

**MEETING MINUTES
HARRISBURG TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MAY 6, 2026
7:00 PM HARRISBURG PARK OFFICE
921 W POPLAR ST.**



- CALL TO ORDER:** President Doug Emery called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.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, Administrative Assistant Haley Sullivan, Maintenance Director Ray Gould, and Maintenance Foreman Jacob Mills.
- Park Staff Absent: None
- Visitors Present: TA Sullivan, SYSA Board Members (as mentioned below)
- SYSA BOARD:** Saline County Youth Soccer Association (SYSA) had requested a Special Board Meeting with Harrisburg Township Park District (HTPD) to discuss the April 17, 2026 SYSA Probation Letter from HTPD to SYSA Board and the decision on the Advertising Income at the Soccer Complex.
- SYSA Board Members Present: Greg McCulloch, Kaitlin Wilson, Adrienne Hubbs, Michael Oestreich, Adam Stanley, Kevin Douglas, Jessica Herren
- SYSA Board Members Absent: Nick Lands and Lisa Simpson
- 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 special meeting at 7:00 PM on May 6, 2026.
- Blake Emery announced to the SYSA Board Members that there are special line items on the Agenda to discuss the two topics at hand and they will be given an opportunity during those line items to comment. He announced if they wished to comment now they were free to do so, but it might be beneficial to hear the Park District discussion prior to commenting. No one from SYSA wished to speak at this time.
- 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.
- CLOSED SESSION:** There was no motion to enter into Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS:

SYSA Probation Letter Blake Emery presented to the HTPD Board and the SYSA Board that the April 17, 2026 Probation Letter from HTPD to SYSA Board states Instances regarding Policy/Procedure, the Physical Soccer Facility and Maintenance, Projects, and Finances and the current working relationship between Park District and SYSA. The Park District feels like the current relationship with SYSA has been strained and there is not a full agreement that the two organizational philosophies are the same. The Park District feels that complete transparency is part of being an Affiliated Association.

Blake Emery announced that Advertising Income as mentioned in the SYSA Probation Letter would be discussed as a separate agenda line item following the discussion of the current agenda line item.

On April 17, 2026 SYSA Secretary Kaitlin Wilson called Blake Emery to express her concerns over the Letter of Probation to the SYSA Board. At the conclusion of the call it was expressed that not all SYSA Board Members understand what is expected of an Affiliate Association of the Park District nor do they know the history of the park purchasing the Soccer Complex. Most of SYSA Board Members took the Affiliate Association Agreement to just be that SYSA is renting the facility from the Park District.

Blake Emery distributed and discussed the following documents to all in attendance:

- SYSA Affiliate Association Probation Letter – April 17, 2026

- Resolution 2023-1215 Establishing Soccer (SYSA) Affiliate Association Agreement

- Example Expectations of an Affiliate Association (from a Google Search)

- History of Soccer Complex

- Key Dates

Blake Emery recommended developing an Addendum to the current Affiliate Association Agreement that lists “what is expected of” an Affiliate Association in more clarity, lists the History/Process of the Park District purchasing the soccer complex, requiring SYSA to do an “onboarding” process with new SYSA Board Members that at a minimum includes providing them with a copy of the current Affiliate Association Agreement and Addendum, and officially transitioning the HTPD Recreation Director as the liaison between HTPD and SYSA.

Blake Emery then opened the meeting up for discussion by HTPD Board Member and Staff as part of agenda line item “Time for HTPD Discussion of this Agenda Item.” The following is a summary of the discussion:

Raymond Gunning – Raymond Gunning stated that it is healthy and needed to have a meeting between the two boards with the purpose of providing positive results. He stated the park is still actively trying to improve the soccer complex including looking at more parking. He indicated he does not want to raise taxes to continue to improve the facility and is hoping SYSA is more willing to help with future projects as the same goal exists for both boards – it is all about the kids.

Ron Emery – Ron Emery indicated that the Park Board is 100% in favor of the soccer program and we need to work together. He elaborated on the History of the soccer complex in detail outline that SYSA was very fortunate that the Park District stepped up and took ownership of the property as the Lions Club was willing to sell to anyone who offered the most money. He indicated that the Park District is giving back significantly to improve the facility.

Doug Emery – Doug Emery stated he agreed with previous comments that working together and better communication is needed moving forward.

Blake Emery – Blake Emery added an additional comment that since the Park District purchased the Soccer Complex, close to \$650,000 has been invested into that facility from the Park District. In comparison, Harrisburg Youth Athletics (HYA) paid for the Gaskins City Complex (Baseball/Softball) and only recently since the Park District took over that program, has Park District money been spent improving that facility.

