

**HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2009**

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 Bertram, Nevins, Johnson, Camin and Haderlein present. Also present were Executive Director Debbie Kopas, Superintendent of Recreation Doug Boehm, Superintendent of Coyote Run Dave Ward, Irons Oaks Manager Tracey Anderson, Marketing & Public Relations Manager Nicole Castagna, Administrative Assistant Pam Melnyk, Secretary Cathi Hurtubise and Leisure Services Committee Member Afrika Brookins-Hinton.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

a. Mission Statement

Administrative Assistant Melnyk said that a component of Distinguished Agency is to review the park district mission statement. Melnyk said the statement has not been revised since adopted by the Board in 1988. Staff reviewed the statement and made several suggestions to bring the statement more up to date. The statement was then reviewed by the Leisure Services Committee who agreed with the suggested changes. Commissioner's discussed the proposed changes and recommended ending the statement with *practicing environmental stewardship*.

b. Logo

Director Kopas shared color samples of the logo with the Board.

c. T-Mobile

Director Kopas said the Olympia Fields Park District hosted a public hearing yesterday on the proposed T-Mobile cell tower. Manager Anderson said two members of the public attended the meeting. Kopas said Attorney Lulich continues to discuss the contract with T-Mobile.

PRESENTATION – Marketing & Public Relations Manager Castagna presented the new website to the Board.

DISCUSSION TOPICS CONTINUED:

d. Environmental Policy

Superintendent Ward said a committee was formed in January to create an environmental policy for the park district. After much work the committee drafted an environmental statement, goals, action plan and suggested actions and best practices. Ward said the committee plans to continue

meeting to review how well the district is following the policy and to keep current with technology. Ward said money will need to be included in future budgets to implement the policy. Director Kopas thanked the committee for all their work. Commissioners agreed the policy was very well done. Ward said the committee is planning a kick-off campaign for employees.

DIRECTORS REPORT & COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Director Kopas and Commissioner Johnson discussed the false story that has been circulating at Western Avenue School that the park district withdrew a \$5,000 donation for a new playground. Kopas said she previously met with Superintendent Joy who had advised not to include playground money in the park district budget since Western Avenue would not be getting a new playground. After meeting with a school board member Commissioner Johnson said there appears to be miscommunication between the superintendent, principal and the PTO. Kopas will call Superintendent Joy to discuss the matter further. Commissioners recommended that following the election park district staff reintroduce themselves to school board members.

Director Kopas said she has received two additional requests for consideration of cell towers to be located on park district property. Kopas asked the commissioners if they want to consider these requests on a regular basis and if criteria should be established. Commissioners agreed that procedures should be developed and each request considered. Kopas will solicit sample cell tower policies from other park districts and bring the issue back to the board for further discussion.

Director Kopas said she was approached by a representative of CVS who said they might be interested in purchasing the corner property of Dolphin Lake if the park district was interested in selling. Kopas questioned if this would be something the commissioners would consider. Commissioners agreed that the park district should not pursue, but if approached again the subject shouldn't be dismissed.

Director Kopas:

- The weekend was busy with many egg events; 38 children attended the Flashlight Egg Hunt at Irons Oaks, 77 dogs participated in the Great Dog Egg Hunt and 900 people attended the Lucky Egg Hunt at Irwin Park.
- The play *Cheaper by the Dozen* was this weekend and received rave reviews.
- The summer Choices brochure goes to the printer tomorrow.
- Carpentry work on Lions slide has begun.
- Asphalt work throughout the district is out to bid.
- A tree limb at Coyote Run fell and hit a house. There was some minor damage which PDRMA declined as an act of nature. Dave and staff cleaned the debris off the homeowners' property.
- The scramble on Saturday had 52 participants.
- A fight broke out at the men's basketball championships last night. Police were called and charges filed.

- A letter was mailed to a member of the Racquet & Fitness Club advising him to no longer bring in tools and work on equipment.

Commissioner Bertram:

- Sorry to have missed the egg hunts on Saturday.

Commissioner Nevins:

- Attended the play *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Very proud to see the theatre tradition continue.

Commissioner Camin:

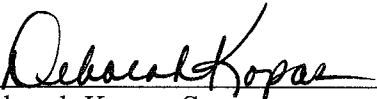
- Approached by two different people who raved about the play *Cheaper by the Dozen*.

Director Kopas informed the board that Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Jay Kelly submitted his resignation. April 30th will be Kelly's last day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – At 9:23 p.m., Commissioner Bertram moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of 2(c)(1) discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity. Commissioner Camin seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Bertram, Nevins, Johnson, Camin and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 9:57 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Camin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.



Deborah Kopas, Secretary