

**MEETING MINUTES  
HARRISBURG TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2026  
8:00 AM HARRISBURG PARK OFFICE**



- CALL TO ORDER:** President Doug Emery called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
- ROLL CALL:** The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present: President Doug Emery, Vice President Raymond Gunning and Secretary/Treasurer Ron Emery  
The following members of the Board of Commissioners were absent: None  
Park Staff Present: Executive Director Blake Emery, Recreation Director Jill Marvel, Maintenance Director Ray Gould, and Maintenance Foreman Jacob Mills.  
Park Staff Absent: Administrative Assistant Haley Sullivan (Called in on Teleconference)
- Visitors Present: 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 April 17, 2026. There were no written comments received and there was no one from the public present on the teleconference call. There was no one from the public present in attendance with a comment.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Raymond Gunning made the motion to accept the March 20, 2026 meeting minutes and seconded by Doug Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
- Raymond Gunning made the motion to accept the 3/17/2026 to 4/13/2026 bills and the February 2026 Unaudited Financial Reports and seconded by Doug Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
- CLOSED SESSION:** There was no motion to enter into Closed Session.
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- 2022 Bond Funds Blake Emery presented to the Board the list of remaining designated Bond Fund projects for 2022 Series Bonds. The list of projects was discussed with updates given.
- 2025 Bond Funds Blake Emery presented to the Board the list of 2025 Bond Fund Projects. The list of projects was discussed with updates given.
- Pool Maintenance Blake Emery presented to the Board that Counsilman-Hunsaker Aquatics was willing to work withing whatever budget we give them. It was discussed to as to the benefits of the Item 1 from the study proposal previously received. Ron Emery made the motion to approve tabling this topic until we get through the upcoming pool season and seconded by Raymond Gunning. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
- Bishop Property Blake Emery presented to the Board that Lewis and Clark is actively working on the property. Leonard Southern Services has started the clearing of the land. It is going to take slightly longer to complete and thus cost more as we were told by the Fire Department that we could not openly burn in that location. Total Cost will be \$22,000. Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve removing Item 11 Matching Grant Funds

from the approved 2025 Bond Projects List and reappropriating that \$25,000.00 towards Item 13 Bishop Property and seconded by Ron Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

- Church of Christ Blake Emery presented to the Board that another proposal was sent to Church of Christ following last months Board Meeting. No official response has been received at this time.
- Harrisburg Supply Blake Emery presented to the Board that he was informed there is a potential offer for the building and he was asked how seriously is the Park District about purchasing. Blake Emery informed them that they need to consider any offers they receive as the Park District is unable to commit to any offer at this this as an offer would be contingent on other properties we are actively pursuing.
- 830 W Poplar Blake Emery presented to the Board that there are no updates at this time regarding this topic and it will be removed from the Agenda until there is an update to present or discuss.
- 700 W South St Block Blake Emery presented to the Board that the owner is still trying to get in touch with owner of the white house on the corner to hopefully include that as part of the deal. Raymond Gunning made a motion to approve accepting the donated land on the 700 Block of W South Street from Sondra Ellison and seconded by Doug Emery. Ron Emery voted No. Motion Passed 2-1 per voice vote.
- 910 W Poplar Blake Emery presented to the Board that Vertical Bridge (owner of the Tower Property adjacent to Soccer Complex) would like the Park District to consider paying the annual property taxes (~\$3,500 per year) as part of an offer from the Park District to purchase the property. Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve tabling any offer until a decision on the Church of Christ land is received and until talks with SYSA happen regarding how they can help financially with parking and seconded by Ron Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
- Soccer Prop. @ Ditch Blake Emery presented to the Board that he has not heard back from legal counsel Patrick Hunn regarding this matter. Blake Emery will reach out again to find out what is going on.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- SYSA Incident Blake Emery presented to the Board that SYSA and Harrisburg Township Park District (HTPD) have had several incidents/disagreements over the course of the past several years and do not appear to have the same philosophy when it comes to having the best interests of the park in mind. Most recently, SYSA Board Member Michael Oestreich was drinking alcohol openly at the Bill Rice Memorial Soccer Complex while performing duties as an SYSA Coordinator. The result of the infraction resulted in a written reprimand with no other punishment or suspension and SYSA was unwilling to provide a copy of the written reprimand. Blake Emery informed SYSA he would respect their decision, but he does not agree with it. Blake Emery presented to the Board a Document outlining instances regarding Policy/Procedure, the Physical Soccer Facility and Maintenance, Projects, and Finances that have raised concerns as to if SYSA truly does have the best interest of HTPD as a whole in mind or if only the SYSA program and benefits to the SYSA program are desired through the working relationship with HTPD. The document also informs SYSA that moving forward HTPD will solicit and collect advertisement money for Field Signs, Main Facility Sign, Kickwall Signs, and Fence Signs at the soccer complex. Ron Emery made the motion to approve the Document that states SYSA is on probation as an Affiliate Association of the Park District that is dependent upon at minimum the

