



HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners
Irwin Community Center
18120 Highland Avenue, Homewood, IL 60430

Minutes of February 6, 2024

Prior to the start of the meeting, President Bachus welcomed the visitors in attendance. He explained that this was the Board's annual strategic planning meeting, and that portion of the meeting would follow Comments from Visitors. He continued that never in all of his eight years on the Board had the Board been blessed with so many people attending a meeting for a specific topic. He indicated the Board was thrilled that they were there and were very happy to listen.

The Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 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, Information Systems Coordinator Chuck Yucuis, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Irwin Center Manager Oralethea Davenport, Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Dineen, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Patrick McAneney, Manager of Irons Oaks Cheryl Vargo, Superintendent of Golf Phil Knight, Coyote Run Manager Tom Denklau, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Michelle Artis, Racquet & Fitness Club Assistant Manager Mike Loszach, Racquet & Fitness Club Customer Service Coordinator Brenda Feehery, Ice Arena Manager Lyndsay Freeman, Marketing & Public Relations Manager Bob Birgel, Human Resources Manager Kelly Rose, Secretary Anne Brabec, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, and several Visitors. Those Visitors who legibly signed in were Kathleen Seidel, Alison Horvath, Kimberly Beatty, Ilene Mokijewski, John Drux, Renee Lamb, Jennifer Drosset, Kim O'Lone, Jim Joyce and Chris Holland.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – Kathleen Seidel asked for the status of the Rover's Run recommendation and the Rover's Run gate, as well as continuing with other concerns related to changes to the dog park. President Bachus replied to Ms. Seidel that the Board heard her concerns and that she gave them a lot to think about.

Kim Beatty expressed her concern that the Board did not think to get input from dog park members, many of whom have been members for many years, prior to considering changes. She shared that she appreciates the community feel of Rover's Run and its importance in allowing dogs to be free and release energy. She indicated that the minimum age of those allowed in the park should be raised, and that it would be great to have an area within the park exclusively for smaller dogs, or even a second park just for smaller dogs.

Other visitors expressed that knowing that vaccines are being monitored is very valuable and that the membership fee is not a big factor. Kim O'Lone indicated she would be fine with a fee waiver for those not able to afford the membership fee as long as vaccines continue to be verified. A visitor expressed concern about holes in the park that need to be filled and other maintenance needs; Executive Director Boehm introduced Superintendent of Parks McAneney and indicated he can be contacted to correct maintenance issues.

President Bachus concluded by expressing that he was thrilled the visitors were in attendance, because so many times there has been "radio silence" by the park district community, and that any changes to

Rover's Run have been put on hold. Staff will collect more facts and figures about dog parks in area park districts and review results from the survey that went out to the community.

All visitors, as well as Reporter Thomas, left the meeting following the Comments From Visitors.

DISCUSSION

a. 2024 – 2025 Goals

Executive Director Boehm thanked staff in attendance for participating in the meeting. He explained the annual goals meeting is designed to provide vision and direction for items to be included in the upcoming year's budget.

President Bachus acknowledged the amount of work that had already gone into preparing the goals to be discussed. He reminded everyone of the park district's core values, and then led the discussion of the park district's 2024 – 2025 goals.

Six top-line goals were introduced, and action steps for each were presented by the staff member key to the item:

- Enhance Parks and Outdoor Spaces
- Implement Technology Advancements
- Sharpen Our Focus on Financial Position
- Improve Facilities and Infrastructure
- Upgrade Administrative Policies and Programming
- Continually Enhance HFPD Programming

All present were invited to provide input and ask questions throughout the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Commissioner Dennison son seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Boehm

Doug Boehm, Secretary