

Metamora Park Board
P.O. Box 633
Minutes of October 7, 2015 Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Commissioners

Call to Order – In the Village Hall: 102 N. Davenport, Metamora IL at 7:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance – Performed.

Roll Call - Commissioners present were, Kerry Brock, Matt Bidne, Mike Staub and Michelle Spielman. Interim Director Dawn Deeb and Treasurer Betty Lang were also present.

Minutes – Minutes for the following meetings were reviewed and approved as listed:

September 2nd regular meeting minutes. Motion Ms. Brock. Second Mr. Staub. Motion approved.

September 16th special meeting minutes. Motion Ms. Brock. Second Mr. Staub. Motion approved.

September 23rd special meeting minutes. Motion Mr. Staub. Second Ms. Brock. Motion approved.

August 13th executive session minutes. Motion Ms. Brock. Second Mr. Staub. Motion approved.

Public Input – Mr. Josh Ketcherside requested the use of the Metamora Swimming Pool parking lot during the off-season for use as an impound lot for a towing business. No determination made during the meeting.

Treasurer Report – Betty Lang gave Treasurers report. Mr. Staub made a motion to approve

Director's Report – Interim Director Dawn Deeb gave report.

1. Continue to see support for park district programs. Current programs have been full. Beginning to get registrations for the winter camp.
2. Informed JFL the Herring Farm property and the back hayfield could be utilized as additional parking options.
3. MTHS girls basketball teams interested in volunteering time for park cleanup. Ms. Deeb will schedule the best day and location.
4. Exploring options for future fitness classes.
5. Will be adding additional children's programming for next program guide.
6. Letters were sent to the entities utilizing BPP at no charge. Letters explained the need to charge for labor if the maintenance supervisor needs to clean up after events or provide labor on repairs for the entities. The rate of \$25 per hour will be billed if necessary.
7. Working on two grants. Also exploring additional grant options.

*Michelle
Sawyer
Buss*

8. Received follow up from Ancel-Glink regarding the expansion. They have determined 75 acres of property already appropriate for annexation into the park district. Additional info will be provided before the November meeting.
9. Reviewing cost of program guides and determining if there are more cost effective solutions including reducing the print copies and using a digital guide for the website and Facebook page.
10. Advertised for secretary position. No applicants at present.
11. Provided information regarding the pool history.

Trails – Mr. Staub did not have anything to report on trails. Ms. Deeb is working on a grant to provide funding for additional signage on the trails.

Marketing – Mr. Bidne recently appointed. Nothing to report on marketing. Facebook continues to be the primary source of marketing at this time.

Maintenance – Ms. Buss was not present.

Futures/Pool – Ms. Brock provided a summary of her recent tour of the Metamora Swimming Pool. Ms. Brock, Village Trustee Rodney Thompson and Ms. Deeb toured the pool facility. Ms. Brock stated there were numerous areas in need of repair. Stacy Barlow, MAST treasurer inquired to the required repairs. Ms. Brock clarified the required repairs as determined by IDPH as well as other areas not required by IDPH but necessary to the overall operation and appearance of the pool.

Bond – Ms. Spielman read the agenda for the proposed bond. No public input received. Mr. Staub suggested reading the list of items the park district plans on addressing with bond funds. Ms. Spielman reviewed the pool needs. Mr. Staub inquired about the use of the \$25,000 donation pledged by “Friends of the Pool”. Clarification provided by Ms. Spielman. Eric Stone, representative of the “Friends of the Pool” committee mentioned the slide and the need for extensive repairs needed to keep it in operation. Ms. Deeb explained the current needs for the slide as well as the history and age of the slide. Mr. Ketcherside requested additional information on the needed repairs. Ms. Deeb then explained some of the additions to the pool that occurred during the 1998 renovations of the pool. Ms. Spielman returned to the list of park needs and mentioned the most important needs for each park. Mr. Staub inquired to the development plans for the Herring Farm property. At present, no immediate plans. Ms. Lang asked if estimates have been received for the list of needs. At present, only basic estimates have been given. Mr. Stone clarified the approval for the replacement of the large gate at BPP. Mr. Stone inquired about the financial commitment with Ancel-Glink and what amount of the bond money would be used for their services. Ms. Spielman provided clarification on the \$2000 retainer and \$8000 pre-approved for the expansion project. Ms. Brock mentioned the need to review the approved hours for a future director. Ms. Spielman explained bond funds could not be used for salaries. Ms. Spielman also mentioned the need to review maintenance hours as there is an increasing need. Mr. Ketcherside asked if there was room in the current budget to retain full time staff. It was explained the expansion would provide additional resources that can be used for payroll. Ms. Spielman again read the agenda for the bond. Mr. Ketcherside inquired about the repayment schedule. Ms. Lang explained the 5 year repayment plan. Ms. Brock made a motion to approve

the bond. Mr. Staub seconded. A roll call vote occurred. Commissioners Brock, Bidne, Staub and Spielman all voted yes. Ms. Buss was not present. Bond motion was approved.

Legislation – No new information.

Old Business –

Pool statement-Ms. Spielman requested a review of the public statement draft. Minor wording changes were made. Ms. Brock will update the written statement and email the statement to Commissioners and Interim Director. Interim Director will forward the statement to the media as requested.

Secretary position-Ms. Spielman stated Ms. Buss has agreed to schedule and conduct interviews for the position.

Metamora Park Foundation- Ms. Spielman stated the Foundation has an EIN and additional paperwork was sent to the Department of the Treasury. Ms. Spielman expects return correspondence before the next board meeting.