mentioned requests in the Document and seconded by Raymond Gunning. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. The document was signed and approved by all Board Members and will be sent to SYSA Board President and an original signed copy mailed to the SYSA PO Box.

Website Blake Emery presented to the that federal law will require the website to be ADA compliant in 2027. It was budgeted to convert the park website in 2026. The company Streamline was recently purchased by CivicPlus. Annual website maintenance and compliance will be around \$7500 and there will be a one time conversion fee of \$2500. Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve entering a contract with Streamline/CivicPlus for an ADA Compliant Website and seconded by Ron Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Tennis Court Blake Emery presented to the Board that the current condition of the tennis court is in much needed repair. The quote from General Acrylics is around \$28,000 to fix all cracks and resurface. Ken with General Acrylics said we need to consider an annual maintenance plan for that facility as it is close to reaching it's life expectancy as the cracks are getting worse and worse each year. Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve tabling this topic until further discussion and considerations can be had and seconded by Ron Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

**RISK COMMITTEE:**

Roll Call The Risk Management & Loss Control Committee Meeting was called to order 9:45 a.m. The following members of the Risk Management & Loss Control Committee were present: Blake Emery, Jill Marvel, and Ray Gould. The following members were absent: Haley Sullivan

Blake Emery announced that Ray Gould, Jacob Mills, and Haley Sullivan attended the IPRF Foundations Course that was held at SIC.

There were no other new topics brought up for discussion by the committee.

Adjourn The Committee Meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

**DIRECTOR REPORT:**

SYSA Blake Emery attended the April 7 SYSA Meeting to discuss the parking needs for the SYSA Rec Soccer Program.

Kiwanis Blake Emery was the Guest Speaker at the April 15 Kiwanis Meeting.

IAPD Blake Emery distributed IAPD Legal Updates.

205 S Shaw St Blake Emery announced that the owner of the old Ambulance Building reached out and asked if we were still interested and to make an offer if we were. It has an assessed value of \$26,125 which would equal a market value of \$78,375. There is a comparable property adjacent to Gibbs Field (827 Raymond St) that is assessed at \$24,331 but is on the market for only \$55,000 (\$18,000 under market value) and is 3 times the property size of 205 S Shaw St. This was not an official agenda item so nothing could be voted on and approved but it was discussed to reach out to property owner about what we feel the property is worth and see how they respond.

Library Box Blake Emery announced that Ray Gorman, who works at the Library and at the School in special needs classes, would like to donate a Library Book Box to the Park. We are looking

at placing it at the Soccer Complex adjacent to the All Inclusive Playground. He would like for his class at school to help install the box. All thought this would be a good location.

**Events on Sign** Blake Emery announced that he has been asked if the Park Sign or Soccer Sign can be used to post community event information. All were in agreement that this can be determined on a case by case basis by the Executive Director.

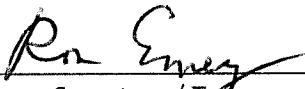
**Training** Blake Emery attended the following trainings: OMA Webinar on 3/20/2026; FOIA for Public Bodies on 4/16/2026; IPRF Emergency Action Plan Training on 4/16/2026

The Executive Director Report was placed on file. See attached report.

**REPORTS** Jill Marvel presented the Recreation Report. Ray Gould presented the Maintenance Report. The reports were placed on file. See attached reports.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Blake Emery announced that the next regular board meeting is scheduled to be May 15, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. at the Park District Community Room.

**ADJOURNMENT** Ron Emery moved to adjourn and seconded by Doug Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.



Ron Emery, Secretary / Treasurer

5/15/2026

Date Signed