

**HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Haderlein. Roll call was taken with Commissioners Nevins, 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, Coyote Run Superintendent Dave Ward, Coyote Run Manager/Golf Professional Brian Smith, Racquet & Fitness Club Manager Dave Thommes, Irons Oaks Manager Cheryl Vargo, Marketing Manager Brett Rush, Administrative Assistant Pam Melnyk, Secretary Cathi Hurtubise, Leisure Services Committee Member Dallas Collins, Patch.com Editor Ryan Fitzpatrick, Flossmoor Residents Lori & Dennis Burns, and two people who did not sign the guest list. Flossmoor Resident Shelanda Hayes arrived at 7:03 p.m. Homewood Resident Shana Young, guest Mr. Johnson and one additional visitor who did not sign the guest list arrived at 7:04 p.m. Commissioner Camin was absent.

**CHANGE IN AGENDA – None.**

Director Kopas introduced Brett Rush, the new Marketing & Public Relations Manager.

Commissioner Haderlein asked the Director to give an update on Ice Arena programming.

Director Kopas said the only major change is the Icettes program which has now become a club that can rent ice time at the Ice Arena like other groups and clubs. Kopas said the other change is that Stephanie Skrzypek, the skating director, has decided to leave the field to pursue other interests. Approximately half of the skating director's job was working with the Icettes. That position will now be replaced with a part-time person who will be in charge of skating classes. There will not be any changes to the Learn to Skate program or to teaching staff. There may be a modest fee increase next fall. Private Lessons and Freestyle Ice will continue. Available time slots for Freestyle Ice won't be determined until outside contracts are placed. There will be a price increase for that ice time. The goal is to get as many skaters in and make those hours viable at a minimum of a non-prime rate per hour.

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:**

Flossmoor resident Lori Burns asked if the new part-time employee will oversee summer programming and asked if there would still be a different fee for those who live out of district. Director Kopas replied yes to both questions.

A visitor was concerned that an unqualified person may be hired and asked if current coaches would be considered for the position. Kopas replied that management at the Ice Arena will develop a job description, advertise the job opening and anyone, including coaches, can apply for the job. Commissioner Haderlein said only qualified people will be considered.

Flossmoor resident Shelanda Hayes asked if a third party will run the skate school. Kopas replied no.

Homewood resident Shana Young asked for confirmation that resident taxes do not support the Ice Arena. Kopas replied yes. Kopas explained that the Ice Arena and Racquet Club were built over thirty years ago with the intention of being self sufficient and actually generating enough revenue to support other programs throughout the park district. Over time, the Ice Arena has not been able to do this. Young asked about Coyote Run. Kopas said the initial purchase and development of the golf course was part of the tax referendum that was passed in 1998. Operations at the golf course are self sufficient.

A visitor asked Kopas to comment on why changes were made to the Icettes program. Kopas replied that staff and the finance department analyzed where the park district was losing the most money. The Icettes program was the biggest loss leader netting \$10-\$20 hourly. This ice time could be rented hourly for up to \$300.

Flossmoor resident Dennis Burns thanked Kopas and the Board for clearing up misinformation. Burns would like to see a user group formed with representatives from hockey and figure skating. Burns volunteered for the position. Commissioner Haderlein replied a user group may be considered in the future.

A visitor suggested improved marketing of Ice Arena programs.

Commissioner Haderlein thanked everyone for coming.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Display of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance  
A report from the Superintendent of Finance & Administration recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the display of the proposed fiscal year 2011-2012 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance, in accordance with park district code, beginning April 15, 2011 and to set the Public Hearing date as May 17, 2011.
- b. Emerald Ash Borer Status Update  
This update is provided for the Board's information.
- c. Electronic Personal Assistive Mobility Device Policy  
A report from the Administrative Assistant recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve Policy 4.32, Use of Electronic Personal Assistive Mobility Devices in District Facilities and at District Sites as presented.
- d. Ice Arena Boiler  
A report from the Superintendent of Parks and Planning recommending the Board of Park Commissioners consider a motion to approve the replacement and installation of a new water heater by Murphy Miller in the amount of \$7,670.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Resolution #589

