

**MEETING MINUTES
HARRISBURG TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MAY 29, 2020
8:00 AM HARRISBURG PARK OFFICE**



- CALL TO ORDER:** President Richard Rumsey called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.
- ROLL CALL:** The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present: President Richard Rumsey, Vice President Doug Emery, and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Williams.
- Park Staff Present: Executive Director Blake Emery, Administrative Assistant Jill Marvel, and Maintenance Director TA Sullivan.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Blake Emery announced that the Harrisburg Township Park District (HTPD) was accepting public comment by email or written submission up to the start of the meeting at 8:00 AM on May 19, 2020. There was no one from the public present on the teleconference call. There were comments received via email from Nyla Ruccia, Christina McCabe, Lily Johnson, Stephanie Milligan, Angella Gauch, and Brittany Littlefield. Board Members were provided copies of these emails. Each email was read by the Board Members prior to discussion regarding the park pool.
- CLOSED SESSION:** There was no motion to enter into closed session.
- SPECIAL BUSINESS:**
- COVID-19** Blake Emery announced that the purpose the Special Meeting is to assess the current COVID-19 circumstances and making decisions on the process of reopening park facilities. Concerns about the health and safety of patrons, employees, and all community members should be at the forefront of all the decisions. Information from the Restore Illinois Plan and from the insurance provider of the park (IPARKS) was used as valuable guidance in making decisions.
- The following decisions were made by the Park Board of Commissioners at the meeting.
- Park Pool** Blake Emery presented to the Board that the pool operates under the guidance of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). At the time of the Special Park Board Meeting on May 29, 2020, the IDPH had not released formal guidance in regards to opening public pools. Blake Emery had phone conversations with IDPH and their “unofficial” guidance at the time was do not open pools during Phase 3. The insurance provider for the park (IPARKS) stated not to open the pool until there is guidance from IDPH. Under Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan, groups of 10 or less individuals would be allowed to gather with social distancing and face coverings. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to operate under these restrictions in a public swimming pool environment. The opening of the pool will be reassessed if/when there is official guidance from the state/IDPH on safe operation of public pools. Richard Rumsey made the motion to wait for state guidance regarding pools and evaluate that guidance for the potential opening of the pool and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Playgrounds	Blake Emery presented to the Board that the state has not given official recommendations or guidelines in regards to opening playgrounds yet. The insurance provider for the park (IPARKS) stated not to open playgrounds until there is proper guidance. Mike Williams made the motion to wait for state guidance regarding playgrounds before opening those facilities and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
Athletic Fields	Blake Emery presented to the Board the guidance from Restore Illinois Plan Phase 3 Youth Sports Guidelines. This would allow for drills only, no contact sports or games. Face coverings and social distance of 6 ft are needed. Groups must be 10 or less for each adult and no walk-ins or pick-up games allowed. One of the guidelines requires designating an employee to be responsible for monitoring social distancing at all times. This was discussed and it was felt that the park does not have the resources to meet the requirements. Mike Williams made the motion to keep closed Gaskins City Complex fields, Centerfield, Gibbs Field, and the Soccer Complex fields seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
Shaw Street	Blake Emery presented to the Board the need to keep open the Shaw Street (“Practice Field”) facility. This is an open area that can be used for many different types of recreation. Richard Rumsey made the motion to have the Shaw Street “practice fields” facility remain open for use as an open space for general recreation purposes, but users should comply with all social distancing requirements and no team practices will be allowed at this facility until further notice and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
Bathrooms	Blake Emery presented to the Board that the need to open a bathroom with there being other facilities opened and more park use. It was discussed to open the bathroom near the Pickleball courts from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day with cleanings in the morning, midday, and end of the day. There should be a log kept of the cleanings. Other bathroom openings will be discussed once we see how this works out. Doug Emery made the motion to open the Bathroom facility located next to the Tennis/Pickleball/Basketball Courts from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day with all other bathroom facilities remaining closed until further notice and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
Shelters	Blake Emery presented to the Board that the Restore Illinois Plan Phase 3 calls for limiting gatherings of people to 10 or fewer. Mike Williams made the motion to allow use of the shelters for groups that comply with Restore Illinois Phase 3 guidance but to not take shelter reservations and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
Fishing	Blake Emery presented to the Board the guidance from Restore Illinois Plan for Boating & Fishing Guidelines. Richard Rumsey made the motion to continue to allow fishing as long as users follow Restore Illinois Guidelines – Boating & Fishing Guidelines and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
Walking Path	Blake Emery presented to the Board the guidance from Restore Illinois Plan for maintaining social distancing of 6 feet. Mike Williams made the motion to continue to allow use of the Drew Blair Waking Path as long as users follow social distancing requirements and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Tennis/Pickleball Blake Emery presented to the Board the guidance from Restore Illinois Plan for Tennis Facility and Player Safety Guidance. The gates for the facility will be opened and chained so they cannot be closed, thus limiting users from touching them. The benches will be removed to limit users from congregating near each other. The guidance will be posted at the entrance to the facilities. No tennis lessons will be allowed at this time. Richard Rumsey made the motion to open the tennis courts and pickleball courts as long as users follow Restore Illinois Guidelines –Tennis Facility and Player Safety Guidance and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Basketball Blake Emery represented to the Board the guidance from Restore Illinois Plan Phase 3 Youth Sports Guidelines. This would allow for drills only, no contact sports or games. Face coverings and social distance of 6 ft are needed. Groups must be 10 or less for each adult and no walk-ins or pick-up games allowed. This was discussed and the no walk-ins or pick-up games makes it not possible to open basketball. Since the Pickleball Courts share a facility with the Basketball Courts there will need to be a way to close the goals. Options are removing the rims or covering the rims. Mike Williams made the motion to keep closed the basketball courts and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Programs Blake Emery presented to the Board the guidance from Restore Illinois Plan Phase 3 Health & Fitness Guidelines. Indoor fitness classes are limited to 1 on 1 training and outdoor classes can be held with up to 10 participants. Reservations would be needed with no walk-ins permitted. Health questions should be asked prior before allowing entrance into the class. This was discussed and it was felt that fitness classes and all other programs should be postponed at this time. Richard Rumsey made the motion to suspend/postpone Fitness Programs and other Programs/Activities until further notice and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

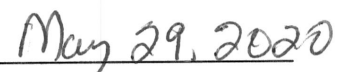
Office/Comm Rm Blake Emery presented to the Board that with the Restore Illinois Plan Guidance of 10 person gatherings and social distancing that the Community Room and Park Office should remain closed until further notice. Richard Rumsey made the motion to close the Main Office and Community Room to the public until further notice and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Blake Emery announced that the next regularly scheduled board meeting is June 19, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. All were ok with the meeting dates and times. Blake Emery asked the Board to schedule a meeting on June 26, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. This will be a Special Board Meeting to allow further discussion regarding the Restore Illinois Plan and any updates on guidance or recommendations from the state. All were ok with the Special Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT Richard Rumsey moved to adjourn, seconded by Doug Emery. All in favor 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.



Michael Williams, Secretary / Treasurer



Date Signed