



HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners
H-F Ice Arena
777 Kedzie Avenue, Flossmoor, IL 60422

Minutes of April 7, 2026

The Special Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bachus. Commissioners Coderre, Dennison, Schafer and Walker were present. Also present were Executive Director Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Dan Schaffer, Ice Arena Manager Jennah Carlson, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Executive Secretary Anne Brabec and Visitors Ilene and Gary Banach.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – New Business Item 4b., Racquet & Fitness Club Welcome Center Relocation & Remodel, was removed from the agenda because no bids were received for the project.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – Homewood residents and RFC members Gary and Ilene Banach each provided input regarding the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Racquet & Fitness Club Audio Improvement

Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Dan Schaffer reviewed that as part of the surplus spenddown, improvements are being made to the facility's sound system. The new system will provide audio coverage in key areas including the Welcome Center, Fitness Center, pool and locker rooms. Installation will be done by Inter-Pacific, the same company that handled the recent camera system upgrade. The district will own all the installed equipment, and there will be no ongoing fees or renewal expenses. The surplus spenddown included \$50,000 for this project.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve the quote from Inter-Pacific, Inc. for the purchase and installation of audio/sound equipment at the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club in the amount of \$44,500.17. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Schafer, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Irons Oaks Fees & Charges

Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo led discussion on recommended fees and charges for community programs, scouts, nature birthday parties, two-hour climbing, environmental education and camps. Fee increases are not needed for Adventure Center or Outdoor Education programs. Increases that are necessary are due to increases in staff, maintenance, utility and supply costs.

Commissioner Bachus indicated it would be great to see cost comparisons to other area nature centers; Manager Vargo indicated she is a member of the Illinois Park & Recreation Association's Nature Center Committee, and she will survey others on the committee.

A report with the recommended fees will be presented for approval at the April 21 Board meeting.

b. Quarterly Master Plan Check-In

Executive Director Boehm reported that staff continually refer to the Master Plan. The 110% Model has changed how the district plans programs, how it charges, and how it keeps up to speed on where it needs to be to increase revenues. The survey questions are helpful to develop new seasonal programs, and the capital plan timeline is referred to often.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- Kudos to Wiley's staff for all they had going this past weekend between breakfast for Saturday's Community Cleanup (which had to be canceled due to flooding in the area) and two seatings of a sold-out Easter brunch on Sunday. Some 100+ people still attended and enjoyed the community clean-up breakfast. Commissioner Bachus added that it was a valuable event between the three local agencies, even without being able to do the cleanup projects.
- OSLAD work at Irwin Park has been moving along very well. Concrete was poured today.
- The park district is now at a stop with the solar project. The district cannot put itself in a position to assume as much liability as is involved. Lawyers from the two sides are working to change language that could allow the district to continue.
- Proposals were recently received for bus transportation needed for summer camps, and hourly rates are significantly higher than last year. A report will be presented at the April 21 meeting.

Commissioner Dennison

- Thank you to Manager Carlson for the Ice Arena tour; it is wonderful to see the many things going on in the facility.
- Kudos to everyone involved in the preparations for Community Clean Up Day.
- The Easter Egg Hunt was great with so many from the community there. It is so nice to see the events we talk about come to fruition.
- Thanks to the crews who had to deal with the district's flooding issues.

Commissioner Coderre

- Commissioner Dennison covered the items she planned to mention.
- Her children enjoyed the zipline this weekend.

Commissioner Schafer

- Thank you to the Ice Arena for offering curling. She participated in the largest class they've had and is hearing of more and more people becoming involved in the sport. Maybe it's the next big thing!

Commissioner Walker

- Really hates that he missed the breakfast on Saturday; he had been looking forward to the Clean Up Day but then spent the morning removing water from his basement. He will be there next time!
- Appreciated the Ice Arena tour and Manager Vargo's report on Irons Oaks.
- Believes that if there are no complaints and you are only hearing good things, then you are doing something wrong. See opportunity and then move on!

Commissioner Bachus

- Kudos to Manager Rose on the success of the Job Fair; 40 plus hires is quite the number and a really good use of time. It is much appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Dennison moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Doug Boehm, Secretary