Commissioner Bertram moved to approve Resolution #589, a Resolution by the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District in Support of Homewood School District #153 Tax Referendum. Commissioner Nevins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Adventure Center Large Group Fees & Charges

Manager Vargo said the Adventure Center is contacted frequently by corporate groups looking for options other than half or full day programs. Vargo recommends adding one and two hour programs for larger groups. Following discussion, Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the large group program and fee schedule for the Irons Oaks Adventure Center as presented, effective March 16, 2011. Commissioner Nevins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

b. Recreation Summer Fees & Charges

Superintendent Anderson presented the Recreation Summer Fees & Charges to the Board. Following discussion, Commissioner Bertram moved to approve the Recreation Summer Fees & Charges as presented. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

c. Special Events Proposal

Superintendent Anderson said the park district has been receiving requests from businesses and not for profit organizations to hold special events in premier parks. Anderson and staff developed a special events proposal for the Board's review. After discussion, Commissioner Nevins moved to approve the Special Events Proposal as presented. Commissioner Bertram seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Nevins moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2011 and February 15, 2011. Commissioner Bertram seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS** – Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the Claims List in the amount of \$238,005.64. Commissioner Nevins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Nevins, Bertram, Johnson and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

**PRESENTATION AND COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2011** – Commissioner Johnson said there have been many challenging decisions regarding the Ice Arena but is very happy to see we are gaining better control over revenue and expenses. Johnson commended staff on the end results of difficult decisions. Director Kopas said staff continues to discuss money saving ideas and will bring another thought to the April 5th committee meeting for discussion.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- a. Board & Administrator, February 2011

## DIRECTORS REPORT & COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

### Director Kopas:

- Coyote Run is opening one day early. There are over one hundred tee times for the opening day scramble.
- The Safety Committee is having their annual luncheon on Thursday, March 24th at Cilantro. This luncheon is a celebration of the award that staff received for meeting the highest level of safety standards on a recurring basis. PDRMA awards the Park District which in turn awards the staff for their efforts in making the park district a safe place to work and play.
- The rain barrel workshop at Irons Oaks was last week. There are some great pictures on Facebook. It was a great program combining a craft with learning about conservation.
- Teams Course activities and Ropes Course II at Irons Oaks were inspected. Minor repairs were made and the courses are ready to go for the season.
- Usage is up at the Racquet & Fitness Club and on the golf simulator.
- Staff is trying a new marketing technique at the Club by offering a discount on the enrollment fee if purchasing a personal training package.
- The indoor triathlon was such a huge success that staff is looking into offering the program two times next year.
- Several egg events are scheduled for April; Flashlight Egg Hunt, Lucky Egg Hunt and the Great Dog Egg Hunt.

### Commissioner Nevins:

- Happy to see that staff applied for the Illinois Department of Public Health Heartsaver AED grant.
- Pleased usage at the golf simulator has increased.
- The environmental committees have many excellent projects planned.
- Was very pleased to see the positive connection between front desk staff at Irwin and Extra Innings children and parents.
- Attended the Legislative Breakfast with Commissioner Camin. Was pleased that several legislators were supportive of park district concerns.
- Snow White performances are April 8-10th at the Auditorium.

### Commissioner Bertram:

- Thanked staff for the Emerald Ash Borer policy update.
- Happy to see the Build a Birdhouse program was full.
- Received many positive comments this season on outdoor ice.

### Commissioner Johnson:

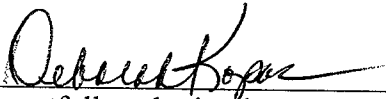
- Asked if the new golf carts will be available on opening day. Manager Smith replied no, but hopes carts will arrive within the next couple of weeks. Smith said that existing carts are ready for opening day.

- Asked what maintenance was completed at the Auditorium. Superintendent Boehm replied the Auditorium received a thorough cleaning and several minor repairs were made.
- Asked about the NHL evaluating the Diversity Hockey program. Boehm said the NHL needs to evaluate the program to justify their expenses. The NHL was curious to see how many players from last year joined leagues this year.
- Welcome Brett!

Commissioner Haderlein:

- Asked how many kids from Diversity Hockey joined leagues. Boehm replied eight children have joined leagues.
- Commented to staff that their work is very much appreciated.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Commissioner Nevins moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.



Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Kopas, Secretary