



**VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK – Work Session
1650 Highland Park Drive North
Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 6:00 pm.**

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK, FLORIDA MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1650 NORTH HIGHLAND PARK DRIVE, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFFPERSONS PRESENT:

Derek Camann, Commissioner (Seat 1)
Brandon McWhorter, Mayor-Commissioner (Seat 2)
Amanda Updike, Commissioner (Seat 3)
Ric Busbee, City Manager
Lita O’Neill, Village Clerk
Pam Beasley, Resident
Gio Fazzini, Resident
Marcus Hinshaw, Resident
Buster Gravel, Resident
Oscar McElroy, Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor-Commissioner Brandon McWhorter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Village Clerk called the roll. Commissioner Derek Camann, Mayor-Commissioner Brandon McWhorter, and Commissioner Amanda Updike were present.

A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor opened the public comment portion of the meeting. Pam Beasley, 1233 South Highland Park Drive, said thank you to the Commission for enforcing no fishing at the Lake Amoret Nature Park. She noted it has been quieter and thinks the no fishing signs have worked.

Buster Gravel, 1100 South Highland Park Drive, stated that he agrees 100% with Mrs. Beasley, but he wants to see a way for the children that live in Highland Park to have access to fishing on Lake Amoret. He suggested a permit for a fee for residents and their guests. Mr. Gravel also commented that Steven Taylor, a Village resident, could not attend the meeting, but he was hoping to find an answer to allowing residents access to the lake for fishing.

Commissioner Updike commented that this would be a question for Andrew Hand, City Attorney.

Mr. Fazzini noted that the Commission has taken away the opportunity to fish from those that want to but can't because of the "No Fishing" resolution. He also noted that a special use permit may be given to only residents who agree to abide by the rules. He asked for some type of compromise to be made.

Mayor McWhorter clarified that the Commission updated what can be done in the public park area. All the Commission did was update what can be done in the public park area. No fishing is permissible from public park land at the Lake Amoret Nature Park. Mr. Gravel stated that the only people that are allowed to fish are those who live along the lake edge because of the new resolution.

Ric Busbee noted that it is a legal question about how we allow some residents to fish. He said that the Village needs to consult with the City Attorney to check whether the Village of Highland Park could issue permits to residents.

Commissioner Camann noted that he is interested in learning more about a potential permit process. He also mentioned that Highland Park needs to get off the app that mentions Lake Amoret is a hotspot for fishing.

Discussion ensued about the issues related to fishing. Residents, including Mr. Gravel, Mr. Fazzini, Mr. McElroy, and Ms. Beasley, made suggestions and comments. Mayor McWhorter stated that he will contact the City Attorney to get some answers.

Mr. Gravel thanked the Commission for their work and stated that he understands that the park has been quieter in recent weeks because of the no fishing resolution, but he stated that he would appreciate looking for a way to allow children who are residents of Highland Park fishing access.

Mayor McWhorter asked for any additional comment. The Village Clerk read two emails that she had received from residents in favor of the no fishing resolution from Ms. Catherine Angel, 1632 South Highland Park Drive, and Mr. Paul O'Neill, 1351 South Highland Park Drive. These written comments were made prior to the meeting and were read into the record.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Mayor asked the City Manager for his report to the Village Commission.

- 1) Parking at the turnaround should no longer be a problem because the three parking places at the park have been installed.
- 2) By getting the fishermen's cars out of the turnaround area, the school bus should not have any issue using the turnaround.

TREASURER'S BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL REPORT

The Treasurer notified the Clerk in advance of the meeting that she would not be able to attend, so no report was presented.

OLD BUSINESS

The Village Clerk updated the Commission on the VHP Historical Marker. She asked the Commission if the marker should be one-sided or two-sided. The Commission agreed on a one-sided marker.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McWhorter invited the Commission to discuss any new business. Commissioner Updike mentioned the only item she was interested in bringing forward, which was allowing fishing with some type of permit, had already been discussed.

Commissioner Camann raised the need to solve the issue of the woman who parks her car at the front of the Village when waiting for her children’s school buses because the car is leaving ruts in the grass. The City Manager is working on resolving the issue.

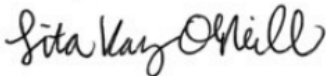
QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no questions or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor-Commissioner McWhorter adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lita O’Neill
Village Clerk