



HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners

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

Minutes of September 6, 2022

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bachus. Commissioners Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus were present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Ice Arena Manager Lyndsay Harwell, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Michelle Artis, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Racquet & Fitness Club Assistant Manager Mike Loszach, RFC Customer Service Coordinator Brenda Feehery, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas and Secretary Anne Brabec.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – none

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – none

OLD BUSINESS

a. Ice Arena Fire Suppression Bids

Executive Director Kopas explained that request for approval of this bid was delayed due to irregularity in the two received bids. After attorney review, it was advised to waive the irregularity, which was the lack of a bid bond and not of significant concern since fire suppression is only an \$8,500 project. Further advice was to make payment once the project is completed instead of making installment payments. WB Olsen checked references and are confident A & A Sprinkler can complete the work as needed.

Commissioner Ojode moved to accept the bid from A&A Sprinkler for the fire suppression scope of work at the Ice Arena in the amount of \$8,500 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract for the same, subject to attorney final review and approval. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. Ice Arena General Trades Bids

Director Kopas indicated there was also a delay in this bid approval while it was determined why there was such a discrepancy between the budget and the actual bids received. Project Manager Chris Powell provided an emailed explanation. Once a contract for this work has been approved, there are items that may be able to be modified that will slightly reduce the total cost.

Commissioner Dennison moved to accept the bid from Efraim Carlson & Sons, Inc. for the general trades scope of work at the Ice Arena in the amount of \$164,900 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract for the same, subject to attorney final review and approval. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. John Deere with Cab Purchase

Superintendent Boehm reported research was done with suppliers and the Village of Homewood for a sidewalk snow removal machine to replace an existing 22-year-old machine that has not had working heat for the past three years. The recommended machine can also be used for park clean up, tree work, etc.

The budget of \$22,000 for this item was based upon an estimate received in the spring; unfortunately, prices have risen since then. Delivery time is estimated at three to six months after the order is placed.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the purchase of a John Deere 1025R R4 with Cab from AHW, LLC of Manteno, Illinois in the amount of \$25,788.63. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. Recreation Winter 2022-2023 Fees & Charges

Superintendent Gianatasio explained that fee increases for the winter season are again directly related to higher supply costs and instructor salaries. He indicated that partnerships and sponsorships with the villages and local businesses are beginning to return. Changes in the holiday offerings this year include Holiday Helpers, which will mix H-F high school seniors with HF VIPs working together to answer letters to Santa.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the Recreation Winter 2022 - 2023 Fees & Charges as presented. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

c. COVID-19 Vaccine Policy

Director Kopas reviewed that the Covid-19 vaccination policy was approved about a year ago and served the district well in an effort to protect patrons and staff. It resulted in success stories of patrons who attended programs because they knew staff were vaccinated, co-workers who felt more comfortable in the work environment and those staff who did not think they should get the vaccine due health conditions who then talked with a doctor and got the vaccine instead of the exemption paperwork.

Following discussion, Commissioners felt as good about rescinding the policy as they did a year ago about approving it. Other park districts have now rescinded their similar policy. Without a booster requirement as part of the policy, it is now not as relevant because the virus has changed and the initial vaccines are no longer as protective. Currently there are three employees who are testing weekly due to religious exemptions who would no longer have to do that. There were also employees who chose to leave the park district due to the policy, some of whom may be now asked if they would like to return.

Commissioner Dennison moved to rescind Personnel Policy 1.18, the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Status of the 2022-2023 Core Values & Goals

Commissioners appreciated the updates. Discussion included that when the volleyball courts at Apollo are moved, they will be placed where the tennis courts had been; the possibility of providing inexpensive divot repair tools to golfers; including a full-size bus in the next bus bid for use with Teen Camp in order to expand its capacity; the completion of the pickleball courts at Orchard Park; the positive strides being made in partnering with the villages on events; and bringing back family swim at RFC.

b. RFC Update

Racquet & Fitness Club Assistant Manager Mike Loszach, Customer Service Coordinator Brenda Feehery and Manager Michelle Artis reviewed the main questions and concerns of members, which include concern that the tennis courts will be removed, the desire to bring back family swim sessions and towel service, and questions regarding the overall goals of the facility. They shared current pros, cons and challenges of the Club as well as some ideas for the future, including changes to the membership structure, expansion into the space created by relocating Conroy, and reopening Kids Kourt.

COMMUNICATIONS - Ice Arena Budget Update

The budget is now just over \$7 million, and still includes the full 5% contingency.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Kopas

- At the request of Willow School, the Parks Department removed the basketball hoop from the staff parking lot. It will be reinstalled in the Lions Club Pool parking lot.
- Parks staff have removed the playground equipment from Cedar Park and installation of the new playground will begin any time. The spinner was also removed so that it can be power coated and reinstalled.
- There will be a Celebration of Life for Sue Bertram on Sunday, September 25 at Wiley's. Time is believed to be 3:00 – 6:00 pm.
- Discussed changing the name of Goldberg Park to Castle Park, which is what the playground is affectionately known as by many residents. After discussion, it was decided not to pursue the idea.
- Brew & View is Thursday.

Commissioner Johnson is unable to attend the September 27 regular meeting and Commissioner Dennison will not be at either meeting in October.

Marilyn Thomas noted that there is a deadline approaching for OSLAD grant submission and asked if the park district would be applying. The park district will not due to lack of the required matching funds.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dennison moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Kopas

Debbie Kopas, Secretary