



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

Minutes of August 4, 2026

The Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Bachus. Commissioners Coderre, Dennison, and Walker were present. Also present were Executive Director Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Karen Garrity, Superintendent of Recreation Oralethea Davenport, RFC Manager Dan Schaffer, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Marketing & PR Manager Bob Birgel, Human Resources Manager Kelly Rose, Sponsorship & Social Media Coordinator Amanda Battles, RFC Custodial Supervisor Nick Relli, RFC Custodian Sawyer Fogarty, Recreation Supervisor Brandon Diaz, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, Executive Secretary Anne Brabec, and Visitors Steve and Jacquie Relli and Melinda, Brian and Flynn Fogarty. Commissioner Schafer was absent.

CHANGE IN AGENDA - none

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS - none

Commissioner Bachus acknowledged the staffs' efforts over the past two weeks dealing with the aftermath of the July 27 storm, including all the needed cleanup from flooding and downed trees to keeping programs running. Those efforts have been nothing short of heroic and the Board is appreciative.

PRESENTATION

a. Resolution #676

Commissioner Bachus stated that it's pretty incredible when ordinary people do extraordinary things. On June 1, employees Nick Relli and Sawyer Fogarty found someone unresponsive in the steam room at the Racquet & Fitness Club after closing, and instead of hitting the panic button, they launched into what they are trained to do and provided CPR and called 911 so that in less than 20 minutes that person was on his way to the hospital.

Bachus continued by reading Resolution #676 honoring Relli and Fogarty. The resolution was then approved by the Board and framed copies of it presented to Nick and Sawyer. The Relli and Sawyer families left the meeting following the presentation.

Commissioner Dennison moved to approve Resolution #676 honoring and recognizing H-F Racquet & Fitness Club employees Nick Relli and Sawyer Fogarty. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Coderre, Dennison, Walker and Bachus. Nays: none. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Indoor Playground

On behalf of the Operation: Indoor Fun Committee, Manager Schafer reported on their visits to 11 area park districts that have some type of indoor play area and explained the two suggested locations with the HFPD that could work for such an area.

Commissioners would like the research to continue, and would like to see financial information to include potential costs and lost revenue involved in developing the potential spaces at RFC and the Ice Arena.

c. Partnerships - Sponsorships

Coordinator Amanda Battles shared information on how she has developed the sponsorship and social media coordinator position that was created a little less than two years ago so there is a centralized person working on sponsorships for all district events and facilities. Amanda included data on her successes, the challenges she has encountered, and her goals.

Commissioners thanked Amanda for all her work. Commissioner Bachus acknowledged that a lot of foundational and infrastructure work had to be done to develop this new position, and that momentum is building.

b. Quarterly Financial Update

Superintendent Garrity reported that CDs have been rolled over, averaging 4%. She received a message from Cook County indicating that they are just beginning to prepare tax bills. Grant submissions for the OSLAD project are almost done; a fifth payment for costs incurred April – June was just received.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- The work that the staff in front of you and the people who work with them have done is just incredible; we learn during situations of adversity and in this last month we have learned a lot. We are really grateful for everyone who works at the park district, it is truly remarkable to see how staff came together.
- Kudos to Irons Oaks, RFC and Recreation for pulling together to not skip a beat so parents who relied on camp had those needs met. Commissioner Bachus noted that he was glad to see this acknowledged and appreciated on social media.
- This Friday is Mid-Summer Music at the Irwin bandshell.
- This is the last week of camps, and the pool closes Sunday.
- The marquee at Dolphin Lake is not taking messages, and those that are currently appearing are outdated. Marketing is working with Blackline to get this fixed.
- Irons Oaks staff went to a Thunderbolts baseball game and interacted with kids to promote nature. Kudos to them for doing something different.
- We need to move the September Board meeting from Tuesday, September 15 to the following Tuesday, September 22.

Commissioner Coderre

- With all the things going on in the community, the silver lining was seeing, like the park district, neighbors also coming together to help one another. She appreciated that the Racquet Club had power so she could go there to work, charge devices, and she enjoyed seeing the campers and neighbors who were doing the same thing. There was a lot of turmoil, but there was also a lot of beauty to be seen. Thank you to everyone.

Commissioner Dennison

- Expressed thanks for all the work following the storm; this shows exactly what our community is all about. She also saw the positive comments on social media, including one from someone new to the area who now knew why he chose to live here.
- Today at the pool a woman pointed out how much fun the campers were having there; this is what summer is all about. This is why you do what you do; it's great for the community to see what is happening, and keeping those camps going made a big impact.
- Asked if the splash pad is back open, and it is; it was able to open again Monday.

Commissioner Walker

- This storm aftermath felt like déjà vu; if you do something well the first time, it could have been luck, but when you go through it again and do something well again, now you have to look at your skill, your training, your perseverance and who you are as a person. Putting in the extra effort is appreciated and not taken for granted. From the Board and our neighbors, you are seen and appreciated and we thank you.

Commissioner Bachus

- Agrees with all the thank yous and won't pile on more since he started the meeting with them.
- As a reminder before entering executive session, one of the most important functions of the Board is the performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Thank you to Manager Rose for orchestrating the feedback process from his direct reports, and to all of you, thank you for your thoughtful contributions which are very helpful data points for the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:34 pm, Commissioner Walker 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. Commissioner Coderre seconded the motion.

Meeting reconvened at 9:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Dennison moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Walker 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