Blake Emery then opened the meeting up for discussion by SYSA Board Members as part of agenda line item "Time for Comments from SYSA Regarding this Agenda Item." The following is a summary of the discussion:

Greg McCulloch (SYSA President) – Greg McCulloch distributed two handouts to the Park District – 1) SYSA Projects & Improvements History and Plans at the Bill Rice Soccer Complex and 2) SYSA Affiliate Association Probation and Sign Advertising Changes Notification. He proceeded to read through the second document in its entirety. See Attached Documents. There were several back and forth discussions with Park District seeking clarity on some of the comments.

Ray Gould (Maintenance Director HTPD) – Ray Gould responded that the Park District does a whole lot more than just mow and has readily taken care of things when needed or requested by SYSA.

Kaitlin Wilson (SYSA Secretary) – Kaitlin Wilson stated she called Executive Director Blake Emery and had a lengthy conversation regarding the Probation Letter and Advertising Income. She then reached out to SYSA to have a special meeting addressing some of the concerns and to help clear up some misunderstandings on what Affiliate Association really means. She does not think the current Affiliate Association Agreement is good enough and would like for revisions/additions to better communicate exactly what is expected of SYSA.

Michael Oestreich (SYSA Facility Coordinator) – Michael Oestreich distributed several email correspondences regarding Field Maintenance and Field Inspections. See Attached Documents. He discussed what he has been doing at the Soccer Complex as Facility Coordinator. Greg McCulloch stated that those discussions would be better suited for a meeting at a later date as had previously been indicated and was put on hold by SYSA.

Upon the conclusion of hearing comments from everyone who wished to comment, Ron Emery made the motion to follow the Recommendation of HTPD Executive Director Blake Emery to develop an Addendum to the current Affiliate Association Agreement that lists "what is expected of" an Affiliate Association in more clarity, list the History/Process of the Park District purchasing the soccer complex, require SYSA to do an "onboarding" process with new SYSA Board Members that at a minimum includes providing them with a copy of the current Affiliate Association Agreement and Addendum, and officially transition the HTPD Recreation Director as the liaison between HTPD and SYSA and seconded by Doug Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. Motion Passed. Blake Emery indicated that he would develop the mentioned Addendum and provide a draft to SYSA for review and comment prior to taking to vote at a future HTPD Board Meeting.

Soccer Advertising

Blake Emery presented to the HTPD Board and the SYSA Board the April 17, 2026 Probation Letter from HTPD to SYSA Board indicated 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.

Blake Emery presented that the Park District has been asking for details regarding the Advertising Income at the Soccer Complex since November 2023. SYSA has still to this day not provided any requested financial documents since they took over their own financial responsibilities in March 2024. The Park District informed SYSA of Sponsor Plan / Advertising concerns in March 2024. In November 2024, the Park District once again requested the Financial Documents from SYSA. Again in January 2025 the Park District requested information regarding the Financial Documents and Advertising Income. Blake Emery attended the SYSA October 14, 2025 Board Meeting and requested this information once again. At the October 17, 2025 Park Board Meeting it was discussed having the Park District take over the Advertising Income at the Soccer Complex. This was only a discussion and the Park District waited to see if the Financial Documents would come at the beginning of the 2026 calendar year. In February 2026 SYSA informed the Park District that the SYSA Treasurer had not been keeping records accurately and was only keeping the current month report and overriding that report each subsequent month.

Blake Emery discussed that this raises the question: Was the SYSA Treasurer ever asked to put together the requested financial information from the November 2024 Park District request? If they had been, it would have been determined at that time that SYSA Financial Records were not being kept properly, and it could have been immediately addressed instead of two years later from when SYSA started performing their own financial duties.

Blake Emery went on to present to the Park Board and SYSA Board that currently SYSA is leaving between \$1,200 and \$1,450 dollars on the table in unsolicited current advertising locations. This does not include the potential for a significant increase in Fence Sign Sponsors. The Park District has already put together a plan that would involve selling the current empty advertising spots, obtaining a significant increase in Fence Sign Sponsors, and developing new advertising opportunities in the form of Goal Signs and Light Pole Banners. There is the potential for an increase of around at least \$2,850 per year (if not more) over what SYSA is currently bringing in. The Park District would like to point out that this has nothing to do with the current SYSA Sponsor Coordinator, as this issue has been the case with each of the previous Sponsor Coordinators as that position has changed persons numerous times (at least 5 different persons since 2019). Blake Emery has attended numerous SYSA meetings in the past regarding Advertising/Sponsor concerns.

