



HOMewood-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners

Goldberg Administration Center
3301 Flossmoor Rd., Flossmoor, IL 60422

Minutes of August 16, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bachus. Commissioners Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus were present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Ice Arena Manager Lyndsay Harwell, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Michelle Artis, Coyote Run Manager & Pro Tom Denklauf, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Marketing & PR Manager Bob Birgel, Treasurer Steve Ojode, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Secretary Anne Brabec, Upland Design Senior Landscape Architect Liz Dafoe, Resident and Homewood School District 153 Chief School Business Official John Gibson, Resident and HSD 153 School Board of Education Vice President Alex Bosch, and Resident and Citizens for Homewood Schools Co-Chair Mike Dickover. Commissioner Collins was absent.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – Old Business Item 6a, Ice Arena Fire Suppression Bid, was removed from the agenda.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – Alex Bosch discussed the referendum that Homewood School District 153 has on the November ballot that asks voters to approve a referendum increasing the limiting tax rate. John Gibson and Mike Dickover provided additional information. They asked that the Park District adopt a resolution in support of the referendum.

PRESENTATION

a. Leavitt Park

Liz Dafoe from Upland Design presented concepts for the Leavitt Park Master Plan.

Staff will review the ideas and once more is known about upcoming OSLAD grant opportunities and the availability of the required HFPD matching funds, the concepts will be presented to the community for input.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes July 19, 2022

b. NRPA Conference Travel Expense Approval

A report from the Superintendent of Finance & Administration recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve travel expenses for the NRPA Conference from September 19-22, 2022 in an amount up to \$15,420.

c. Dental Insurance Renewal

A report from the Superintendent of Finance & Administration recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the proposed policy from MetLife Dental Plan for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

d. Life Insurance Renewal

A report from the Superintendent of Finance & Administration recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to motion to approve the policy proposed by MetLife to provide a \$100,000 life insurance plan for all full-time employees for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

e. Vision Insurance Renewal

A report from the Superintendent of Finance & Administration recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the policy proposed by EyeMed Vision Insurance Plan for all full-time employees for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025.

f. Policy & Procedures, Section 3.3, Purchasing Policy

A report from the Executive Director recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the changes to Policy & Procedures Manual sections 3.3 to 3.9 as presented.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

b. Ice Arena Project Change Orders

Director Kopas explained the value of allowing the Executive Director and/or the Director's designee, which would be Superintendent Boehm, Manager Freeman or Maintenance Supervisor Presnak, to approve change orders so that construction work on the Ice Arena is not delayed. The change order would then be presented to the Board for approval at its next meeting.

The report also suggested allowing construction manager WB Olson to approve change orders up to \$5,000, but after discussion, the Board decided against that approval at this time.

Commissioner Johnson moved to authorize and designate the Executive Director and the Executive Director's designee, with respect to any change order or series of change orders for construction of the Ice Arena Repair Project, which authorize or necessitate an increase or decrease in the cost of a contract by a total of \$10,000 or more, which change the time of completion by a total of 30 days or more, to make written findings required by Section 33E-9 of the Criminal Code, and to preserve such findings in the contract file for public inspection as required by Section 33E-9 of the Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/33E-9. All change orders approved and executed pursuant to this Motion shall be presented as information items to the Board at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Medical Insurance Renewal

Superintendent Garrity relayed that the renewal proposal from Blue Cross/Blue Shield came in with a decrease of .03%. Quotes were also received from two other carriers, one of which offered a lower rate; however, their plan does not cover University of Chicago Hospitals, where many park district employees receive their medical services. The continuity of medical care for employees is important, and the budget allowed for a 20% increase, so it was recommended to continue with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the renewal of the current Blue Cross/Blue Shield HMO and HSA/PPO employee medical insurance policies for October 2022 through September 2023. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. Youth Hockey Fees & Charges

Manager Freeman reviewed that hockey programs moved to the Kankakee Valley Ice Center after the Ice Arena closure, and while it was hoped they would continue there this year, the rink can no longer offer the amount of ice time needed. Freeman and Hockey Coordinator Cimoch researched other facilities and found that Morgan Park Sports Center would accommodate the need for ice time for a

power skate, practice and games for all teams at a slightly higher fee. Families in the program indicated that Morgan Park is a favorable location.

