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

Minutes of October 6, 2026

The Committee Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Bachus. Commissioners Coderre and Schafer were present in person and Commissioner Walker was present via Zoom. 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, Ice Arena Manager Jennah Carlson, Irwin Center Manager Brandon Diaz, Recreation Supervisor Kayla Cook, *H-F Chronicle* Reporter Marilyn Thomas, and Executive Secretary Anne Brabec. Commissioner Dennison was absent.

CHANGE IN AGENDA - none

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS - none

DISCUSSION TOPICS

a. Indoor Playground

Manager Dan Schaffer provided details on the potential costs, benefits and downsides of placing an indoor playground at the Racquet and Fitness Center or the Ice Arena. Included was a description of the three levels of playground equipment available for this type of space.

Following discussion, it was agreed the indoor playground project should be put on hold due to its anticipated cost since a similar amount just had to be spent for tornado cleanup. Commissioners would like to see ideas for other improvements that could be put into the discussed spaces at RFC and the Ice Arena that would benefit members and the community.

b. Lions Club Pool Report

Recreation Supervisor Kayla Cook reviewed the highlights of the 2026 Lions Club Pool Facility Report.

Commissioners congratulated Kayla on a successful first full summer managing the pool. They were pleased to see that once again Teen Night at the Pool was a success and encouraged offering more than one teen night next year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Executive Director Boehm

- Manager Brandon Diaz hosted 37 children ages 7-9 and 10-12 for pizza and dodgeball last Friday at the Sports Complex.
- There is a leak in the Apollo south parking lot; Parks is working on getting it repaired.
- Manager Cheryl Vargo is hosting a cleanup day at Irons Oaks on October 12.
- Marketing and Recreation are putting together a tree memorial campaign at Rover's Run to try and replace trees lost there during the tornadoes.
- There is an RFP out for soft drinks at facilities, with a walkthrough on Friday.
- Tomorrow all full-time staff will be attending the annual fall safety training at Coyote Run from 9 am – 12 noon.

Commissioner Schafer

- Thanks for everything that was prepared and presented today; the Board really received a lot of food for thought.
- Inquired about the cost of tree memorials.

Commissioner Coderre

- No questions; thanks for the great presentations.

Commissioner Walker

- Thanks to the staff, volunteers, and all the hard work everyone put in, we're coming out of this summer's setbacks and moving forward in the right direction.
- During sessions at the NRPA Conference, he learned of challenges other park districts are facing nationally and it makes him proud to live in the village he lives in and to be part of this organization because we're meeting our mark. Please continue doing what you're doing.

Commissioner Bachus

- The NRPA Conference was a great few days and he really enjoyed spending time with everybody. He agrees 100% with Byron; many of the sessions were of really high quality and well done, and they made him realize that HFPD is in really good shape which is very reassuring.
- The IRPA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights state conference has sessions geared toward commissioners, but the national conference does not. Going forward, he recommends a commissioner attend the national conference once so they know what it is like, but he would rather see revenues reallocated to allow more staff members to attend instead of commissioners attending annually. Director Boehm indicated that in 2028 the national conference will be in Columbus, Ohio, and the plan is for more staff to attend since that location is drivable.
- The next regular Board meeting is October 20 at 7:00 pm. The Trick or Treat Trail is a few days later, on October 24, and there will be a park district table for commissioners to man.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Coderre moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Commissioner Schafer seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Boehm, Secretary