

**MEETING MINUTES  
HARRISBURG TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 7, 2020  
8:00 AM HARRISBURG PARK OFFICE**



- CALL TO ORDER:** President Richard Rumsey called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 August 7, 2020. There was no one from the public present on the teleconference call.
- There was a phone comment / complaint received from Matt Wilson on 7/28/2020 asking the park to work on the northwest field of the Shaw Street Facility. He said there are many rocks on it. TA Sullivan looked at the field that morning and said it was too wet from rain to do anything at that time. Later that afternoon TA Sullivan scarred the field and removed rocks but the field was still too wet to drag. This was documented and placed on file.
- There was a verbal comment received by Ray Gould on 7/30/2020 asking if a motorized hoverboard could be used on the walking path. Our sign currently says no motorized vehicles. The citizen asked the park to consider revising the policy. Richard Rumsey said he feels personal motorized devices should not be allowed unless for a disability but we should limit what types can be used. Blake Emery has started looking into drafting a formal policy and will place this on the August 21, 2020 Board Meeting Agenda. This comment / complaint was documented and placed on file.
- There were no other comments received via email or written submission.
- Visitors Present: Greg McCulloch (SYSA)
- CLOSED SESSION:** There was no motion to enter into closed session.
- SPECIAL BUSINESS:**  
COVID-19
- Blake Emery announced that the purpose of the Special Meeting business is to assess the current COVID-19 circumstances and making decisions on youth sports, ballfield usage, and all other programs, rentals, reservations, bathrooms, facilities, and athletics fields. 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 was used as valuable guidance in making decisions.

On July 15, 2020 the Governor announced a new mitigation plan to prevent resurgence of COVID-19 in Illinois. The plan revised the regions to be based on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regions. On July 29, 2020 the Governor issued new restrictions on Youth and Adult Sports (All Sports Policy). On July 29, 2020 the IHSA released its plan for the 2020-2021 school year. On July 30, 2020 the SIJHSAA announced they would be having fall sports.

The following decisions were made by the Park Board of Commissioners at the meeting.

- HYA Flag Football** Blake Emery presented to the Board that at the HYA Board Meeting on 8/2/2020 it was decided that since Flag Football games are not allowed as part of the revised Phase 4 Youth Sports Policy then the Fall 2020 Flag Football Season should be officially canceled. HYA has made this announcement. There was no need to make any motion or decision regarding this item.
- SYSA Soccer** Blake Emery presented to the Board that Greg McCulloch was here to present on behalf of SYSA Soccer. SYSA would like to follow the guidelines and have teams/groups selected for Level 1 (Practice) and Level 2 (intra-squad scrimmage). Level 3 (Games) is not allowed for soccer at this time. It is believed that kids will still sign up even though it will be limited to Practice/Training sessions. All practices will be scheduled and staggered by SYSA. Mike Williams made the motion to allow SYSA to have a Fall Soccer Season that follows the Restore Illinois Youth and Adult Sports Guidelines (All Sports Policy) of Level 1 and Level 2 activities and the ability of the park to stop the season at any time if needed and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. Blake Emery will coordinate with Greg McCulloch on the details of registration and season dates.
- Centerfield / School** Blake Emery presented to the Board that he and TA Sullivan met with Mike Gauch, Alicyn Dowdy, Kyle McGowan and Debbie McGowan on 8/3/2020 to discuss usage of Centerfield for the Middle School Softball Season. Harrisburg Unit 3 agrees to follow the guidelines and enforce them. Richard Rumsey made the motion to allow Harrisburg Unit 3 Middle School to have Fall Softball Season at Centerfield that follows the Restore Illinois Youth and Adult Sports Guidelines (All Sports Policy) of Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 activities and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.
- Blake Emery presented to the Board that he has been approached by Jake Stewart and Greg Davis asking if Centerfield can become available to anyone associated with school softball (High School and Middle School) on a year-round basis. In the fall, the high school coaches and players would still like to be able to use the facility. Also, in the summer the high school would like to have hitting sessions at the field to help develop players for the next season. Blake Emery brought this up for discussion when meeting with Mike Gauch on 8/3/2020. Mike Gauch said that these persons need to bring this issue up with him and if the school wants to pursue this option then they will get back in touch with the park to get an agreement in place.
- Travel Tryouts/Games** Blake Emery presented to the Board that he met with Eric Woolard on 7/24/2020 to discuss Power Alley Travel Team Tryouts. Power Alley plans to have 8U thru 18U baseball teams and 10U thru 14U softball teams. They would like to have tryout at park facilities. They are willing to fill out rental application, provide proof of insurance naming the park

