



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

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

Minutes of April 15, 2025

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 Ojode were present. Also present were Superintendent of Parks & Planning Patrick McAneney, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Gianatasio, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Marketing and Public Relations Manager Bob Birgel, Ice Arena Manager Lyndsay Freeman, Irwin Center Manager Oralethea Davenport, Human Resources Manager Kelly Rose, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Dan Schaffer, Coyote Run General Manager Tom Denklau, Commissioner-Elect Byron Walker, and Secretary Anne Brabec.

Commissioner Bachus welcomed everyone to the penultimate regular meeting for Commissioners Johnson and Ojode.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – Item 3a., Comments from Visitor Wakana Hill, was removed from the agenda since Wakana was unable to attend the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes - March 4, 2025, and March 18, 2025
- b. Setting of the Public Hearing Date for the Proposed 2025-26 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance # 776
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 2025-26 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #776 on display, in accordance with park district code, beginning April 18, 2025, and to set the Public Hearing date for May 20, 2025.
- c. Summer 2025 Bus Transportation Service
A report from the Superintendent of Recreation recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the proposal from Frist Student for the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District transportation services for summer 2025.
- d. Final Status of 2024-2025 Core Values & Goals
- e. Policy & Procedure Manual
Review and approval of Section 6: Building & Park Use and Section 9: Aquatic Facility.
- f. New Exempt Position Job Description
A report from the Human Resources Manager recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the new RFC Building Custodial Supervisor position and updated full-time salary guidelines as presented.

Commissioner Johnson thanked everyone for continuing with the updates to the Policy & Procedure Manual, as even though it is mundane, it is critical to keep up to speed. Commissioner Dennison “dittoed” Johnson’s comment.

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

OLD BUSINESS

a. Surplus Spend

Superintendent Garrity provided information on capital items that could be addressed with the district's built-up savings. Garrity explained that she spoke with Lauterbach & Amen to make sure budgeting for a significant budget loss would be okay, and they indicated it is perfectly normal when doing a spenddown. She also contacted Aaron Gold at Speer Financial to see how this could affect the park district's S&P review. There is a high enough balance in the district's improvement fund, which is where this spending would be processed, and S&P does not look at the improvement fund, they look at the corporate and recreation funds, so it would not affect the rating.

Commissioner Johnson commented that it is important to remember the operating budget will remain the same; the park district is not creating a budget that it does not have money to cover, and additional capital projects will continue to be included in upcoming budgets. Superintendent Garrity emphasized that all of the spending does not have to be done within one year, and Commissioner Johnson pointed out that the money will go farther if it can be spent sooner than later, as nothing is going to get cheaper.

Executive Director Boehm shared a list of projects, many which are improvements at the Racquet & Fitness Club. Also included are a recreation bus, website redesign, concrete work, and new playground equipment at three parks built in the 1990's. Discussion on these items included ADA needs and manpower limitations on getting too many projects completed.

Commissioners agreed they are comfortable with spending \$1.5 million of the surplus, approximately three-quarters of it going toward projects at the Racquet & Fitness Club, and earmarking updates to the three playgrounds since parks are very important to a large portion of our community.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Summer 2025 Recreation Fees & Charges

Superintendent Gianatasio reviewed the list of new programs for this summer, primarily for seniors and adults. Commissioners were glad to see the offerings and the attention given to the feedback found within the master plan.

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the Summer 2025 Recreation Fees & Charges as presented. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. IPRA Environmental Report Card

Irons Oaks Manager Vargo shared that this was the third time the District has completed this report card. This year HFPD scored a 72%, which is lower than the previous time, however the bar has risen and there are now more categories and less possible partial credit. Many of the new standards are costly, and those that do not have a cost, the District complies with. According to IPRA, 72% means the District is doing a very good job and should keep up the good work.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District's IPRA Environmental Report Card as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

c. Summer 2025 Splash Pad Hours of Operation

Superintendent of Recreation Gianatasio expressed that Splash Pad patrons indicated they would like to see the pad open for longer than the two-hour increments offered last summer, which had been developed during Covid. Public hours for this summer have been expanded, and party and outing options will now be available before and after public hours on Saturdays and Sundays and in three times slots on Mondays.

Commissioner Coderre commented that as someone who had shown up to the pad 15 minutes prior to one of the random closing times, she is so grateful for this change.

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the new hours of operation for the Splash Pad beginning summer 2025. Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the claims list in the amount of \$610,562.67. Commissioner Ojode seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode, and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING March 31, 2025

Commissioner Johnson commented that the Rec was crazy good.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- He and Superintendent Garrity attended the Village of Homewood TIF meeting and heard updates on what is coming to town.
- A new rec supervisor will start on Monday, April 28, and we are looking forward to him joining us.
- The Master Plan presentation to the Board has been moved from May 20 to June 3, when more Commissioners will be present.
- The Irwin ADA Entry Access project is out to bid.
- The retirement party for Commissioners Johnson and Ojode will be at Wiley's on May 6 following the committee meeting.
- Special thanks to Manager Vargo, the management team and the Board, for covering everything while he was out. It mean a lot, so thank you.

Commissioner Dennison

- Attended the first Trailhounds walk of the year. It's always very exciting to see all the mutts running around and Jennifer Drossett has done a very good job with that program for a very long time.
- Noticed the brick planter that was put up at Indian Trails; it is beautiful.
- The disc golf improvements at Patriots are great, looking forward to seeing the signs.
- Congratulations to Devin for receiving the Difference Maker award.
- Seeing the fountain on at Irwin is such a sign of spring!

Commissioner Ojode

- Thank you to the team for working through the Paycom issues; she's sure that it is frustrating.
- So great to see the success of the job fairs and that hiring is going so well.
- Nice to see the spring events, like World Pi Day.
- Looking forward to the Native Plant Sale; it is one of her favorites.

Commissioner Johnson

- Thank you to Cheryl Vargo and the team for making sure everything went smoothly during Director Boehm's absence; it did not go unnoticed.

Commissioner Coderre

- The Easter Egg Hunt at Apollo was awesome; her daughter was so excited to see the Easter Bunny and we got cute pics.
- So nice to see people using the scholarship offering; it's very important that we offer that.
- The April Fool's joke was very good, especially since it was a team effort, with employees liking the post and commenting to make it seem more real.
- Looking forward to the summer hours and menu returning to Wiley's, hopefully it will boost some of the restaurant numbers.

Commissioner Bachus

- Echoed the sentiments about the success of the job fair and staffing. Pretty amazing that the pool is fully staffed in April.
- Love that the Lady Bug Competition is getting so many people; sorry to see some getting turned away.
- Asked Manager Schaffer about the Wilson Sporting Goods arrangement and his meeting with representatives from the pickleball community.
- Thank you to everyone for all you do each and every day to make this an awesome park district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:03 pm, Commissioner Dennison moved to enter in the Executive Session for the purpose of 2(c)(1) discussion of the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District and for 2(c)(3) the selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, and for 2(c)(8) the discussion of security procedures, 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 Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Johnson, Ojode and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 8:40 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Douglas P. Boehm, Secretary