



HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners
Goldberg Administration Center
3301 Flossmoor Road, Flossmoor, IL 60422

Minutes of January 9, 2024

The Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Bachus. Commissioners Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus were present. Also present were Executive Director Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Manager of Irons Oaks Cheryl Vargo and Secretary Anne Brabec.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

DISCUSSION

a. HFPD Financial Outlook

Superintendent Garrity provided a summary of HFPD's financial 2018- 2023 year-end status. Garrity reviewed projections as to where 2023-24 fiscal year will finish and where the park district stands with its 2024-2025 preliminary budget. Included in that budget is a good amount of capital, which is possible during this one year because the park district is getting rid of debt by paying off the 2014 bonds. The park district gains some interest from a liquid assets fund savings account. Ideally, best practices would have this account contain enough to cover six months' worth of operating expenses.

b. Capital Projects Review

Necessary and wishful projects at each facility have been identified and budget years for prioritized completion specified. This is a work in progress and as items become finalized, they will be included in the appropriate budget.

c. Cancellation Policy

Superintendent Gianatasio indicated that the current cancellation policy was approved in 2007, and with technology and procedure advancements since then, it is outdated. The department head team all worked together to revamp the policy so the updated version works with the majority of facilities and programs. The new policy will be posted on the website, included in the quarterly digital brochures, and included within the SmartRec waiver that registrants read and acknowledge.

d. Irons Oaks Fees & Charges

Manager Vargo indicated schools are still struggling with expenses and acquiring busses post-Covid, so she does not want to increase those fees. She would like to make a change to the extra staff rate in the four-hour combination teams and climbing program. A \$50 increase would allow this activity to be entered differently in Amilia so that contracts are clearer to teachers. The extra staff increase would also apply to larger Nature Birthday Parties. The prime time room rental hourly rate will increase by \$8, and a new Summer Tent Rental would allow the tent to be rented without also renting the indoor space. The bathrooms at Discovery Center have outside access and could be used for these tent rentals, as will the Vollmer Road parking lot.

e. Rover's Run Dog Park

Executive Director Boehm and Superintendent Gianatasio led a discussion on discontinuing memberships to Rover's Run and instead offering the dog park as a free amenity to the community. The area would continue to be maintained like the park district's other parks. Signage with guidelines and disclaimers would be installed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- The rinks are up at Flossmoor Park. The big rink is flooded and the smaller is in the works. The upcoming extremely cold weather will help. The ice skate library will be put in place.
- The sledding hill at Hillcrest Park will be monitored and the sled libraries will be set up there and at Willow.
- 193 are signed up for the youth basketball program. The park district is able to use the Willow School gym for some practices this year, which is very helpful.
- Camp Frosty ran the two weeks of winter break with 16 – 20 participants each day.
- Ice Spy has begun at Irons Oaks.
- Volunteer Camp was just incredible; can't say enough about Jennah Carlson and her team introducing this great program.
- Minimum wage has gone up to \$14 per hour and impacts all of our programs.
- Super proud of all of the activities and programs that went on during the holidays.

Commissioner Coderre

- Participating in the Get Fit Challenge; it's great to see the Club so packed.

Commissioner Ojode

- Awesome job with all of the holiday activities.

Commissioner Bachus

- Loved the agenda tonight and having the opportunity to get caught up on so many topics. Karen, thank you for all the work on the financial updates.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Coderre moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Boehm

Doug Boehm, Secretary