

**HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR PARK DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2009**

The special meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 7:33 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 Finance & Administration Renae Ross, Superintendent of Recreation Doug Boehm and Administrative Assistant Pam Melnyk.

CHANGE IN AGENDA – None

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS – None

CONSENT AGENDA – None

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Public Hearing for the issuance of \$2,800,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds

President Haderlein called the Public Hearing to order at 7:33 p.m. No public was present. Commissioner Camin moved to close the public hearing at 7:34 p.m. Commissioner Nevins seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Bertram, Nevins, Johnson, Camin and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- a. Review of 2009 Pool Season

Superintendent Boehm reviewed the 2009 Aquatics Facility Report with the Board. Boehm said it was a good but challenging season with the cool weather, residency verification and the economy all affecting attendance. Boehm also found it challenging working with two very old pools. Boehm said the report was reviewed and discussed with the Leisure Services Committee in September. The committee unanimously supported a \$10 increase for memberships.

Commissioner Bertram said it was a good season in spite of the cool weather and economy. Bertram was happy to see the increase in participation for swim lessons offered during the dinner hour.

Discussion followed on a patrons comment that in addition to purchasing a family pool pass an additional pass must be purchased for a babysitter. Boehm said families can pay the daily admission rate or purchase a packet of ten passes at a discounted rate. Boehm also said that grandparents living within the H-F community can purchase a special one week pass for visiting grandchildren.

Commissioners were pleased to see the positive comments by patrons regarding the lifeguards.

After reviewing the financial statements Commissioner Johnson said it appears evident that the community cannot continue supporting two outdoor pools.

b. Budget Review

Director Kopas said the park district is experiencing a financial crunch. The short term issue is that tax bills are going out late and it is possible that not enough tax dollars will be received in time to make the December 1st bond payments. Superintendent Ross is investigating tax anticipation loans in the event there is a shortage.

Kopas said the second budget issue is the long term cash predictions. Kopas explained that in fiscal year 2008-09, the May balance of cash and investments was 4.4 million. By April 30, 2009 that figure was down to 3.7 million. The projected balance in April 2010 is 3.0 million. Kopas said the park district is in a pattern of deficit cash spending.

Commissioner Haderlein asked Kopas to explain how the park district arrived at this point. Kopas replied that the park district is very debt heavy. Kopas explained when in the process of debt planning, revenues and expenses are projected to grow at a certain pace. While this strategy might have worked years ago, the park district is certainly paying for it now because of the turn of events in revenue. Another issue is that park district facilities are older and require more maintenance, improvements and replacements of high cost items.

Kopas said several meetings were held with administrative staff who then met with department staff to brainstorm ideas for increasing revenue and decreasing expenditures.

Discussion followed on several expense reduction ideas made by staff including the delay in hiring of the Superintendent of Parks and Planning, closing of Dolphin pool, full-time employee lay-offs, reducing hours for part-time and seasonal staff, furlough days, early retirement incentives, increasing the cost of employee health insurance, not attending the state conference, closing Goldberg to the public, staff cell phone allowance instead of district phones, delay of high cash items on the 2009-10 goals and objectives list, re-evaluation of Starry Nights and re-organizing the holiday party.

Discussion followed on the ideas generated by staff to increase revenue including more use of the procurement card for cash rebates, more creativity with marketing, revising rates for the golf simulator, offering more in-house events at Coyote Run, discount rates to bring groups indoors at Irons Oaks during December through February, a new recreation winter festival at Coyote Run, new and creative programming ideas, seeking funding assistance from the Irwin Foundation for the roof project, and the possibility of selling the Ice Arena and/or the corner property

at Dolphin Lake. Kopas reminded the board that these were just brainstorming ideas.

Commissioners liked the ideas suggested by staff however would rather not see full-time layoffs or furlough days if at all possible. Discussion followed on a possible increase in the employee's contribution to medical insurance. Staff recommended that employees pay 20% of the cost of dependent insurance. Commissioners agreed that if administrative staff believes an increase is needed, the employee contribution rate should be raised to 5% for employee coverage and 10% for dependent coverage effective February 1, 2010.

Commissioners agreed there are consequences to all of the ideas but if action is not taken now the debt will continue to grow larger.

Commissioners said the community needs to be aware of any plans for Dolphin Pool.

Discussion followed on the Commissioner's yearly allowance to attend various functions. Commissioners agreed the allowance should be decreased to \$150 per board member for 2010.

Commissioners agreed that the district should not pay for staff or board members to attend the state conference in January, but that it only be a one year hiatus.

c. Review of Starry Nights

Superintendent Boehm said that due to another financial loss in 2009 for Starry Nights, staff has re-evaluated the program. Following input from the public, recreation staff and the Leisure Services Committee, new goals were developed for the 2010 season. Discussion followed on hiring less expensive talent, decreasing ticket price, increasing attendance and more creative marketing.

Commissioners would like to see Starry Nights succeed and agreed that a more realistic budget should be developed.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Marie Irwin Community Center Roof & Gutter Project

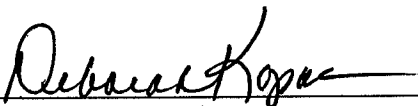
Commissioner Nevins moved to approve the bid from Krause Construction, Blue Island, IL, in the amount of \$77,649 for the Irwin roof and gutter project. Commissioner Bertram seconded the motion. Roll call vote with Ayes: Bertram, Nevins, Johnson, Camin and Haderlein. Nays: none. Motion approved.

DIRECTORS REPORT & COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Director Kopas:

- Disappointed in the difficulty to replace signs at Flossmoor parks.

ADJOURNMENT – Commissioner Nevins moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Commissioner Bertram seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion was approved.



Deborah Kopas, Secretary