



HIGHWOOD BOCCE CLUB

Update on Proposed Highwood Development

Members,

A number of updates have occurred since our February newsletter & general membership meeting regarding the proposed Highwood Development. Keeping you informed is one of our priorities. See below for an update.

Recap of the Development Plan

- The Gart Partners development firm has proposed a mixed-use development that includes the property we currently lease from the City of Highwood.

What's Changed With the Plan Since February?

- Based upon input from the Highwood City Council and Appearance Review Committee the Gart Partners modified their plan. These modifications included providing greater setback from Sheridan Road and reducing from 6.5 to 5.5 stories.
- As a result of the above, the City Council approved on 3/17 a 6 month extension of the agreement with the Gart Partners to have exclusive rights to continue to explore their development proposal for this section of downtown. This does NOT give the Gart Partners any final approval on the development.

What Has the Highwood Bocce Club Board Done Since February?

- Received preliminary legal evaluations on our lease with the City from 3 attorneys. Each stated we appear to have a strong lease.
- Retained attorney Joe Morrison of Morrison & Morrison to represent the Club
- Met with the Highwood City Manager and Mayor. During this meeting both the Mayor and City Manager made it clear that for the development to succeed the HBC would have to relocate. They also expressed how important the HBC is to the City of Highwood and that they understood any plan will NOT work without our support.
- Two or more board members have attended all City meetings on this topic beginning in February. We have also been proactively communicating these meetings to members so they can attend, become more informed, and show their interest and concern with the plan.

What is Our Position? What's Next?

- This development is far from a reality. The Gart Partners will continue to advance their architectural drawings and plans for the building. At some point soon the City will hold public forums seeking input. Additionally, the Gart Partners still need to negotiate and sign contracts with the landowners within the property in question.
- We expect the discussions between the HBC and the City and Gart Partners will accelerate soon and they will want to discuss relocation options – both in terms of specific property options as well as facility requirements.
- We do NOT want to move. And whether we do is our decision. We love our Club exactly where it is today. This is about more than bricks and mortar – its about who laid those bricks, the memories made within the brick walls, and the special place the Club has played in so many of our lives.
- But...we need to listen and understand what proposal the City and developer has. We know there will be pros and cons to any proposal and it's the board's responsibility to determine these, and negotiate the best option possible.
- Any decision will be decided by a vote of our membership as per our bylaws. The Board does not have authority or desire to make decisions of this magnitude alone.
- Our attorney is performing a detailed review of our lease to ensure we understand its strengths, weaknesses and overall legal implications (previous reviews of our lease were preliminary only).
- Continue to keep our membership informed, including an update at our 4/26 General Membership Meeting

Your HBC Board

2015 Calendar of Events (SEE UPDATES BELOW)

JANUARY

- 11 3 Person Team Tournament
18 Singles Tournament

FEBRUARY

- 8 General Membership Meeting, 3PM
22 11th Player's Invitational (4 Person Teams)

MARCH

- 1 New Member Welcome, 3PM
7 St. Patrick's Day Party
22 Singles Tournament

APRIL

- 5 Easter Coccoetto, 9AM – 1PM
11-12 2 Person Tournament
25 Special Event – Polenta and Coteghini Dinner **(NEW EVENT)**
26 General Membership Meeting, 3PM

MAY

- 9 Member Dinner Dance

JUNE

- 5-7 Mario Massa 4 Person Tournament **(NEW DATE)**
14 Fish Fry **(NEW DATE)**
22 US Bocce National Championship Tournament @ Boston

JULY

- 12 General Membership Meeting, 3 PM

AUGUST

- 2 Annual Member Picnic
29 Members Dinner Dance

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Club Pig Roast, 4 PM
TBD Women's Midwest Tournament @ Kansas City

OCTOBER

- 11 General Membership Meeting, 3 PM

NOVEMBER

- 8 Club Elections
14 Members Dinner Dance

DECEMBER

- 13 Children's Christmas Party, 2-4 PM
31 Member's Annual New Year's Eve Party

All events will be posted at the Club and can always be found at our website.

HBC Announcements

Club Hours

Opening Times:

- Sunday 12 noon
Monday - Saturday 6:30 PM

Courts Only Opening Times

Daily at 1:30 PM

Club may be closed for large private parties on Saturdays that use the courts, bar, and banquet room areas. Club is also closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays as announced.

Member Reminders

- Membership payments were due January 31st. For existing members, a \$5 fee for each month late will be added.
 - \$125 – Single/Regular
 - \$50 - Junior (12 to 20 yrs)
 - \$200 - Couples

(fees are prorated based upon date of payment)
- For liability reasons, alcohol cannot be brought in from outside the Club.
- To protect our world-class courts, members or guests MUST wear a different pair of shoes than what they walked in with and they must be flat-soled shoes. No Exceptions.