



**PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK**

**Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Held as Zoom Meeting**

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Porreca, Wick, Wollmuth, Worley-Hood, and President Lentz.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Ben Ahring, Parks Foundation, President.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wick approved the agenda and Commissioner Worley-Hood seconded. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote 5:0.**

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Porreca and seconded by Commissioner Wick to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes approval of the Fund Status Report and Warrants and Bills for the month of November, 2020; approval of the Board Minutes from the Special Board Meeting, November 5, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting, November 5, 2020, and Regular Board Meeting November, 19, 2020; approval of the 2021 PACT Agreements; approval of the 2021 Board Action Calendar; approval of the Bi-Annual Review and Release of Closed Session Minutes for July 2, 2020, and October 1, 2020; and approval of the Oak Park Society of Model Engineers in Dole Center. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, reminded the Board that the Governor has extended the executive order for Tier 3 until January 9. The fall schedule will not be able to run that long so it is more feasible to give credits for what is left in the fall and hold an early registration for winter programs for current fall enrollees that will begin in February and March. A letter will go out on Monday, and on January 8, they will have access to the programs which will be adjusted if we get permission for larger numbers in the classes. D97 let us know that they will begin a hybrid teaching schedule which will begin January 22; with two half-days and three full-days. The Winter Greens Market was a success as it appears everyone is home and decorating this year. Staff are continuing to look for ways to serve our residents. When the two Santa visits as well as the pet Santa visit filled up in a day with a large waitlist, staff added another whole day to accommodate the waitlist serving 100 more residents.

B. Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information) – Written Report Included in Board Packet.

C. Revenue/Expense Status Report

No questions were asked.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None

B. Parks and Planning Committee - None

C. Administration and Finance Committee - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Parks Foundation Update

Ben Ahring, Parks Foundation President, informed the Board that in February we held a wonderful event at Cheney as a kick-off gathering of ideas for fundraising for the CRC and had wonderful attendance and had a lot of good feedback. The Parks Foundation is still trying to get to a certain percentage of the budget before putting a push through to the community and that event in February started to get the word out even with the very selective crowd of who we had attend. As a whole, a lot of the events they had planned were unable to be held. The CRC development team did have the ability to get together with small donor groups and the Parks Foundation which Edward was heading, and were able to meet and have some great conversations. The Park Foundation also teamed with One Earth Film Festivals to sponsor the showing of A Most Beautiful Thing viewing; it was very well done. The Park District was able to hold it at Cheney Mansion and was able to reach out to people whom might not otherwise attend an event that they held. Ben stated that it was great to try and get word out and get the feedback to make sure we are reaching out to as many people as we can. In 2021, we are excited for events planned. Our first meeting is January 11, which will discuss the host of ideas before they go public and how best to fundraise and grow excitement. Also in 2021, we are hoping to get to that percentage where we can campaign to get the whole community talking about what a great thing the CRC will be for the community. The Parks Foundation website also deserves a lot of thanks to the many wonderful helpers and their work to turn it around for a better face to the foundation with the improvements made and the donate button is really great! The Board thanked him and the Parks Foundation for all that they did and Commissioner Worley-Hood thanked him for their scholarship fundraiser too. Commissioner Lentz said it is greatly in need now. Ben stated he would pass along their thank you.

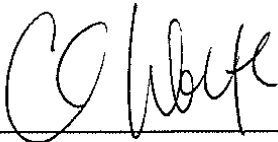
VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Porreca** – Thanked staff for all their agility in serving residents and wished everyone, “Happy Holidays”, and to enjoy their time off.
- **Commissioner Wick** – Congratulated Jamie Lapke on the nice email she and her staff received from a resident. Saturday an IGOV meeting will take place, the candidate forum will take place in January which is to help the candidates understand all that is expected from them as a Board Member. A FOPCON meeting was held last Monday and will be continued as it ran over their time allotted for the meeting. Sandy and he were first to get their names in on the ballot for the candidates filing and he thanked Jake for helping with getting signatures for them both. He also wanted to inform Jake and Chris of the IAPD Board Master Program which he feels is a great program and is beneficial to the District and residents. And that he will be taking more of a role in the conference coming up and hopes to do a lot more with IAPD and IPRA.
- **Commissioner Wollmuth** – Enjoyed the information in the end-of-year 2020 highlights summarizing what happened this year at the District. A lot of effort went into this year with all that went on with the pandemic but his main take away was the focus that we maintained for serving the people in our community and finding the best way to do that in these challenging times. He also wanted to say a thank you to the staff and to Jan and hope everyone gets a well-deserved break and stated he has hope and optimism for the upcoming year and is looking forward to hitting the ground running.
- **Commissioner Worley-Hood** – Just wanted to second all that was said and reiterated that it was a rough year and is happy to see it go away.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – Wanted to add on to what David said regarding the IAPD Board Master Program as it really does develop members and it says we are really ‘top notch Board members’ and that we go the extra distance with all of the meetings we participate in and it is a great program. She encouraged Jake and Chris to look it up and do it and that they’d be surprised at how much they participate in as a Board Member; it’s like a Board Accreditation and is really good for the agency. She then said for everyone to relax a bit, enjoy your families, and hit the road running when January comes.

IX. CLOSED SESSION - None

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:57pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners



President
Board of Park Commissioners

January 21, 2021
Date

January 21, 2021
Date