



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

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

Minutes of March 19, 2024

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 Bachus were present. Also present were Executive Director Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Patrick McAneney, Ice Arena Manager Lyndsay Freeman, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Irwin Center Manager Oralethea Davenport, Coyote Run Manager Tom Denklau, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Michelle Artis, Recreation Supervisor Dyana Metheny, Secretary Anne Brabec, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, and Visitors Kathleen Seidel, Jennifer Drosset, Jim Calhoun, Brian Homrich, John Workman, John Smith, Kim O'Lone, Kim Beatty, Anthony DeLuca and Alison Horvath. Commissioner Ojode was absent.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Kathleen Seidel reviewed the content of the previous week's Rover's Run community meeting and asked if there is anything in the recommendation presented in Item 5a. different than what had been presented at the community meeting. She expressed that she had attended five meetings and was still not clear on what the basis was for making any changes to Rover's Run and continued to talk about what had transpired during those meetings. She concluded by indicating that her recommendation to the Board would be to make no changes to Rover's Run as there is no basis to forego the revenue. President Bachus thanked her for her comments.

Kimberly Beatty thanked Katie Seidel for bringing up the topics on behalf of Rover's Run members. She then referenced the tennis court bid approval on the agenda and asked if the park district keeps a responsible bidder's list and if there is bid information on the district's website. Executive Director Boehm replied that the park district does have lists of companies interested in bidding different types of projects and that invitations to bid are always published in the *Sun Times* and posted on the website. Beatty asked how many bidders there were for the tennis court project; Boehm answered that it was just the one and the company has done work with the park district for the past 10 years.

John Smith discussed a drainage project he'd like to do at the dog park; Director Boehm indicated that the park district appreciates his passion, and that Superintendent McAneney will be looking into what needs to be done at Rover's Run and the park district will do the work.

Another visitor commented that if rules at Rover's Run are self-enforced; then why is it not okay for members to bring in and leave chairs or other personal items there? He indicated members could monitor these items themselves and move them for mowing when needed.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Minutes - February 6, 2024 and February 20, 2024

b. Setting of the Public Hearing Date for the Proposed 2024-25 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #770

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 2024-245 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #770 on display, in accordance with park district code, beginning April 19, 2024 and to set the Public Hearing date for May 21, 2024.

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

OLD BUSINESS

a. Rover's Run Dog Park

Executive Director Boehm indicated that Supervisor Gianatasio was absent due to Covid, so he would be presenting the report. He mentioned the park district will work on streamlining the Rover's Run annual application process, that the minimum age of those allowed in the dog park was changed to 14, and that the park district is continuing to work with the Homewood Police Department to better monitor the park. He indicated changing Rover's Run to a free amenity for residents while maintaining a membership fee for non-residents would become effective May 1.

Commissioner Coderre indicated that there were some good comments made about maintenance needed at the dog park by the passionate group of members, and she sees this as an opportunity to all work together to make the park better. She appreciated that even though the visitors came to the meeting because of the dog park, their attendance spurred questions about the bidding process and how the park district operates, which shows a great passion for the community.

Commissioner Dennison thanked the visitors for attending and for their suggestions and comments. She invited them to continue to come to meetings, as they, like the Board, were there because they love their community.

Commissioner Johnson said he appreciated all of the efforts of staff to revisit the original recommendation based on the feedback from the community, and assuming the park district can address the necessary maintenance issues at Rover's Run, he was comfortable moving forward with the recommendation.

President Bachus stated that he still believed that with the appropriate safety measures in place, making the dog park a free amenity and encouraging more community members to use it, is ultimately a good thing and in line with the objectives of the park district.

Commissioner Johnson moved to change Rover's Run to a free amenity for residents while maintaining a membership fee for non-residents and adopt the rules as proposed noting a revisiting of the procedures regarding personal items. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. Irwin Park

Executive Director Boehm reviewed that after discussion regarding updating Irwin Park at a previous meeting, Upland Design provided three proposals based upon small, medium and large price points. To do this project, the park district would apply for an OSLAD grant, which requires a 50% match of funds. Commissioner Johnson inquired about the funds needed to match the grant should we receive it; Director Boehm indicated that the timing would be such that Irwin renovation funds would be included in the next budget cycle. Commissioner Bachus asked the amount of an OSLAD grant; it is up to \$600,000.