Due to the increased cost of ice time as well as in NWHL fees, it was recommended to raise fees by \$100, which still makes the total cost lower than that of area programs and would only be an additional \$20 for each of the five payments. A strength and conditioning clinic at the Racquet & Fitness Club will be included in the registration fee and a sibling and a goalie discount will continue to be offered.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the 2022-2023 Youth Hockey fees and charges as presented. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioners had no comments or questions.

Commissioner Ojode moved to approve the claims list in the amount of \$460,924.02. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING July 31, 2022

Commissioners had no comments or questions.

COMMUNICATIONS – Board & Administrator – August 2022

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Kopas

- Thank you to those who toured the Ice Arena. Tours will continue to be offered the day of the regular board meeting every month.

Commissioner Ojode

- Kudos to the staff as they wrap up a busy summer.
- Thank you to Michelle and Mike for attending the school district luncheon to kick off the back to school season.
- Had not known about Story Trails, and thinks they are great for the community.

Commissioner Dennison

- What a great summer! Thank you to each and every one.

Commissioner Johnson

- Echoes Commissioners Ojode's and Dennison's summer thank yous; the work was appreciated.
- Glad to see the collaboration between RFC and the Ice Arena; it's a smart idea.

Commissioner Bachus

- It's always overwhelming to read the Director's Report and see all that has happened in such a short time.
- The Weed Team rocks! Loves that they make what they do fun and that they are getting their own "brand".
- Such a nice season at the pool.
- Awesome that Nature Kids Camp had such great summer attendance, and great to see the rental revenue at Irons Oaks.
- Thank you to Shari and everyone at Wiley's and Coyote Run for all they did for the Smith family when they didn't have a lot of options. It was exactly the type of thing that makes him so proud of our park district.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Racquet & Fitness Club Update

Manager Artis provided highlights of her first four months as manager of the Racquet & Fitness Club.

- With the resignation of the Membership Sales & Marketing Supervisor, those responsibilities were divided between the manager, assistant manager and customer service coordinator.
- The Conroy relocation is progressing with the help of Facility Maintenance Supervisor Zig Gucius and the Parks Department. Conroy decided to pay for some upgrades that has delayed the project. Once completed, the Club will have opportunities for additional revenue sources.
- The Club was awarded \$54,000 from ComEd for upgrading the lighting on the courts. Representatives from RFC will be visiting Park Forest to inspect their lighting fixtures, which are the same that will ideally be installed at RFC.
- Artis shared that her biggest positive so far is the staff, both full-time and part-time. They are amazing, willing to do what needs to be done, and are providing open communication for improvements.

b. Ice Arena Update

Manager Freeman shared plans for the reopening of the Ice Arena

- Staff are planning a daylong grand reopening, including a ribbon cutting, exhibitions and free skates. Requests have been made for appearances by the Wolves and/or Blackhawks mascots, as well as for give-away donations.
- Anticipates most of the contract renters will return.
- The H-F High School team's league disbanded, and they were unable to find another league whose requirements they could meet. Players are being absorbed by the Cobras, who use the rink and could need more ice time as they grow. This opens up opportunity for a club team in our area. Hockey Coordinator Cimoch has been looking into a spring league for high school hockey.
- The reopening will allow for special events and programs that there had not been time in the schedule to introduce in the past, such as women's drop in clinics, girls' checking and midnight skates for teenagers or young adults.
- A pre-pandemic goal had been to start a Schools on Ice program. This would be a great way to give students exposure to the rink, whether it be part of a gym class or a field trip. They would be given information about Ice Arena programming and special events to hopefully draw them back. Working with the elementary schools could also provide opportunity for a feeder program for high school hockey.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Kopas

Debbie Kopas, Secretary