

**HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2009**

The special meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Vice President Nevins. Roll call was taken with Commissioners Bertram, Johnson, Camin and Nevins present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Recreation Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Finance and Administration Renae Ross and Pool Manager Erik Enslen. President Haderlein was absent.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Ordinance #552

Commissioner Camin moved to approve Ordinance #552, An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Disposition of Tax Anticipation Warrants Drawn against Taxes Levied for General Corporate Purposes for the Year 2008. Commissioner Bertram seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Bertram, Johnson, Camin and Nevins. Nays: none. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of October 20, 2009. Commissioner Bertram seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

a. Pools

Director Kopas introduced the discussion topic including summary financial information on the past several years of financial data on pool operations. Superintendent Boehm and Manager Enslen presented information on programming at the pools. Data indicates the pools are losing more money every year. Staff indicates the shortages are due to increased costs combined with decreases in participation. Minimum wage has also increased the last three years which has affected every employee. Supply costs have increased along with fuel charges. Because of the economy, staff has tried to hold the membership prices steady to continue to attract members on a budget.

In addition to annual operating deficits, there continues to be escalating capital and repair costs needed at both pools in order to open each year. Kopas detailed the more expensive repairs needed at Dolphin Pool, including a new liner or leak repairs to the tot pool, a new heater, and deteriorating concrete.

Staff feels it is the right time to consider permanently closing Dolphin Pool. Superintendent Boehm updated the Board on the condition and maintenance needs. Boehm also detailed how all the lesson programs, open swim and lap swimming could be accomplished at one pool. The only amenity that would be cut is the diving boards.

Commissioners were in agreement that a tough decision based on the age and condition of the pools has to be made. Commissioners were pleased that staff has been able to keep Dolphin Pool open far longer than expected. Commissioners agreed that with Lions pool available to the community the fiscally responsible thing to do is to close Dolphin Pool.

Commissioners and staff agreed that a community meeting regarding the outdoor pools should be scheduled. Staff will create a presentation with pool data for the meeting. It was discussed to advertise the meeting on the marquee, website and email blasts. Postcards may be mailed to pool pass members and residents of the Dolphin Lake Homewood Estates area.

Kopas will get back to the Board with possible dates for the community meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT & COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Director Kopas:

- Construction started yesterday at Irwin. Received a quote of \$13,000 - \$16,000 to install heaters in the sidewalk to improve safety and eliminate maintenance costs. Commissioners expressed concern with the cost. Kopas plans to meet with the contractor to further discuss the issue and will bring back to the Board at a later date.
- Discussed the possible elimination of a few full-time positions.
- The Neverly Brothers will be playing at Northwoods on November 13th and November 20th.
- The Distinguished Agency Review is November 13th.

Commissioner Bertram:

- Commented that Western Avenue School has a lovely new playground.
- Asked about Northwoods lease payments. Director Kopas replied \$3,000 was received in October.

Commissioner Nevins:

- Enjoyed the Bunnacula play.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Bertram moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

Deborah Kopas, Secretary