



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

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

Minutes of March 21, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Bachus. Commissioners Collins, Dennison, Johnson and Ojode were present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Ice Arena Manager Lyndsay Freeman, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Coyote Run Manager & Pro Tom Denklaue, Marketing & PR Manager Bob Birgel, Human Resources Manager Kelly Rose, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Michelle Artis, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Secretary Anne Brabec and Visitor Angie Coderre.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – Consent Item 4e, Recreation Winter Participation Totals, was moved to New Business Item 6c.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes - February 7, 2023 and February 21, 2023
- b. Setting of the Public Hearing Date for the Proposed 2023-24 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #760
A report from the Superintendent of Finance & Administration recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to place the proposed Homewood-Flossmoor Park District Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #760 on display, in accordance with park district code, beginning April 14, 2023 and to set the Public Hearing date for May 16, 2023.
- c. Resolution #657
A Resolution Appointing Karen Garrity as IMRF Authorized Agent for the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.
- d. Recreation Winter Participation Totals – moved to 6c for discussion
A report from the Superintendent of Recreation on winter enrollment for 2022-2023.
- e. Ordinance #761
An ordinance authorizing the disposal of certain items of personal property by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.
- f. Ice Arena Change Orders
A report from the Executive Director presenting approved Change Orders for Board information in accordance with the authority previously granted.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Irwin Center Rental Fees & Charges

Superintendent Gianatasio outlined updates to the Irwin Center rental fees. The increases are appropriate now that the facility has been renovated and to be more in-line with rental fees at The Clubhouse and Irons Oaks.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the Irwin Center Rental Fees as presented. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. Discovery Preschool Fees & Charges

Superintendent Gianatasio explained that an increase to the preschool fees are due to the increased cost in staffing and supplies. Research was done to compare pricing of area preschools, and Discovery Preschool is at the lower end. Supervisor Frendreis has done a great job of rebranding and revamping the program. Updated materials are needed to align with the new curriculum, and being able to offer a higher salary should help with staff retention.

Commissioner Ojode led a discussion on making sure returning families are provided with information explaining the need for the fee increase and the value of the Discovery Preschool program.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the Discovery Preschool Fees and Charges as presented. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

c. Recreation Winter Participation Totals

Commissioner Bachus explained he thought the winter participation report was fascinating and worthy of discussion. He was glad to see so many full programs with waiting lists, and wondered what can be done to expand those programs, specifically basketball. Superintendent Gianatasio explained there is such demand at the Sports Complex that programs cannot be expanded due to lack of space. Conversations are in the works with the schools to obtain use of additional gym space.

Prince Charming and Sweetheart Dance enrollment was capped/cut-off to make sure there were enough supplies for those in attendance. Ways to eliminate the cut-off and accommodate last minute registrants. and to even accept walk-ins, are being worked on.

Commissioner Johnson commented that it is great to see that registration was almost up to pre-pandemic numbers.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioners had no comments or questions.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the claims list in the amount of \$469,515.30. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING February 28, 2023

Commissioners had no comments or questions.

COMMUNICATIONS – Board & Administrator – February 2023

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Kopas

- Had an issue over the weekend with the website. If you went to the hfparks.com website through Google Chrome, you got a malware message. Chuck is not sure what caused Google to suspect an issue and apply the warning since there was no malware, but it is now cleared up and working again.
- There is a movie film crew in the area that needed space for the crew and cast to camp out in; they were at Wiley's on Monday and will be at Park Place this week.
- American Arena is at the Ice Arena because there were system warnings over the weekend. The oil was running cold and giving the warning, but all checked out okay.
- The response has been great to the Parks Department's cleanup at Butterfield. Some area neighbors brought out treats for the Parks workers. President Bachus expressed he had never walked through there before today, and it is an amazing hidden gem. Commissioners agreed Butterfield should be a stop on the Park Tour in June.
- The Village of Homewood has always done a community cleanup, focusing mostly on litter in parkways, in March, but this year, they have changed the date to the Saturday before Park Pride, and they are including a hot dog lunch. Kopas called and expressed concern about the limited volunteer pool, but the Village is unwilling to change and suggested Park Pride be moved to their date, which is not an option. The Village agreed to make an announcement at their event about Park Pride.

Commissioner Ojode

- Thank you to everyone for their work on the Ice Arena Grand Reopening; her kids have already enjoyed being back there a few times.
- Liked seeing that there was a special presentation on Medicare.
- Loved the Yelp review about Irons Oaks.

Commissioner Collins

- Happy that it was such a mild winter so that so much work could be completed at Irons Oaks and Butterfield. Hopefully, we won't have any more of the 5:30 am saltings at RFC and golf can fully open.

Commissioner Dennison

- Exciting to see baseball and softball happening in our villages and news of upcoming parades, Stomping Grounds and Starry Nights, even if our weather isn't telling us spring and summer are on their way, these events that our community will be enjoying do let us know.

Commission Johnson

- Love the coordination between the villages and the park district on the PRIDE Starry Nights, as well as plans for the park district to be part of both parades.

Commissioner Bachus

- Was one of those who took the minute of his time to do his Smart Rec transition at the Racquet Club. Karen was there and helped him through it and it was super easy. He knows everyone is working hard on the transition and there are some who are not happy with it, but we all need to just be patient, smile, walk them through it and do the best we can. It is the right answer in the long run, and change is tricky.
- Noticed in the facility report that Park Place was rented five times for \$952, which makes it the largest grossing month that Park Place has ever had. It was fun for him to see and he's glad that people are using

the location. It's a good lesson that sometime we have to throw a little money at things in order to get some revenue coming out of them. He knows that everyone is doing an amazing job to be cost conscious, but sometimes it's okay to spend some money to make some money.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:35 pm, Commissioner Dennison moved to enter in the Executive Session for the purpose of 2(c)(1) discussion of the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Collins, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Kopas

Debbie Kopas, Secretary