district as additional insured, and pay the fees. The majority of the teams can use Gaskins City Field 4, which is currently open and available. Tryout dates are 8/8/2020, 8/9/2020, and 8/15/2020 at Gaskins City Field 4. Power Alley would like to use Gibbs Field on August 15th and 16th for tryouts for the older boys teams. Blake Emery told him it would have to be discussed at our meeting on August 7th to open that facility. He also told him of park plans to tile the facility this fall to fix drainage issues. The tiling company got back with the park on 8/3/2020 started work on Gibbs Field on 8/5/2020. Blake Emery reached out to Eric Woolard and he understands that the park needed to get this work done. Richard Rumsey made the comment that he would like to have Gaskins City Field 1 available for use if it is ever absolutely needed.

Mike Williams made the motion to keep Gibbs Field closed until it can be safely used again after the tiling project is completed and keep Centerfield closed except for use by the Middle School Softball Team and have an option to open Gaskins City Field 1 if there is a need and that any travel team that wants to play games this fall would need to present their plan to the park for approval prior to games being allowed and seconded by Richard Rumsey. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

#### Facilities/Programs

Blake Emery presented to the Board the current list of facilities and programs and the decisions that have previously been made. The list was discussed with the following comments: Bathrooms do not have open/closed hours anymore. The Centerfield Bathroom will be opened for Middle School Softball Season. Gaskins City bathroom can be opened for certain scheduled events. All other previous decisions will remain in effect. All discussion from today's meeting regarding Gibbs Field, Centerfield, Gaskins City, and Soccer Complex will be updated.

Richard Rumsey made the motion to update our announcement on the facilities based on the discussion and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. An updated announcement will be made available.

#### Office Remodel

Blake Emery presented to the Board a plan for a small remodel of the office to allow for adequate storage / secure storage for park files/records/history documents in the office. The current storage room is crammed full and does not provide the space needed to store recreational items. Blake Emery would like our records/history documents to be more organized and stored in a more secure environment. The remodel would split the existing Executive Director office into half storage room and half small conference room. The wall between the existing Executive Director office and the existing conference room would be removed. The existing conference room would be converted into the Executive Director office with access to the small conference room. This plan only works if the Board agrees to continue having the Park Board Meetings in the Community Room. All future Park Board Meetings would be held in the Community Room. The setup for meetings in the Community Room provides an inviting atmosphere for the public to attend meetings. Blake Emery announced he would personally donate his time (during non-work hours) to complete the labor of the remodel and ensure it would not affect daily productivity in the office. He announced that he would also personally pay for the renovation costs. This renovation is not necessarily a "need" and he does not want to take away from park resources/money to complete this request. However, he feels it would be a beneficial renovation to the office facility and enable the park to be able to properly store important

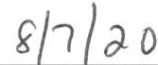
information. Blake Emery said that giving back to things you care about has been on his heart a lot lately and God has blessed him in so many ways through the park. The only park resource needed would be to have TA Sullivan install a window. Mike Williams made the comment that the park would pay for the remodel. Blake Emery insisted that he would personally pay as he did not want to take away from park resources during these difficult times of unknown income. Richard Rumsey made the motion to approve the remodel of the office to allow for secure storage of park documents and seconded by Mike Williams. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. Doug Emery asked that Blake Emery keep a record of all expenses that go towards the remodel.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Blake Emery announced that the next regularly scheduled board meeting is August 21, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

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



Michael Williams, Secretary / Treasurer



Date Signed