



METAMORA PARK DISTRICT

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Village Hall, 102 N Davenport St., Metamora, IL 61548

Minutes Prepared by: Katie Garber, Executive Director and Secretary

Call to Order

Pledge	Performed at 7:01 p.m.
Roll Call	Myranda Driskell, Kari Ray, Kerry Brock, and Renee Udell were in attendance. All were present.

Public Input

	There was no public input unrelated to the pool.
--	--

Informational Items

Pool Crisis Conversation	<p>The meeting began with this informational item. Garber spoke on some of the numbers related to the pool. Around a loss of \$16,000 is what was budgeted for this past pool season, but the actual loss came in at right around \$44,357. Garber stated that this loss is extremely large for a Park District the size of Metamora, and a continued loss of this size would be detrimental. The expenses were presented to those in attendance. Garber informed those in attendance at the meeting that the Park District is currently levying the full amount they can.</p> <p>The past year's pool attendance rates were also presented, showing that the trend in pool attendance has decreased significantly since 2019.</p> <p>Estimated numbers were given for expenses that are anticipated to be able to open for the 2024 season.</p> <p>Commissioner Brock spoke on these numbers, saying that the board wants the public to be aware of their thought process in taking into account the information given. She stated that the board needs to come to a decision as to how much they feel the Park District can keep losing before it is no longer fiscally responsible.</p> <p>There were quite a few questions asked by the public regarding the pool and the presented pool information.</p>
--------------------------	---

Public Input (continued)

Renee Afdahl - Concerned Citizen	<p>Question: Asked a question related to whether wages and expenses were over the expected amount.</p> <p>Answer: Eisele said the Park was above budgeted wages, expenses, repairs, and maintenance.</p>
----------------------------------	--



METAMORA PARK DISTRICT

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Mary Marchal - Concerned Citizen	<p>Comment: It was stated that there could be funding found in different places in hopes of allowing it to stay open for as long as possible. She stated that swim lessons are an important life skill to be available to the community.</p> <p>Question : Asked about better predicting our budget for the future year as well as raising rates for parties.</p> <p>Answer: Ray spoke on how costs may balance in certain aspects of the budget but how the expenses are still outweighing what is being brought in. She spoke on ways to generate revenue while dropping costs.</p> <p>For example, making the decision to close the concession stand to save costs or raising entry rates at the door. Ray spoke on raising rates at the door, and that it would be hard to justify doing so given that the Metamora pool does not offer enough to justify raising rates. Garber stated that attendance rates show that the attendance is low now, and that is at the current rate charged at the door, without an increase.</p>
Eric Schierer - Village of Metamora Board Member	<p>Question: Asked whether the Park District has reached out to local businesses regarding donations since some companies have donation funds set aside already.</p> <p>Answer: Ray spoke on how there was an initial sunseting plan put in place to close the pool, and how that time has already come. It was stated that if the Park District was asking for donations for large items that needed to be replaced then that was something that could be explored, but to ask for donations yearly to cover operating costs did not seem feasible.</p> <p>Garber stated that there are projects that need to be addressed at other parks that have not gotten done due to lack of funding, as the pool takes up most of the Park District's funds.</p>
Sarah Buss - Metamora Park Foundation Member	<p>Comment: Buss suggested forming a pool committee, and others showed interest in participating.</p> <p>Question: Asked more questions regarding expenses and losses. She also referenced asking the Park Foundation for reimbursement on larger items.</p> <p>Answer: Answers already presented were reiterated. Buss suggested finding closer vendors to save on costs. Garber stated that the concession stand's expenses and what was made off of goods sold evened out, but wages paid put the concession stand in the red. Shuda, pool manager, stated that there were a lot of new employees which required training and doubling up on employees. This would account for some of the extra money spent on wages.</p> <p>Brock stated that with large expenses there would need to be a guarantee of funds being covered by the Park Foundation. Even with a guarantee of funds, Brock stated that this becomes tricky because if a huge amount of money is given, then it would make the board feel as if they have to keep the pool open even longer when this may not be feasible.</p>



