

**HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2010**

The special meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Haderlein. Roll call was taken with Commissioners Nevins, Camin, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Attorney Matt Lulich, Superintendent of Parks and Planning Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Renae Ross, Superintendent of Recreation Tracey Anderson, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Administrative Assistant Pam Melnyk, Accountant Supervisor Jerry Hazlett, Secretary Cathi Hurtubise and Wolf & Company Representative John Deland. Treasurer Howard Blumstein arrived at 7:29 p.m.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

PRESENTATION – John Deland of Wolf & Company audit firm gave an overview of the 2009-10 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Commissioner Camin asked if there were any discrepancies. Deland replied no. Deland said the audit went very well and staff fully cooperated. Commissioners thanked Wolf & Company for their work and commended staff on a great job.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Ordinance #569

An Ordinance of the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District Directing the Cook County Clerk as to Reduction of the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District's Real Estate Tax Levy for Levy Year 2010.

Commissioner Nevins moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Camin, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS – None

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

a. Board Meeting Times

The Board discussed the start time of board meetings. Commissioners would like to continue meeting at 8:00 p.m. during the months of May through July and change August through April meetings to a 7:00 p.m. start time.

Director Kopas discussed electronic board packets with the Board. Four commissioners were favorable to the idea. Kopas said paper board packets would be available to those who prefer a hard copy. Kopas will research computer options and get back to the Board in the future, but for now paper packets seem to be the best solution.

b. Playground Update

Superintendent Boehm reviewed the playground repair & replacement schedule with the Board. The playgrounds scheduled for replacement next are Hollydale Park and Pheasant Trails Park. Boehm said playground equipment at both parks are fine and do not need to be replaced at this time. Boehm said parks are inspected weekly and repairs are made to equipment if necessary.

Commissioners agreed that replacing existing equipment that is in working order is not fiscally responsible however expressed concern that if equipment is postponed it is possible several parks would need replacement at the same time. Commissioners agreed that playgrounds need to be maintained and equipment updated to current trends.

Director Kopas said there are five elementary school playgrounds throughout the district. Kopas was advised that School District 153 is planning to replace the playground at Churchhill School in 2011. Kopas said in the past the park district has contributed one third of the cost of a \$15,000 playground however equipment can no longer be purchased for that amount. Kopas estimates costs for new playground equipment at \$60,000. Kopas suggested the park district's contribution is the same for all playgrounds in both school districts.

The Board discussed various commitment amounts for school playgrounds and limiting the number of contributions made each year.

Kopas will review the budget and bring the topic back to the Board at a later date.

c. Starry Nights Review

Superintendent Anderson reviewed the 2010 Starry Nights season with the Board. Anderson was disappointed with revenue however said that overall it was a good concert series. Anderson thanked the Leisure Services Committee for securing volunteers for each concert.

Anderson said the 25th anniversary of Starry Nights is next year. Several meetings have already taken place to discuss the season. Proposed bands for the concert series are Stanley Paul, The Buckingham's and American English.

d. Ice Rink Programming

Superintendent Boehm said many changes have taken place to reduce financial losses at the Ice Arena however a deficit of \$250,000 remains. Boehm discussed the possibility of eliminating the Icettes, a program that does not produce revenue and is expensive to operate. With elimination of the program there would be more opportunity for ice time rentals which would create additional revenue. Boehm said hockey classes and a basic learn to skate program would still be offered.

The Icettes program would be encouraged to become a stand-alone club and would have the opportunity to contract for ice time at the rink at regular or discounted rates.

Commissioners and Boehm commended staff on an excellent job in resurrecting the Icettes program. Commissioners agreed that eliminating the Icettes is not ideal however must be done in efforts to save the building.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Truth in Taxation Public Hearing for Tax Levy

President Haderlein opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m. No public was present. Superintendent Ross reviewed Ordinance #568 with the Board. Commissioner Nevins motioned to close the public meeting at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Bertram. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Camin, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. Ordinance #568

Commissioner Camin moved to approve Ordinance #568, an Ordinance Levying Taxes for all Corporate Purposes for the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, Cook County, for the Year 2010. Commissioner Bertram seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Camin, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

c. Discovery Center Water Resolution

Manager Vargo said staff has applied for the Illinois Park and Recreation Facility Construction Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Discovery Center Water Remediation Project. Part of the application process requires the park district pass a resolution adhering to the guidelines and regulations of the grant. Following discussion, Commissioner Bertram moved to approve Resolution #584, A Resolution Authorizing an Application for a Grant through the Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program ("PARC") for the Irons Oaks Discovery Center Water Remediation Project. Commissioner Nevins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Camin, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

DIRECTORS REPORT & COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Camin:

- Pleased that House Bill 5154, Personal Record Review Act, now exempts all public employee performance evaluations from disclosure.

Commissioner Bertram:

- Enjoyed the tree lighting ceremony.
- Asked how many people attended the Blackhawks Alumni game. Superintendent Boehm replied that over 600 people attended the game.

Commissioner Johnson:

- Enjoyed the Blackhawks game.
- The ceiling at the Ice Arena looks great.

Commissioner Haderlein:

- Enjoyed the tree light ceremony.
- Had fun at the Blackhawks game.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – At 8:11 p.m., Commissioner Nevins moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of 2(c)11 discussion of pending, or probable and imminent, litigation

against, affecting or on behalf of the District. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Camin, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

Steve Nemitz discussed the financial status of Northwoods Restaurant with the Board. Nemitz hopes to establish a six-month plan to put sustainability into the restaurant. Nemitz said operating costs need to be reduced. Nemitz would like to develop a combined marketing plan with the park district and suggested improved communication with the Board and reconfiguration of the facility.

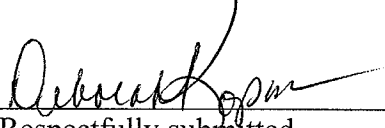
Nemitz left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Commissioners had several concerns including the ability of Nemitz to re-open the restaurant in March and his request for the park district to pay all utilities and reduce lease payments.

At 9:33 p.m., Commissioner Bertram moved to re-enter Executive Session. Commissioner Nevins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Camin, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 9:37 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Nevins moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.



Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Kopas, Secretary