



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

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

Minutes of June 20, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bachus. Commissioners Coderre, Dennison, Johnson and Ojode were present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Coyote Run Manager & Pro Tom Denklau, Human Resources Manager Kelly Rose, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Michelle Artis, Racquet & Fitness Club Racquet Sports Supervisor John Morris, III, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Irons Oaks Program Supervisor Crystal Lesimple, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Secretary Anne Brabec, Village of Flossmoor Village Manager Bridget Wachtel, Village of Flossmoor Public Works Director John Brunke, Village of Flossmoor Assistant Public Works Director Dan Milovanovic, Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers Representative Matt Moffitt, and Visitors Joe Minogue, Peter Cipriano, John Yast and Joseph O'Connell.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – Flossmoor resident John Yast stated he lives across the street from the Heather Hill tennis courts and asked the park district to help the Village of Flossmoor “save them from themselves” by not agreeing to the proposal that they will be presenting.

PRESENTATION – Village of Flossmoor officials and their consultant led a discussion on the village’s proposed Heather Hill water project that would require their use of the acre of land owned by the park district where the Heather Hill tennis courts are located. Manager Wachtel concluded by saying they are requesting the park district be amenable to their seeking an appraisal for the land and then making an offer. Director Kopas stated the goal would be to be able to provide an equal or better value, from a recreational perspective to the community, of an agreed upon outcome.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes - May 2, 2023 and May 16, 2023
- b. Crisis Management Plan
A report from the Executive Director recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the updated Crisis Management Plan as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Asphalt
Director Kopas asked if there were any questions on the 2023 Asphalt Work report included in the Board packet. Commissioners had no comments or questions.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve Mathew Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$67,890 for the 2023 asphalt work at the Parks Department, Goldberg Administration Center, Hillcrest Park and Irwin

Community Center. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: None. Motion approved.

b. Court Repair and Related Services

Commissioner Bachus asked if there were any questions on the Court Repair and Related Services report included in the Board packet. Commissioners had no comments or questions.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve American Sealcoating of Indiana, Inc. in the amount of \$54,000 to complete the tennis court repair, resurfacing and color finishing at Pheasant Trails Park and the court transformation into four pickleball courts at Flossmoor Hills Park. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: None. Motion approved.

c. Recreation Fall Fees & Charges

Superintendent Gianatasio indicated there was only one recommended fee increase, and that is to Wine Down Wednesday. Based on feedback from past sessions, a fee increase would allow for a larger wine pour and more substantial food offerings. He highlighted some new offerings, including Discovery Diversity: Storytime in the Park, Salsa and Sangria, enhanced art programs and safety sessions for kids.

Commissioner Johnson applauded all of the new thinking that went into offering the additional programs.

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the Recreation Fall 2023 Fees & Charges as presented. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: None. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioners had no comments or questions.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the claims list in the amount of \$550,343.80. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING May 31, 2023

COMMUNICATIONS – Board & Administrator – June 2023

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Kopas

- Indicated she asked Siri how many months it's been since October 1993 when she attended her first Board meeting. It's been 356 months, so that means she has attended that many regular meetings and almost as many committee and special meetings. She knows she missed two meetings over the years; once when she was in the hospital and the other when she had a baby.
- Stated that it is truly her honor to have served this community. She appreciates the Board and their predecessors for being supportive and allowing her to do creative things and to build amazing teams, the one in the room and those that came before them. She had no idea that a part-time job obtained so she could work close to home would turn into something so special.

Commissioner Bachus

- Replied that the thank you should come from us, for all Kopas has done over the past 32 years. Continued that Debbie is aware, and wanted to share with everyone else, that the Board has established a \$500

annual scholarship for a student at H-F High School who either is pursuing an education in Parks & Rec or has made a notable contribution to the Park District during their high school career. The first scholarship was awarded at the recent Honors Convocation and went to McKenzie Russell who grew up as a “park district rat”.

- Presented a framed photo of the *H-F Chronicle* article written when Kopas announced her retirement date. Bachus thanks Marilyn Thomas for all she does to help celebrate moments like this in our community. The red ribbon on the gift was one Commissioner Johnson saved from the Ice Arena reopening ribbon cutting ceremony.

Commissioner Johnson

- Has had the opportunity to work with Kopas for 16 or 17 years and it’s truly been a pleasure for him to be able to learn from her and see how a park district should be run. He remembered the decisions and challenges faced surrounding both the closing of Dolphin Pool/building of The Clubhouse and the establishment of Wiley’s. Under Kopas’ leadership, both included tough decisions and are now very successful, as was the Ice Arena renovation project.
- It has truly been an honor to sit beside Kopas and watch her grow her career with the park district.

Commissioner Coderre

- Shared that she ran into Kopas at Holiday Lights and innocently asked about the “big melt” at the Ice Arena – and now her she is, on the Board.
- PRIDE Starry Nights was absolutely phenomenal, and the first thing she and her family saw when they arrived at Irwin were the smiling faces of HFPD employees all over the park.

Commissioner Dennison

- Was initially blown away by the community presentation led by Debbie outlining the proposed closing of Dolphin Lake pool, which continued with many more impressive accomplishments throughout the years. This is not goodbye; it’s good luck for what the future holds.
- Welcome to Crystal and John.

Director Kopas indicated that in preparation for the Village of Flossmoor’s presentation, Director Boehm reached out to two landscape architects to get an idea of the current price of new tennis courts. Both estimates were \$160,000 per court, so a total cost to put courts in a new location would be \$350,000 - \$400,000, plus the price of the land. Kopas indicated she has shared this information with Flossmoor Manager Wachtel.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dennison moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved and everyone applauded Kopas as her final Board meeting concluded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Kopas

Debbie Kopas, Secretary