METAMORA PARK DISTRICT

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Merle Weyeneth - Village of Metamora Board Member	<p>Comment: Spoke on attendance and the rate of attendance going down over the years. He commented that the decline in attendance may be due to more pools being built by those in their own yards.</p> <p>Merle also spoke on a recreation center that the Village of Metamora is exploring doing. There is a committee on this project that includes those associated with the local schools and sports associations as well as the Park District.</p>
Dave Buss - Concerned Citizen	<p>Question: Asked about wages that the lifeguards are paid.</p> <p>Answer: Ray gave the pay rates including starting pay for those over and under seventeen and the pay increases when employees return. Garber stated that her and pool manager Shuda have considered ways to cut costs on lifeguards.</p>
Lisa Obery - Concerned Citizen	<p>Question: Asked about swim lesson revenue.</p> <p>Answer: Ray answered that swim lessons brought in over \$11,000.00 in revenue. Ray also gave more numbers for other areas of income.</p>
Stacey Barlow - Metamora Park Foundation	<p>Question: Stacey brought up if there is going to be any effort put into increasing the taxing body of the Park District. She explained how the Park District's taxing body is much smaller than the Village of Metamora limits.</p> <p>Answer: Brock stated that they had a budget allocated for annexing, and after that number was reached there was no more money allocated to annexing. It was something that was not re-budgeted after that due to the cost of annexing.</p>
Buddy Robison - Swim Team Parent	<p>Comment: He addressed the fact that if the pool closes then the swim team will be unable to exist anymore. He stated that these swim programs are essential to those participating. Multiple commissioners agreed with his point, but reiterated the point that if funds can't be raised in other places for the pool, then the Park District can't afford to keep it going.</p>
Aron Shuda - Pool Volunteer	<p>Comment: Aron volunteered a lot of his time this past season repairing things around the pool, which were more expenses that the Park District didn't have to pay for since he volunteered.</p>
Laura MacNeil - Concerned Citizen	<p>Comment: It was stated it would be beneficial if the Park District could leverage more volunteers by reaching out to the community.</p>
Sam Burmeister- Concerned Citizen	<p>Comment: The idea was brought up about opening the pool for limited hours to generate more attendees at once and keep staffing wages down. There was a concern about being able to retain staff with limited hours.</p>

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report	<p>Treasurer Rebecca Eisele gave the Treasurer's Report. The commissioners reviewed the report. Eisele stated that the Certificate of Deposit for the Park has come due and inquired about what should be done with it. The board decided to keep it in a CD to keep gaining interest.</p>
--------------------	--



METAMORA PARK DISTRICT

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

	Ray made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as provided. Brock seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
--	--

Consent Agenda

Review of Consent Agenda	<p>The commissioners reviewed the presented meeting minutes. Driskell stated a date needed changed for the Executive Session minutes, and Garber said she would get that changed. Other than that no typos or errors were found.</p> <p>Garber shared that her Director's Report revolved mostly around the pool, so there was nothing more to share.</p> <p>There were no committee reports to speak on. Driskell stated she would be forming a pool committee</p>
Approval of Consent Agenda	<p>Ray made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 2, 2023Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting on October 2, 2023Director's ReportCommittee reports as orally presented at tonight's meeting <p>Udell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.</p>

Informational Items (continued)

Meeting Dates for 2024	Garber presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2024.
Worker's Compensation Renewal Bill	Garber shared that last meeting she had gotten one worker's compensation bill approved for last year's expired term. She now needed to get this year's term retroactively approved, as the bill did already have to be paid.

Action Items

Etcheson Spa and Pool Bill	Brock made a motion to approve the Etcheson Spa and Pool opening bill of \$1,800.00. Ray seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
----------------------------	--

Adjournment

	Brock made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Ray seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.
--	---

Myranda Driskell, President

Katie Garber, Secretary