone to look at the website and spoke on things that should be changed to better the Park District.

Commissioner Patterson spoke about generations. The present generation is not communicating with the generation who raised them. It is sad that when he became a park commissioner he thought he was going to start programs for basketball and sports, but once you get into the

politics of the Park District, it's different. The Park District is the only meeting that last 2-3 hours, airing out dirty laundry, throwing shots. He said he is not excluding himself, and he's no better than anyone else, but he just wants to say: We need to pray because if God can forgive us, anybody can forgive each other.

Commissioner Patterson continued to speak about generations, like Julius Patterson, building a community without anyone by his side. He stated that he has been on dialysis for 23 years and have no room to hate anyone. If he has said anything to hurt anyone, he apologized. He also stated that things should be changed to better the Park District.

Commissioner Moore stated she has no comments.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Owens, and seconded by Commissioner Patterson.

ROLL CALL (Director McCaskill):

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.