New Business –

Pool hiring-Ms. Spielman stated pool hiring will need to begin soon in preparation of the 2016 season. Certifications and licenses will need to be submitted and processed before the pool can open. Mr. Ketcherside inquired about the pool manager position and was informed this position is open. Mr. Stone asked if the Village would be providing more assistance in relationship to the operation of the pool. Trustee Thompson has a list of necessary repairs and will be providing that list to the Village Board for review. Ms. Spielman clarified the roll of the park district regarding a future new pool. Ms. Spielman stated the park district did not have the financial ability to build a new pool.

Internship- Ms. Deeb introduced Ms. Taylor Buswell. Ms. Buswell is a student at Illinois State University pursuing a degree in Parks and Recreation. Ms. Buswell has expressed some interest in an internship with the Metamora Park District. Ms. Buswell will be available the Spring 2016 semester. An intern program description will be developed by Ms. Deeb.

Vandalism- Ms. Deeb explained the recent vandalism at Schupp Park. A sign was destroyed. Chief Mike Todd with the Metamora Police Department was advised and has the destroyed sign. Ms. Deeb requested the park district security camera be installed at Schupp Park. Chief Todd stated he would have the camera installed. Previous inquiries regarding the security camera suggested the camera was not in working order. Chief Todd did not indicate the camera was broken. Ms. Deeb will follow up with Chief Todd.

Pool-Ms. Barlow inquired about the water main break in the pool bathhouse. Ms. Spielman stated Wayne Mechanical did repair the leak however it is uncertain if additional plumbing issues are present. Ms. Barlow asked about the water heater for the main pool. Fox Pools made several attempts to repair the water heater without success. A lightning strike caused additional

damage to the water heater. The water heater was not in proper working order the entire 2015 pool season. The heaters for the slide pool and kiddie pool were also not working during the entire 2015 season. Ms. Barlow suggested an evaluation be made by a representative of the Spear Corporation. Ms. Barlow stated this is a free service provided to accounts doing business with Spear.

Ms. Spielman stated a decision needed to be made for the future of the pool. Ms. Spielman would like to see a 3 year commitment. Ms. Spielman stated it would not be practical to invest in repairing the slide. The slide would need to be removed. Ms. Brock reminded the Board that the approved public statement states the pool would be open for the 2016 season. Ms. Spielman stated the board would move forward with hiring a pool manager and determine the best way to have a dedicated maintenance person specifically for the pool. The goal is to work with the Village to determine best course of action.

Ms. Spielman stated there was a need to approve the appeal presented for review by the "Friends of the Pool". It was suggested there would be a decrease in the number of admission punch cards the park district would provide to the "Friends of the Pool" as gifts for monetary donations. Ms. Katie Morrison hopes the punch cards will increase pool attendance and bring people to the pool who may not otherwise attend. Ms. Brock expressed concern that an overabundance of admission punch cards given to donors would affect the sale of punch cards by the park district. Ms. Brock requested the wording of the pledge be changed to reflect the pool's financial challenges as the current wording suggests the park district has dire financial needs.

Mr. Stone inquired to the use of park district funds should the pool cease to operate. Several suggestions were given by Ms. Brock and Mr. Staub. Ms. Deeb explained the 50 year history of the pool including the 1987 "Save the Pool" campaign, the 1993 assessment of the pool by HW and Associates suggesting the current pool be closed and a new pool be built and the \$950,000 renovations completed in 1998. Mr. Stone stated there were several local entities wanting to see the pool remain open. Mr. Stone stated there were those who hoped the current pool would remain open until a new facility could be planned. Ms. Morrison expressed concern over unfair treatment and inquired into the agreements with MGHJFL and MYSA. Ms. Morrison does not support closing the pool to shift funds to the improvements of the other parks. Ms. Brock explained the 2016 opening of the pool is a goal however, the park board could not predict future pool needs that could potentially close the pool earlier than anticipated.

Ms. Brock provided a summary of the meeting with MAST president Todd Alderson, MAST treasurer and Interim Director Deeb. Ms. Brock explained the need to find a compromise to the proposed requirement having MAST families purchase family pool passes for the 2016 season. Previously, MAST paid a rental fee of \$1800 (or \$10 per hour) for the use of the pool. This fee does not adequately cover the hourly expenses of the pool. MAST board president had indicated the MAST board did not feel requiring the purchase of pool passes was an appropriate request. Ms. Brock suggested an "out-of-district" fee for those residing outside of the park district borders. Ms. Brock explained this was not a penalty to those who do not live in the district but a break for those who do live in the park district and contribute taxes to the park district. Ms. Spielman mentioned an adjustment to the current hours of operation. Ms. Katie Morrison, MAST representative said the pool would be available at 10:15a for swim lessons and the kiddie pool could be available at any time.

Ms. Spielman stated a revised version of the MAST agreement would be needed. Ms. Spielman stated rental fees would have to increase. Ms. Deeb explained no two pools operated the same with regards to the swim team and water time. Ms. Spielman requested an opportunity to review

the overall hourly costs to operate the pool. A \$1200 daily rate was previously calculated by former Director Ms. Ganson. Ms. Spielman stated no outside food/drink would be added to the MAST agreement. Ms. Morrison does not feel this is appropriate. Ms. Spielman explained this is the policy for everyone including MAST. The conversation surrounding appropriate fees associated with the use of the pool and the goals of the park district regarding the life of the pool continued at length. No agreement was determined regarding the rental rate of the pool or regarding the proposed out-of-district fees. It was decided MAST representatives present the \$3600 rental rate and the \$25 family fee for those out of the park district to the MAST families.

Executive Session- None

Adjournment— Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:17p was by Mr. Staub and seconded by Ms Brock.