

**HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2010**

The committee meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Haderlein. Roll call was taken with Commissioners Johnson, Camin and Haderlein present. Commissioners Bertram and Nevins were absent. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Parks and Planning Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Recreation Tracey Anderson, Facility Supervisor Erik Enslen and SouthtownStar reporter John Ryan.

**CHANGE IN AGENDA** – None

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS** – None

**DISCUSSION TOPIC:**

a. Pool Discussion

Kopas presented a slideshow on the condition and financial status for Dolphin Lake and Lions Club Pools.

The park district purchased Dolphin Lake and Lions Club Pool in 1970 and 1976. Estimates on the actual built date of the pools are early 1960's for Dolphin and mid 1950's for Lions.

Dolphin Pool was renovated in 1975-76 adding the diving well and toddler pool. Two renovations were done at Lions Pool; a bathhouse, larger deck, wading pool, concession area and infrastructure work was completed in 1982 and in 1983, the water slide and splash pool was added along with the playground, volleyball and additional infrastructure work.

Referring to a spreadsheet, Kopas said that in 1991 the pools made enough money to subsidize the recreation fund and to cover some overhead. Since that time there has been a complete shift. The pools have lost money every year and the recreation department now subsidizes the pools.

When the pools were making money funds were saved in reserve, however, that fund balance has been spent over the last ten years. Each year staff has been able to open the pools with minimal investment. In looking ahead, Kopas said decisions need to be made. Since expenses are not being covered, how long should the park district continue to use capital money for both pools?

Sales of season pool passes, private pool parties and diving lessons have decreased over the years while repairs, labor, utilities and minimum wage continue to increase.

Kopas said Dolphin Pool leaks constantly. The pool sits on a sand base. Sand continually gets into the pipes and sump pit. There are voids under the concrete causing concerns about possible cave-ins. The current equipment does not provide the proper water flow. There are cracks in the pipes, specifically under the toddler pool. Equipment is old. Soil erodes every year, dropping the pool which causes shifting and cracking of the pipes and deck. The diving board standards are old. A new heater needs to be purchased. The pool drain needs to be in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. The pool is not ADA compliant and would have to be brought to code if any major renovations were planned.

Lions Club Pool is in better condition. Lions Pool is ADA compliant as far as access around the facility but a lift is needed.

Kopas and staff are planning the fiscal year budget for 2010-2011. Kopas said cuts have been made to all aspects of the budget. Now is the time to decide if it makes sense to continue operating two pools that do not bring in enough revenue to support themselves.

Kopas said if the board is looking at opening only one pool this season, Lions Club makes more sense for many different reasons. Not only is Lions Pool preferred by residents but from a physical standpoint the pool is in better condition with fewer unknowns. There is also more land if the park district would like to expand or build a new pool at that location in the future. Operating one pool would reduce some expenses in staff, chemicals and utilities while still offering swimming to the community.

Commissioner Haderlein said this is a difficult decision however the board has a fiscal responsibility to manage the district in the best way for the residents. Haderlein said that he doesn't see how the district can continue to lose the amount of money that is being lost.

Commissioner Johnson asked if staff has estimated a possible drop in pool pass sales if one pool is closed. Kopas replied that staff plans to budget a loss of 25% but hopes it will be less.

Kopas said in the best interest of the park district this subject should be brought to the public. Kopas suggested a public meeting with special invitations to season pass holders and homeowners near Dolphin Pool to discuss the facts and figures so they have an understanding of the conditions and concerns.

Commissioner Haderlein said the park district can still provide the level of service to the community with one pool.

Commissioners agreed that a meeting should be held with the public to explain the situation. After discussion, it was decided to hold a public meeting on January 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Irwin Center.

b. Goals & Objectives

Commissioners brainstormed ideas for the 2010-11 park district objectives. Kopas will take the suggestions to administrative staff for further discussion.

**DIRECTORS REPORT & COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:**

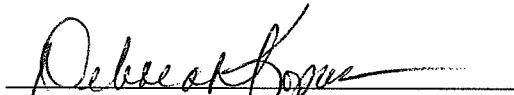
Commissioner Camin:

- Happy to see all the ice-skaters at Flossmoor Park.

Commissioner Haderlein:

- Looking forward to playing hockey at Flossmoor Park.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Camin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.



Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Kopas, Secretary