



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

**Minutes of May 5, 2026**

The Committee 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, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Patrick McAneney, Superintendent of Recreation Oralethea Davenport, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Dan Schaffer, Ice Arena Manager Jennah Carlson, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, and Executive Secretary Anne Brabec.

**CHANGE IN AGENDA** – None

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS** – None

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

a. Ice Arena Concessions

Manager Carlson reviewed that since 2023, Ice Arena staff have been responsible for the facility's concession stand, and while the revenue loss has decreased each year, it was still close to \$3,000 in 2025-2026. The stand is typically only open for larger hockey, figure skating and special open skate events.

Carlson proposed that contracting out the concession space to a local business would bring in revenue, support the local business, and provide extra service to patrons. An RFP would be prepared and if possible, the concession arrangement would be in place by late Fall.

Commissioner Coderre mentioned that several other ice arenas offer beer and wine, which was discussed and agreed could be considered for the H-F Ice Arena. Coderre also suggested that seating in the lobby area may need to be increased to allow guests a place to sit while eating.

b. Financial Update

Superintendent Garrity distributed a report detailing fund balances based on year-end projections.

There had been \$1.5 million allowed for the surplus spenddown, but it was not all spent and the district received the \$500,000 grant for the Ice Arena.

CDs are being purchased for a longer term to receive higher rates. Fifty percent is still being kept liquid.

Receipt of property taxes is finally up-to-date and will be reflected in the financial reports presented at the May 19 meeting.

Commissioner Walker asked how items indicated in the Master Plan are purchased; they are being included in annual budgets as part of the one million dollars typically included for capital expenses.

Commissioners appreciated this financial discussion and requested it be a quarterly agenda discussion item.

c. Fertilization Policy Review

Superintendent McAneney reviewed the Parks Department's current lawn treatment procedures, which includes two treatments per year. The Parks Department takes care of smaller parks, and a contractor is used for the larger parks. A granular pre-emergent is applied in the spring and a winterizer in late fall. Parks are flagged and posts made on social media to notify patrons that fertilizer has been applied, and an email is sent to those who have requested advance notification of the treatments. Executive Director Boehm provided additional history on how the fertilization process has changed, due largely to public input.

The Turf Management Plan is on the HFPD website, which includes a listing of the chemical free parks and a form to sign up for the lawn treatment informational emails.

d. RFC Update

Manager Schaffer reviewed the challenges and successes of his first year as manager of the H-F Racquet and Fitness Club, including increased participation in The Beast and Butterball Burner, the introduction of open houses and formation of a community engagement group. Funds from the surplus spenddown allowed for improved HVAC, the installation of security cameras and upgraded fitness equipment. Also, more and improved youth programming, a Code of Conduct, fitness center TVs and family changing area. He is proud of the full-time team.

To help prepare for moving forward, Schaffer presented a breakdown of Club member's ages. The majority of people now coming to the Club are aged 50 and above and many are insurance-based memberships, while the biggest opportunity for growth looks to be in the 18-39 age group. There was discussion and more research will be done.

Commissioner Bachus thanked Schaffer for his report and data and for all he has done in his first year as Club manager. He also suggested it would be great to see a spreadsheet of the RFC financials over the past 10 or so years; Superintendent Garrity will prepare this for discussion in June.

e. Summer Park Security

Executive Director Boehm, the Homewood Police Chief, and Superintendents McAneney and Davenport met to discuss summer, the possibility of teen takeovers and what they all can do to help with community engagement and keeping things under control. The park district will revisit having police patrols in the Homewood parks and has budgeted funds for this. They also talked about installing a swing gate at the south parking lot, near the entrance to Rover's Run so that Apollo Park lot can be closed off in the evening with the idea that if the large space is unavailable, groups will not be able to gather there.

f. Friends of the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District Foundation

Executive Director Boehm reintroduced the discussion on determining whether there is a cause that would rally the community and be appropriate to reestablish the foundation. The past initiative was during Keep It Green, and the park district obtained the golf course and Millennium and Patriots parks.

Suggested ideas include an indoor playground, adding features to parks, and providing more scholarships. It was decided this topic will be revisited at the June 2 Committee meeting and commissioners should plan to bring their top three ideas to the meeting.

Marilyn Thomas shared that the H-F Chronicle wrote an article about a program at HF High School where students planned spaces such as an outdoor venue and a youth center. She suggested speaking to the teacher could help better know what teens are looking for.

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

Executive Director Boehm

- We are having some difficulties with getting the permit needed from the state of Illinois for the pool drain grate upgrades, although we now have a contact there who has been responsive. The district is working with Water Technologies as the sanctioned engineer for this work. We learned we do not have to wait until after this work is done to begin filling the pool; the grates can be installed with water in the pool.
- The solar deadline expired without coming to an agreement on liability language. The park district will revisit solar after July 4 as it is important to the district's mission statement.
- Kudos to Oralethea Davenport; today is her first meeting as Superintendent of Recreation. Her previous Irwin Center Manager position has been posted.
- Superintendent McAneney provided an update on the Irwin Park OSLAD renovation, which is moving along nicely even with all the rain that has slowed progress.
- Board elections will be held at the May 19 meeting; please let Anne know if you are interested in running for Board President or Vice President.
- The NRPA national conference is in Philadelphia, September 29 – October 1.

Commissioner Coderre

- Thank you all for tonight's discussion topics; they were very well prepared and we learned a lot.

Commissioner Schafer

- We really appreciate the amount of work everyone does, especially with the staff changes, everyone is getting involved in new things and working together.

Commissioner Bachus

- Very much likes how staff approach the discussion topics; it allows the Board to give their feedback but is also very educational. He appreciates how well that is balanced.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Coderre moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Commissioner Shafer seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Doug Boehm, Secretary