

**MEETING MINUTES
HARRISBURG TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 15, 2026
8:00 AM HARRISBURG PARK OFFICE
921 W. POPLAR ST.**



- 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, Administrative Assistant Haley Sullivan, Maintenance Director Ray Gould, and Maintenance Foreman Jacob Mills.
Park Staff Absent: None

Visitors Present: None
- 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 15, 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:** Ron Emery made the motion to accept the April 17, 2026 meeting minutes and the May 6, 2026 special meeting minutes and seconded by Raymond Gunning. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Raymond Gunning made the motion to accept the 4/14/2026 to 5/11/2026 bills and the April 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.
- 2025 Bond Funds Blake Emery presented to the Board the list of 2025 Bond Fund Projects.
- Bishop Property Blake Emery presented to the Board that Lewis and Clark is actively working on the title and deed documents. No other updates were available.
- 700 W South St Block Blake Emery presented to the Board that Lewis & Clark finished the title paperwork and we are waiting on the deed to be completed.
- 910 W Poplar Blake Emery presented to the Board this topic to discuss if the park wants to pursue this property any further at this time. Ron Emery made the motion to approve not moving forward with any property purchases adjacent to the Soccer Complex at this time and seconded by Raymond Gunning. 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 has made numerous attempts and effort to get updates to get this issue resolved but has been unable to get a response from Hunn Law. Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve the Executive Director to reach out directly to property owner Doug Hines and to seek legal counsel from Smithpeters Law Firm if necessary and seconded by Ron Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

SYSA Blake Emery presented to the Board that at the June 19, 2026 Board Meeting there will be discussion regarding the advertising income at the soccer complex. SYSA is to provide a Sponsorship Plan for approval. Blake Emery is going to hold off on presenting the Addendum to the Affiliate Association Agreement until a decision is made on the advertising income. Blake Emery stated that at the May 6 Special Board Meeting it was clearly indicated by SYSA that they would like to have the advertising income to be able to support all their programs. At the meeting the Park District made a proposal that would have helped support SYSA's main complaint – the condition of the fields. The Park District committed to bringing in additional new advertising income and committed to developing a dedicated Budget Line Item to utilize the advertising income only at the Soccer Complex for maintenance and improvement needs. Blake Emery discussed with the Board that will be the topic at hand for the June 19 Board Meeting and his thoughts are that if SYSA is allowed to continue to collect the advertisement money, then they should be responsible to develop their own budget line item to take care of the field condition concerns they have.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Orientation Blake Emery presented to the Board the IAPD Creed document and the Harrisburg Park Board Member Responsibilities Resolution. These are just helpful documents for Board Members to review annually.

205 S Shaw St Blake Emery presented to the Board that 205 S. Shaw St is for sale. The owner has said to make an offer if we are interested. There was discussion that the park would need to determine what the property would be used for before any official offer is to be made. There was no motion to move forward with an offer.

U of I Wellness Blake Emery presented to the Board that the U of I Extension is interested in offering Wellness Programs in the park. The first one would be a walking class. U of I Extension will provide certified instructors. Blake Emery and Jill Marvel met with Lizz Cooley-Questelle to discuss details and liability requirements the Park District would have. Blake Emery is recommending that the Park District partner with the U of I Extension on this program and future Wellness Programs that U of I Extension wants to offer in the park. Raymond Gunning made the motion to approve the ability of the Park District to enter into agreements with the U of I Extension for Wellness Programs offered at the park and seconded by Ron Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Biathlon Fundraiser Blake Emery presented to the Board that Lindsey Atkins approached him about holding a Biathlon Event to fundraise for the BullFish Swim Team and the HHS Cross Country Team. She would like to utilize the park pool for the swimming portion of the event and part of the park for the running portion. She indicated that it might be too late to get the event organized for this year but would like approval to plan for a future event. Blake Emery discussed with her the liability requirements (event insurance, participant waivers, etc.) that would be required by the Park District. Raymond Gunning made the motion to

approve the Biathlon Event Fundraiser and seconded by Ron Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

Juneteenth Holiday Blake Emery presented to the Board that the regularly scheduled June 19 Board Meeting falls on the Juneteenth Holiday. Blake Emery recommends keeping the June 19 Board Meeting Date and keeping the office open June 19 and switching observing the Juneteenth Holiday to Monday June 22. Doug Emery made the motion to approve observing the Juneteenth Holiday on Monday June 22 instead of Friday June 19 and seconded by Raymond Gunning. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote.

RISK COMMITTEE:

Roll Call

The Risk Management & Loss Control Committee Meeting was called to order 8:48 a.m. The following members of the Risk Management & Loss Control Committee were present: Blake Emery, Jill Marvel, Haley Sullivan and Ray Gould. The following members were absent: None

Blake Emery discussed that he has had talks with Maintenance Department and with SYSA regarding the current method of securing the soccer goals in the ground and the catch net connection concerns of SYSA. The park is actively pursuing some options to safely and efficiently secure the goals and catch nets.

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

Adjourn

The Committee Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

DIRECTOR REPORT:

Website

The onboarding process for the website transition has begun.

IAPD

Blake Emery attended the IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield on 5/6/2026.

SYSA

Blake Emery spent a significant amount of time preparing for the SYSA Special Board Meeting.

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

REPORTS

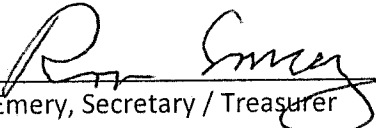
Jill Marvel presented the Recreation Report. Ray Gould presented the Maintenance Report. The reports were placed on file. See attached reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

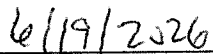
Blake Emery announced that the next regular board meeting is scheduled to be June 19, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. at the Park District Community Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Raymond Gunning moved to adjourn and seconded by Doug Emery. All in favor 3-0 per voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.



Ron Emery, Secretary / Treasurer



Date Signed