Blake Emery recommended that HTPD does not change its previous decision from the April 17, 2026 Board Meeting that moving forward the Park District will solicit and collect advertisement money for Field Signs, Main Facility Sign, Kickwall Signs, and Fence Signs at the Park District owned Bill Rice Memorial Soccer Complex, which is within their rights per the HTPD Sponsorship Policy to generate new revenues and alternative resources to help support HTPD facilities and programs, and that the Park District should develop a Budget Line Item for FY2027 that utilizes this new Advertisement Income towards maintenance and improvements as desired by HTPD at the Soccer Complex.

Blake Emery then opened the meeting up for discussion by HTPD Board Member and Staff as part of agenda line item "Time for HTPD Discussion of this Agenda Item." The following is a summary of the discussion:

Jill Marvel (Recreation Director) – Jill Marvel reiterated the fact that in this recommendation, the advertising money will go directly back into the facility and the Park District is set up to efficiently perform this task.

Doug Emery – Doug Emery stated that money spent will be clearly indicated and transparent.

During this point of the meeting, it transitioned to a more speak freely format that was not anticipated or desired but Executive Director Blake Emery allowed it and Agenda Items 6.b.i and 6.b.ii ran together.

Greg McCulloch – Greg McCulloch kept saying SYSA has not had enough time to put together the requested financial information but a plan is in place moving forward. He indicated the advertising money needs to go to help overhead costs as well for SYSA.

Blake Emery – Blake Emery kept saying that he has been requesting this information continually for over 2 years without having ever seen one financial document from SYSA since they started doing their own finances.

Kaitlin Wilson – Kaitlin Wilson said they are now informing sponsors and advertisers that their donations might not just go to Rec Program but to the SYSA Program as a whole.

Ron Emery – Ron Emery stated that he felt SYSA has not taken Financial Responsibilities seriously and this goes back to before any of the current SYSA Board Members were in place.

Adam Stanley (SYSA Picture Coordinator) – Adam Stanley stated that SYSA's number one priority is growing programs and taking advertising money away will hurt those programs.

Kevin Douglas (SYSA Referee Coordinator) – Kevin Douglas stated he feels there have been mischaracterizations coming from both sides. He expressed that Blake Emery has requested to see SYSA Financial Documents and he feels SYSA has been poor stewards of the advertising income and has only provided excuses so far. He would like to see the money go directly back into the facility. He indicated that SYSA Board turnover has been a hurdle to overcome.

Raymond Gunning – Raymond Gunning stated that the park is committing to put 100% back into the facility with advertising income.

Greg McCulloch – Greg McCulloch stated that both boards are battling for the same thing – money from the same sponsors. He indicated that he has resisted pursuing spring soccer as to not further compete with baseball/softball sponsors.

Kevin Douglas – Kevin Douglas indicated that SYSA would like to know if they would be reimbursed for the money they had invested into the signs/advertising.

Based on the comments and discussion, SYSA was not in favor of the Park District taking over the advertising at the soccer complex, the Park District committing to bringing in

additional new advertising income, and the Park District committing to developing a dedicated Budget Line Item to utilize the advertising income only at the Soccer Complex for maintenance and improvement needs. SYSA suggested the advertising money is needed to support all their programs.

The Park District view is that they need to have income coming in at the soccer complex in order to develop a budget for the maintenance and improvement needs that are requested by SYSA.

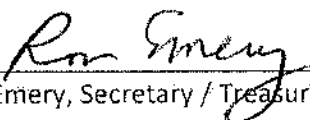
Upon the conclusion of hearing comments from everyone who wished to comment, Blake Emery revised his recommendation to allow SYSA an extension until the June 19, 2026 HTPD Park Board Meeting for an updated Sponsorship Plan that includes as much information as SYSA feels it can and needs to provide to HTPD in SYSA's request to continue soliciting advertising income at the Soccer Complex

Doug Emery made the motion to follow the Recommendation of HTPD Executive Director Blake Emery to allow SYSA an extension until the June 19, 2026 HTPD Park Board Meeting for an updated Sponsorship Plan that includes as much information as SYSA feels it can and needs to provide to HTPD in SYSA's request to continue soliciting advertising income at the Soccer Complex and seconded by Raymond Gunning. Ron Emery voted No. Motion Passed 2-1.

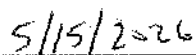
Blake Emery sent a follow up email immediately following the conclusion of the Meeting asking SYSA to provide to Executive Director Blake Emery by Monday June 15 the Sponsorship Plan so that he can distribute it to Park Board Members with all other meeting materials so they can properly review the Sponsorship Plan prior to the June 19 Park Board Meeting. He also asked for SYSA to please plan to have a representative in attendance at the June 19 Park Board Meeting (8:00 AM) in case there are any questions from HTPD Board Members on the Sponsorship Plan Document.

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 Raymond Gunning moved to adjourn and seconded by Doug Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.



Ron Emery, Secretary / Treasurer



Date Signed