



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

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

Minutes of May 20, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bachus. Commissioners Coderre and Johnson 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, Irwin Center Manager Oralethea Davenport, Human Resources Manager Kelly Rose, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Dan Schaffer, Coyote Run General Manager Tom Denklau, Recreation Supervisor Brandon Diaz, Treasurer Steve Ojode, Commissioner-Elect Byron Walker, Commissioner-Elect Schafer, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Secretary Anne Brabec and Visitors Tonya Walker, Avert Schafer-Sacks, David Sacks, Mother Diva, Antonio Bishop and David Carvalho. Commissioners Dennison and Ojode were absent.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – Visitor Carvalho expressed thanks for putting up the basketball hoop in the Racquet & Fitness Club parking lot, and although he doesn't play tennis or pickleball, he wants the Board to know that even though not everyone always agrees with them, it is appreciated by many that they are making the right decisions for the right reasons.

Superintendent Gianatasio introduced new Recreation Supervisor Brandon Diaz, who will be managing everything sports for the park district.

BUSINESS OF THE 2024-2025 BOARD

President Bachus indicated Commissioner Linda Ojode is out of state for work and not able to be at the meeting. He recognized her full 6-year commitment to the Board, which she served with thought and grace.

He continued by acknowledging the 18 years Commissioner Steve Johnson faithfully served the Park District and the community. He learned from him what it means to be an effective Board member, a steward of the community, and to always try to find the right balance. Thank you, Steve, on behalf of the park district, the staff, the H-F community, the commissioners, and himself.

Commissioner Johnson thanked President Bachus and expressed that the amount of satisfaction and joy being part of the Board and park district has brought to him should have him thanking his fellow commissioners, Executive Director Boehm and the staff. Without the work done by the staff each and every day, the community would not receive the benefits of an award-winning park district. It is definitely noticed by the community. Welcome to Erika and Byron; you are joining a great group of people who are doing this for the right reasons and making sure our community remain strong for the next generation.

Commissioner Johnson left the meeting amid applause from the room.

President Bachus declared the business of the 2024-2025 complete.

SWEAR IN COMMISSIONERS WALKER AND SCHAFER

President Bachus swore in elected commissioner Byron Walker.

President Bachus shared with the audience how amazing it was for the community that there were twenty

residents willing to give their efforts, time and talent and become a park district commissioner. While there were a lot of qualified candidates, the Board decided upon R. Erika Schafer to fill the position.

President Bachus swore in appointed Commissioner R. Erika Schafer.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE 2025-2026 BOARD

Board Secretary Boehm declared the first meeting of the 2025-2026 Board called to order. Executive Secretary Brabec called the roll, with Commissioners Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus present. Commissioner Dennison was absent.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Executive Director Boehm indicated that ballots were prepared from input received from the commissioners, with Commissioner Bachus running for the position of President and Commissioner Coderre for Vice President. Commissioners were invited to write in a name if desired.

Ballots were tallied with Brent Bachus winning the vote as President and Angie Coderre as Vice President. Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the election of Commissioner Bachus as President and Commissioner Coderre as Vice President for 2025-2026 and to include the ballots in the meeting minutes. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Ballots were cast as follows:

Commissioner Bachus:	Brent Bachus for President and Angie Coderre for Vice President
Commissioner Coderre:	Brent Bachus for President and Angie Coderre for Vice President
Commissioner Schafer:	Brent Bachus for President and Angie Coderre for Vice President
Commissioner Walker:	Brent Bachus for President and Angie Coderre for Vice President

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Commissioners decided upon their committee appointments for 2025-2026:

Recreation	R. Erika Schafer and Angie Coderre
Racquet & Fitness Club	R. Erika Schafer and Brent Bachus
Ice Arena	Byron Walker and Debbie Dennison
Irons Oaks	Brent Bachus and Debbie Dennison
Golf	Angie Coderre and Byron Walker

Commissioner Schafer moved to approve the Board Committee Appointments for 2025 – 2026 as decided. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes - April 1, 2025, and April 15, 2025
- b. Resolution #670
A resolution authorizing the Treasurer to pay wages and salaries of employees during fiscal year 2025-2026 and to make payment to the IMRF.
- c. Resolution #671
A resolution authorizing the Treasurer to authorize necessary petty cash funds for the combined corporate and operating funds of the District for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

d. Fiscal 2025-26 Core Values & Goals

A report from the Executive Director recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider motion to approve the Park District 2025-2026 Core Values and Goals as presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS

a. Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Budget

At 7:25 pm, President Bachus called to order the public hearing on the 2025-2026 budget. There were no comments from the public.

Superintendent Garrity provided details on the minor revisions made after the preliminary budget was presented.

