



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

**Minutes of August 6, 2024**

The Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Bachus. Commissioners Coderre, Ojode and Bachus were present. Also present were Executive Director Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Patrick McAneney, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, H-F Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Michelle Artis, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Secretary Anne Brabec and Visitors who signed in Adrienne River, Robert Frick, Jane Sablich and Cathy Davis. Commissioners Dennison and Johnson were absent.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, President Bachus introduced the staff in attendance and explained the process for visitor comments.

**CHANGE IN AGENDA – None**

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS** – Adrienne River indicated she represented the pickleball community and their concerns about the court resurfacing at the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club. She presented to the Board a petition signed by 58 pickleball players asking for more information regarding the plan. She expressed their concern that the new pickleball courts will be positioned too close together to be safe and enjoyable, and their hope that if it is decided changes should be made to the plan, there is still time to do so. Bob Fricke shared frustration over the long wait times during open play sessions and that as resident taxpayers, they have interest in being able to provide input. Cathy Davis shared that she is concerned about safety with the proposed new court design since they “play like they’re getting paid for it”.

On behalf of the park district, Executive Director Boehm apologized for making the pickleball players feel left out of the resurfacing project plans. A meeting will be scheduled to address concerns. Visitors were told the proposed court layout is included in the bid packet posted on the park district website, and it will also be emailed to everyone who provided an email address on the meeting sign-in sheet.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

a. HFPD Mission Statement

Executive Director Boehm indicated it is good practice to review the park district’s mission statement at least every five years. Management staff discussed the current statement, “To enhance the quality of life through diverse recreational opportunities, facilities and parks while caring for the environment” and thought it still meets the park district’s needs and encompasses what the park district is all about.

Commissioner Bachus shared his thought that diverse and inclusive are two very different words with very different meanings, and that saying “...diverse and inclusive recreational opportunities...” would be a very different and more holistic statement. Executive Director Boehm indicated staff will again review the statement.

b. Solar

Executive Director Boehm reported that the park district has been talking about solar for years, and Manager Vargo took the discussion to the next step and gathered information from two companies. One provides solar panels that are purchased outright, and the other installs panels through a power purchase agreement. Vargo shared proposals and explained details of each. Commissioners were

agreeable to continuing this research and also talking to other park districts who have gone solar.

c. Irwin Center Generator

Executive Director Boehm reported that the Irwin Center is a designated cooling and warming shelter for the community, and its current generator no longer works properly. Staff would like to recommend the purchase of a new generator through Sourcewell, pending grant opportunities. A new generator is budgeted within this fiscal year.

Superintendent McAneney provided details on the status of the current generator as well as the proposed purchase. He has researched a grant through ComEd and will look into other grant options as well.

There was discussion that should there be an emergency and shelter is needed that cannot be properly handled by the Irwin Center, the Racquet & Fitness Club and/or The Clubhouse could be options.

d. Flossmoor Hills Fence Replacement

Superintendent McAneney indicated the fence at the newly installed Flossmoor Hills pickleball courts is in poor condition. Funds were budgeted for fence replacement this year, and this location has the most need. McAneney obtained two proposals, one of which would paint the poles, the other would require the park district to do the painting. There is about a \$3,000 difference. Commissioners agreed it would be preferable to have the fencing company do the painting.

e. Tower Park

Executive Boehm shared photos of Tower Park in Homewood. The park district has a very small playground there, at what is now the location of the village landscape maintenance division. The park requires a lot of maintenance due to weeds and does not serve a large residential area. Woodborough Park is just 3/10s of a mile, a six-minute walk, away.

The Village of Homewood is interested in using this playground area for a community garden and greenhouse and possibly a tree farm to be able to grow their own native plants for use throughout the village. It would still be a greenspace available to the community.

It was agreed that the park district and village should continue discussions and host a joint neighborhood meeting to gauge reaction and the impact to the community.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Executive Director Boehm

- This is the last week for the pool, and the only summer camp still running is Irons Oaks nature camp. Kudos to Manager Vargo and her staff for offering the extra week.
- Staff continue to spend hours working on the Master Plan and Distinguished Agency.
- Work on the OSLAD grant application for Irwin Park is in the final stages for submittal by the early September deadline.
- A request has been made to have the park district removed from the Heather Hill lawsuit.
- A big shout out to Superintendent McAneney and his team for all the work put into cleaning up Indian Trails Park following the storm.
- Will be off until Monday, August 12. Manager Vargo will be in charge.

Commissioner Coderre

- Thank you for your work.

Commission Ojode

- Same; thank you for your work. I can't believe summer is over!

Commissioner Bachus

- Echoes those sentiments.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:09 pm, Commissioner Ojode moved to enter in the Executive Session for the purpose of purpose of 2(c)(1) discussion of the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the district. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Ojode moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doug Boehm".

**Doug Boehm, Secretary**