

MINUTES
RECREATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
October 15, 2024

1. Roll Call:

A regular meeting of the Hoffman Estates Park District Recreation & Facilities Committee was held on October 15, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Triphahn Center in Hoffman Estates, IL.

Present: Chairman MacGregor, Commissioner Dressler, Comm Reps Beranek, Bettencourt, Kulkarni

Absent: Comm Reps Henderson and Ostermeyer

Also Present: Executive Director Talsma, Deputy Director Bechtold, Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance Hugen, Director of Recreation Miletic, Director of Finance & IT Hopkins, Executive Assistant Flynn, IT Specialist Hassler

Audience: President Chhatwani, Commissioners McGinn and Evans, Comm Rep Dowling, Poeschel and Pilafas (7:37pm), Superintendent Barton

2. Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Dressler made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Beranek, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Comm Rep Bettencourt made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Beranek, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024, meeting as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. Comments from the Audience:

None

5. Old Business:

None

6. **New Business:**

A. Little Stars Childcare / M24-082

Comm Rep Bettencourt made a motion, seconded by Comm Rep Beranek to recommend to the full board the approval of discontinuing the district's Little Stars Childcare program as of May 30, 2025.

Executive Director Talsma explained that this would not require board approval, but we wanted to make the board aware of what we are looking at operationally. We are not looking to make a profit with this program, but do not want to operate at a loss. This is not something that should not operate through tax dollars as it serves a small number of residents. Staff discussed the reasons behind the decision and noted that plans are to run the program through May 2025.

Commissioner Evans asked if we would lose staff when they learn of the closing, and would we offer a retention bonus to stay through May. Executive Director Talsma said we have other staff who can fill in, and we will look into the retention bonus idea.

Commissioner Dressler asked what our fees are compared to other options in the immediate area. Executive Director Talsma said that we are probably a little less expensive, but we also are not a full facility, with students remaining in just one room plus a playground. If we increase fees, we are not competitive based on what we offer.

Comm Rep Beranek noted that there is not an absence of choices in childcare at a competitive rate in this area. She asked if there were other options in the area that would allow those covered by the state to still get that benefit. Superintendent Barton said there are at least two others in the immediate area who can accept the Illinois childcare assistance.

The motion carried by voice vote.

B. Recreation Board Report and 3Q2024 Goals / M24-081

Comm Rep Beranek made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dressler to forward the October Recreation Board Report and 3Q2024 Goals to be included in the October Executive Director's Report.

Director Miletic highlighted the following items for the Recreation Department:

- We held a pop-up sports event to promote our different sports offerings
- The HOTT Theater group is remaining popular with 31 in the Frozen Junior production
- The dance company started a pre-company program
- The seniors have been busy and went to an apple orchard this week
- Haunted Hoffman Family Fest will be this coming Saturday – the majority of the event is free for everyone (the Trick or Treat path has a small fee)

Executive Director Talsma noted that he is currently the chairperson of NWSRA, an association which provides special recreation services for 17 area park districts. We are currently analyzing this and looking at different concepts as some services have not been provided as promised. We are looking at how to make things better with some nearby districts. We will give NWSRA a chance to get things back on track this year and will re-evaluate for 2026.

The motion carried by voice vote.

C. Facilities and Marketing Board Report / M24-083

Comm Rep Bettencourt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dressler, to forward the Facilities & Marketing October Board Report and 3Q2024 Goals to be included in the October Executive Director's Report.

Deputy Director Bechtold highlighted the following from the report:

- The golf course has had a great season with 1,600 rounds more than 2023 so far. We are hoping for good weather for the rest of the year. Toptracer is also doing well.
- The ice rink recently held the Pink the Rink open skate, which was a nice partnership with Ascension.
- The Club had an open house on October 5; 64 new members signed up.
- Marketing is focusing on many special fall events and looking ahead to winter. The Club has a new website which looks great; different apps are available, and swim lane reservations can be made online now.
- Three of the four marquee signs are up and running. We will be changing the lettering on the permanent section of the sign structures.

Director Bechtold stated that the Wolves contract goes through May 2025. Construction has started on their new rink in Rosemont, and they will move in Fall 2025. We have discussed the possibility of extending their lease by a month or two depending on construction. Going forward, we have interest from a minor league team/coaching company looking to use our ice and locker rooms.

The motion carried by voice vote.

7. **Committee Member Comments:**

Commissioner Dressler said the NRPA conference was a great three days.

Comm Rep Beranek is looking forward to the multi-sport madness program with her son.

Comm Rep Kulkarni said great job to everyone. The new marquee signs look great.

Commissioner MacGregor said the NRPA conference was excellent. He attended many different types of sessions. He is looking forward to seeing the progress at Vogelei; and the Triangle Preserve looks great.

8. **Adjournment:**

Comm Rep Bettencourt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dressler to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Talsma
Secretary

Cindy Flynn
Executive Assistant