



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

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

Minutes of December 5, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Johnson. Commissioners Coderre and Dennison were present. Also present were Executive Director Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Patrick McAneney, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Secretary Anne Brabec and Visitor Maggie Gosselin. Commissioners Bachus and Ojode were absent.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – Visitor Gosselin indicated she attended the meeting to learn more about the tax levy. She also expressed her interest in having a location within Homewood-Flossmoor where children can gather, maybe similar to Bellaboo's, a children's play and discovery center, located in Lake Station, Indiana that is run by Lake County Parks & Recreation.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing to present a proposed property tax levy increase for the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District was called to order at 7:06 pm on a motion from Commissioner Coderre and seconded by Commissioner Dennison. Commissioners Coderre, Dennison and Johnson were present. A notice of the hearing was published prior to the meeting in accordance with the statute.

Superintendent Garrity gave a brief explanation of the tax levy process. Since the park district is asking for more than 5% of the amount levied last year, the publication notice and public hearing were necessary. The Park District does not expect to receive more than a 5% increase; however, the District must request a higher amount in order to reduce the risk of not capturing any unanticipated new property. Cook County will apply the tax cap and reduce the levies as directed by the district. The total amount levied for 2023 is \$6,282,405.

Commissioner Dennison moved to close the public hearing at 7:12 pm. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes - October 3, 2023, October 17, 2023, November 7, 2023
- b. Ordinance #767
An ordinance authorizing the disposal of certain items of personal property by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- a. General 2023 Tax Levy Ordinance #765
Commissioner Dennison moved to approve Ordinance #765 levying taxes for all corporate purposes for the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Cook County, Illinois for the year 2023. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion approved.

b. Ordinance #766

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve Ordinance #766 directing the Cook County Clerk as to reduction of the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District's real estate tax levy for levy year 2023. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Recreation Spring 2024 Fees & Charges*

Superintendent Gianatasio indicated that small fee increases are recommended for several programs that include food due to the rise in food prices. New programs include a variety of art sessions, a medical school for both children and teens, and new adult programs such as Mixology, Bourbon Night, Prom Rewind, and a series of Adulting 101 sessions. New athletic sessions include Dodgeball and Basketball 201, which will allow athletes to further their skills. Commissioners liked the creative thinking and new offerings.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approved the Recreation Spring 2024 Fees & Charges as presented. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion approved.

b. Ice Arena Boiler Replacement*

Superintendent McAneney reported that the boiler currently in the Ice Arena was installed more than 12 years ago and is starting to show signs of age. To be proactive, quotes were sought for an energy-efficient replacement, and Aleck Plumbing provided the best price for a 100-gallon quick recovery water heater.

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the proposal from Aleck Plumbing of Homewood, Illinois for the replacement of the Ice Arena boiler in the amount of \$29,675. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison and Johnson. Nays: None. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION

Executive Director Boehm expressed that there is a need to hold a Committee meeting in January 2024, however the first Tuesday in January is the second, which this year is part of the New Year's holiday. Staff would still be available to have the meeting that night, or it could be scheduled for January 9, which would then mean meetings held on two consecutive Tuesdays. After discussion, it was decided to schedule the January 2024 meetings for January 9 and January 16.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioners Coderre asked if the new desktops and laptops have been received. Secretary Brabec indicated that they have, and that she now has two monitors, which is very helpful.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the claims list in the amount of \$425,257.05. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison and Johnson. Nays: none. Motion approved.

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

Commissioners had no comments or questions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- Irons Oaks is prepping for Light Up the Oaks on December 21, 22 and 23. Meany Electric donated the use of generators. This type of event is something that has been talked about for years, and it's great to see

it coming together.

- The Butterball Burner had 119 participants; we are proud of that.
- Both Village tree lightings went well. The park district was visible in both, hosting as usual the Homewood tree lighting and stepping up our presence in Flossmoor, which we will continue to do.
- Still working on connecting with Representative Will Davis regarding the grant he indicated we had been awarded.
- The sale of the Heather Hill property has been delayed; the Village of Flossmoor would like to hold another town meeting first.
- Youth basketball has more than 180 registrants; kudos to Recreation Supervisor Marius Hill.
- Tomorrow is the HFPD holiday party at The Clubhouse.
- Asked Secretary Brabec to give an update on their vehicle that had been taken from the Coyote Run parking lot.
- Had the 10-month walk through of the Ice Arena renovation project. There is a small list of items to address, as well as concerns about the energy put out by the facility.

Commissioner Dennison

- It was nice to read how we're transitioning through the seasons, like stopping grass cutting, getting the snow plows ready and focusing on indoor programs. It's exciting to see the great things we have coming up for our residents.

Commissioner Coderre

- The lights are awesome. It makes her realize what a footprint the park district has and how things make a difference. Director Boehm indicated the plan is to expand holiday lights to additional facilities next year.
- It was great to see the increased enrollment at the Racquet Club.
- Thanked Ms. Gosselin for coming to the meeting; it is really important for people to show up and we appreciate it. Commissioner Johnson seconded this.

Commissioner Johnson

- Likes the concept of joint registration with the school districts. Director Boehm indicated this process is something the intergovernmental group is working on.
- Thanks to Karen Garrity and the entire staff who worked on the budgeting process; he knows it is a massive undertaking.
- Asked if we are doing outdoor ice this year; Director Boehm indicated we will if we get seven consecutive days that don't go above 30 degrees.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dennison moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Boehm

Doug Boehm, Secretary