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the proposal from Upland Design in the amount of \$11,750 for the Irwin Park OSLAD grant work. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Flossmoor Park Tennis Courts*

Superintendent McAneney indicated there was only one bidder for the tennis court repair and resurfacing of the four courts at Flossmoor Park. The budget is \$60,000 and their bid \$45,900. American Sealcoating has

worked on park district tennis courts for the past 10 years, and McAneney worked with them last year when they did the work at Pheasant Trails and the conversion to pickleball courts at Flossmoor Hills.

Commissioner Bachus asked about the timing for the project; McAneney answered the work would be done by the end of June. Bachus also wondered how long the courts would be out of commission; McAneney indicated it would be four or five days and that signs would be posted with alternate court locations.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the bid from American Sealcoating of Indiana, Inc. in the amount of \$45,900 to complete the tennis court repair, resurfacing and color finishing of four courts at Flossmoor Park. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the claims list in the amount of \$346,915.92. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING February 29, 2024

Commissioner Johnson indicated he was glad to see the actuals exceed budget. Commissioner Bachus commented that the racquet and fitness center is turning things around and he was glad to see the revenue lines where they were.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- The park district has had a lot of staff training; there was an all-staff training on Friday morning focusing on customer service and DEI as well as a presentation by Aflac. The training was repeated on Friday night for about 40 part-time staff.
- There was a really nice turn out at the job fair held Saturday at the Racquet Club. Interviews and offers were done onsite.
- The park district has a full slate of Easter events, starting with the Flashlight Egg Hunt at Irons Oaks on Friday night. Saturday at Apollo is the community egg hunt, and Skate with the Bunny is Sunday at the Ice Arena. Two of the Easter Brunch seatings at Wiley's are sold out, with only a few remaining openings for the early time.
- The Distinguished Agency Committee, headed by Oralethea Davenport, has been meeting regularly and putting in a lot of hours to get the district up to speed. The application will be ready to submit prior to the April 1 deadline.
- Ve'lari Dorsey accepted the position of Athletic Recreation Supervisor. She comes from a gymnastics and dance background and will begin on April 1.
- Administrative staff have put in a lot of hours preparing for the PayCom transition. The process will next filter to department heads for training.

Commissioner Dennison

- With the weather changing, it's been so nice to drive around and see so much happening in the parks. Baseball, softball, walkers with strollers, kids on the playground. That's what it's all about and what we're here for.
- Shout out to Oralethea for all of the work on the Distinguished Agency application; it is a lot of work but it is important for the park district to be doing it.

Commissioner Johnson

- Asked for an update on what caused the sewer issue at Irwin. Superintendent McAneney indicated that it was overuse of the bathrooms. To prevent future issues, the design of the pipes has to be reconfigured, and

the problem is in the process of being rectified.

- Wondered about the condition of the outdoor ice rink liner when it was removed. McAneney answered that a few places had been patched when it was installed and that the patches held and all was good when the liner was taken down.
- Noticed the Village of Homewood again this year scheduled their cleanup day the week before Park Pride. It would be great after this year's events to have another discussion about coordinating the cleanups, and getting the Village of Flossmoor involved as well, so we're not all competing with each other.

Commissioner Coderre

- It's great that the park district offers the Job Fair; glad to see it was successful.
- Good to see that with the closing of the American Dance Center, the park district is expanding dance offerings and providing that service to the community.
- Noticed that the 4-year-old preschool is already full. It's a wonderful problem to have that 100% of the three-year-olds have already enrolled for next year. Manager Davenport indicated that planning is underway to offer an afternoon session for four-year-olds. Staff are also looking into a supervised lunchtime program so students could be enrolled in both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Commissioner Bachus

- Thank goodness for golf with 1,850 rounds already when last year at this time there were about 450. Wondered at what point it is time to worry that it's too many and could hurt course conditions; Manager Denklau indicated he leaves that up to the Superintendent Knight and his staff and they are very careful not to compromise summertime play for spring dollars.
- Thrilled to see the ice contract with Sandburg.
- It's great that both the 12u Bantams and PeeWees won their divisions. It would be great to invite winning teams to a Board meeting to be recognized.
- The new fitness equipment at the Club is awesome. He has received many positive comments.
- It's crazy to see how well facilities rentals started for the year and great to see how everyone is anxious to get out and about and do things again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:50 pm, Commissioner Johnson moved to enter in the Executive Session for the purpose of purpose of 2(c)(8) discussion of security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Prior to moving into Executive Session, President Bachus thanked visitors for coming to the meeting.

Meeting reconvened at 7:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dennison moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Boehm

Doug Boehm, Secretary