



HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners
Goldberg Administration Center
3301 Flossmoor Road, Flossmoor, IL 60422

Minutes of May 3, 2022

The Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bachus. Commissioners Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus were present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Doug Boehm, Marketing Manager Darren Jasieniecki, Irwin Center Manager Oralethea Davenport, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas and Secretary Anne Brabec.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. DEI Committee Update

Manager Davenport provided an update on the DEI Committee including:

- An hour-long all-staff DEI training was held on April 7 that touched on stereotypes, micro-aggressions, unconscious bias and what would you do scenarios
 - The session was recorded for those staff members unable to attend
 - Additional sessions will be planned
- An IPRA DEI Institute is scheduled for September 9, with hybrid and onsite options
- Davenport will provide a DEI session as part of the seasonal staff training for camp counselors, life guards, etc. If possible, the session will be recorded so it can continue to be part of the onboarding process
- Juneteenth and Staff Appreciation. Davenport will work with Manager Jasieniecki to create a bookmark that includes educational information about Juneteenth as well as ideas for how to get involved and/or support Juneteenth in the community and within the agency. A bookmark will be delivered to each staff, both full- and part-time, along with an ice cream bar
- H-F Community Events
 - The park district is a sponsor of the U Matter 2 Juneteenth celebration and will have a table at the event
 - Davenport has had conversations with the event planners from both villages about hosting two Dancing Under the Stars events that will feature different cultural styles of dancing
 - The villages will have a LBGQT+ tent at the June 16 Starry Nights concert
 - A Dia de Los Muertos celebration will be held on October 15 in Homewood. The park district will have a table. As it gets closer, HFPD will get information of other ways to help and/or provide volunteers
- Working with IAPD to provide a DEI component to their Bootcamp
- Working with IPRA to offer Safe Zone Conversations for commissioners that would comply with the Open Meetings Act
- Designing Conversation Circles through IRPA that could be offered for registration to residents and non-residents

Commissioners were pleased and excited with the progress and would like to see the Park District be a leader and play a big role in bringing DEI awareness to the community. Looking forward to the time when these components can be included within already planned events without having to be designated as a

special DEI feature.

b. Trash/Litter Campaign

Superintendent Boehm reported that the litter in the parks and parking lots has gotten increasingly worse. He has worked with Manager Jasieniecki on ideas for a campaign to improve the situation and distributed a handout with photos of garbage cans with clever sayings, no littering signs with a sense of humor and cans with such things as hopscotch and mazes leading up to them.

After discussion on whether these ideas would make a difference, it was agreed it was worth a try at one of the worse parks. Placement of these items will be accompanied by an active social media campaign, which will hopefully encourage park-goers to watch out for litterers and ask them to use a garbage can.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- Superintendent Gianatasio is gathering members for the revamped Park District Advisory Committee. Three members of the previous committee will be continuing. Commissioners are encouraged to submit contact information of suggested members to Gianatasio or have them contact him directly.
- Commissioners Collins and Dennison are not available to attend the May 17 meeting; Commissioners Bachus, Johnson and Ojode confirmed they would be at that meeting.
- Ms. Thomas asked for an update on the Ice Arena; Kopas answered that there continues to be regularly scheduled meetings, that there will be a second bid package out soon, and that staff went before the Flossmoor building commission and after a few minor questions, the plans were approved.
- Fertilization treatments were done at some of the parks. Notification signs at Irwin were well placed by the new company, and so far, no negative comments were received.

Commissioners had no additional comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:51 pm, Commissioner Collins moved to enter in the Executive Session for the purpose of purpose of 2(c)(1) discussion of the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

Director Kopas indicated that the first budget for the ice arena project was received and came in at \$6,816,697. Three million is for the refrigeration system that has already been approved, \$1,000,100 is estimated for the HVAC system, and 1.2 million for the new addition, plumbing, doors, dashers in both rinks, etc. Not included are a roof or front doors. There is \$270,000 in contingency included. A meeting with the contractors is scheduled for Thursday to discuss this much higher than anticipated budget figure.

Director Kopas and Superintendent Garrity had a call with Aaron Gold from Speer Financial and the underwriter in light of this new budget information, as well as the recent required call with Standard & Poors, to discuss best options for changing the anticipated bond and reserve amounts to be used for the project.

Conversations with the high school regarding the ice arena are on hold until July when the new administration is in place.

Michele Artis is transitioning quickly into her position as Racquet & Fitness Club Manager and she and

Assistant Manager Loszach are already making a great team. Eileen Rohrer will continue to reduce her managerial duties until her retirement date at the end of June.

There have been staffing changes recently and both women in the business department left after being offered large pay increases and the opportunity to work from home. A new, well-qualified person will begin on Monday. Once she is established, additional hiring needs in the department will be determined.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Dennison moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Kopas

Deborah Kopas, Secretary