Commissioner Schafer moved to close the public hearing at 7:29 pm. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: None. Motion approved.

b. Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #776

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve Ordinance #776, an ordinance adopting combined annual budget and appropriating such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to defray all expenses and liabilities of the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026 and specifying the objects and purposes for which said appropriations are made and the amount appropriated for each object or purpose. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: None. Motion approved.

c. Approval of Appointments

Commissioner Bachus reviewed the appointments for each indicated position:

Executive Director	Doug Boehm
Board Secretary	Executive Director
Board Treasurer	Steve Ojode
SSSRA Board Member	Superintendent of Recreation
ADA Coordinator	Superintendent of Recreation
FOIA Officers	Executive Director, Superintendent of Finance & Administration, Executive Secretary
OMA Officers	Executive Director, Executive Secretary
Attorney	Robbins Schwartz
Auditor	Lauterbach and Amen, LLP
Financial Advisor	Speer Financial Inc.
Newspaper of Record	Chicago Sun-Times

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the appointment of the Executive Director, Board Secretary, Board Treasurer, SSSRA Board Member, ADA Coordinator, FOIA Officers, OMA Officers, Attorney, Auditor, Financial Advisor and Newspaper of Record as presented. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: None. Motion approved.

d. Irwin Park ADA Entry Renovation

Executive Director Boehm reviewed that Irwin Park will be renovated through the \$600,000 matching OSLAD grant awarded to the Park District. As part of the plan, better ADA access through an improved entry off Gottschalk Avenue on the west side of the park was designed and put out to bid by Upland Design. Funds were included in the 2025-2026 budget for this improvement.

Bids were opened on May 6, with the low bid received by LZ Design Build Group. References were checked and were favorable.

Commissioner Schafer moved to approve the bid from LZ Design Build Group for the Irwin Park ADA Entry Renovation in the amount of \$97,754.35. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

e. RFC HVAC Replacement Project

Executive Director Boehm explained that HVAC replacement at RFC is part of the current spenddown plan. The bid was to replace the three most needed HVAC units, with an alternate for also replacing the remaining three units. Since the bid pricing was good and costs will only go up, the recommendation is to go forward and purchase and replace all six units. Manager Schaffer provided more details of the bid process.

Commissioner Schafer asked which areas of the Club will be improved by the new units. Commissioner Walker asked about the warranty and if a crane or helicopter will be used; Schaffer indicated that this is still being determined. Commissioner Bachus wondered if this would have any bearing on any upcoming solar plans; it is not believed it would.

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the bid from Bedco Mechanical of Chicago for the purchase and installation of six HVAC units for the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club in the amount of \$274,998. Commissioner Schafer seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

f. Scandia, Pheasant Trails and Goldberg Playgrounds

Executive Director Boehm indicated the replacement of these three playgrounds, built in the 1990's, is part of the surplus spenddown plan. Landscape Structures provided two proposed designs for each park, and a community input meeting was held to get feedback. Approximately twelve people attended and voted for their favorites.

Parks staff will handle the demolition and removal of existing equipment. It will be an estimated 4-5 weeks after ordering before the playground equipment is received. The purchase will be made through Sourcewell.

Commissioner Coderre wondered if anyone asked about the Goldberg playground no longer having a castle theme. Since there will be some people sad to see the change, she suggested hosting a "farewell to the castle park and welcome to the new era" celebration once the new playground is installed. Commissioner Schafer asked what the life of a playground is; Executive Director Boehm answered that it is estimated to be 15-20 years.

Commissioner Walker moved to approve the purchase and installation of playgrounds for Scandia, Pheasant Trails and Goldberg parks from NuToys Leisure Products in the amount of \$307,743. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioner Coderre moved to approve the claims list in the amount of \$581,386.83. Commissioner Schafer seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 2025

There were no questions or comments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- Welcome to Brandon; it is so nice to see a full team in the Recreation department.
- The Irons Oaks Native Plant Sale was last weekend and was successful.
- The Splash Pad is ready to go, however with the poor weather this weekend, it will not open.
- The Master Plan will be presented at the June 3 Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Coderre

- Welcome, Brandon! Excited to see what he will do with the sports programming.
- Thank you to Parks for all they do during this time of the year, looking forward to seeing the Weed Team in action.
- It is great to see so many people already using the new Highlands courts.

Commissioner Schafer

- Asked about the augmented reality possibility at Millennium Park. Superintendent Gianatasio explained the concept and indicated it will be researched as one of this year's goals.

Commissioner Walker

- No additional comments.

Commissioner Bachus

- Sad to see that Recreation Supervisor Jennah Carlson will be leaving the park district, and appreciates she gave so much advance notice as it will be hard to see her go. She has been amazing, both with recreation and the pool.
- Loved to see the quotes from the high schools that enjoyed Irons Oaks; asked if H-F also takes advantage. Manager Vargo replied that Snowball, and a few sports teams and classes, attend for team building. Bachus would like to encourage more participation from the local schools.
- Happy birthday, pickleball. Glad to see it is being celebrated.
- Thank you for getting Highlands opened so quickly.
- A primary focus of the Board is to hire and evaluate the Executive Director, and with Human Resources Manager Rose's help, it is time to begin this year's evaluation process of Director Boehm.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Coderre moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Douglas P. Boehm, Secretary