



**PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK**

**Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois**

Thursday, December 16, 2021

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: John Chapman-Rienstra and Thomas Howe, AYSO; and Sam Elsener, OPYB/S; and Jack Kennelly, Active Adults.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

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, 2021; approval of the Board Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting, November 4, 2021, the Park Tour, November 13, 2021, and Regular Board Meeting, November, 18, 2021; approval of the ESAC Application – Brad Wolter; approval of the Administrative and Board Manuals; approval of the Personnel Policy Manual; approval of the Safety Manual; approval of the Crisis and Communication Manual; approval of the Bi-Annual Review and Release of Closed Session Minutes and the release of March 4, 2021, March 18, 2021, and August 19, 2021 minutes; and approval of the 2021 Board Action Calendar. **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 holiday programming is taking place; Chris Lindgren working with the Village for the CRC permits to continue moving forward with the shovel in the ground scheduled on March 19, and have been signing off on all of the approved contracts. Covid is continuing to challenge staff and programming and we are managing the best we can with the best practices in place and with smaller groups if need be to remain safe within guidelines. Jan also wished everyone happy holidays.

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. AYSO Update

Tom and John began by stating they had a challenging fall season with a 40-45% drop from their pre-covid registration for the same season. They instituted pod-like structures for the spring and had hopes to increase play in the fall, partnering up with River Forest and Forest Park. They didn't use the fields as they thought they would due to Covid. They had no significant issues with weather and they appreciated the work Travis did on the turf and they rotated the fields due to the numbers. The Board was appreciative of all their volunteers and all the work they do for the kids to be able to play soccer. Tom and John went on to explain that they really work hard on balancing the teams and having the volunteers shadow each other and they have the Board Members and key volunteers write down and make a notebook of all they do for the next volunteer to take that position. The Board discussed possible marketing ideas for AYSO to continue their work and bringing their numbers back up.

2. OPYB/S Update

Sam stated that Covid has been a challenge. Communication had been a weakness so they created an ambassador at each school for communication and marketing which has helped immensely and they are getting much better feedback and are able to respond to the parents much quicker. They've lost a number of players to competitors and full-time travel. They have really worked hard with their coaches at each level and due to the shortened season and even with limited space, they have been holding more practices. They also know that there is a balance that must be developed for kids that are over scheduled to have fun. They have been working on sponsors and donors to the scholarship fund. The organization had almost a 100% turned over in last two years, so they are in the process of getting it on paper for a long term success plan. The Board thanked them for all their volunteers and all they do and thought the ambassadors were a great idea.

3. Active Adults Update

Jack began by saying what a great opportunity it was for them to join with the Park District and move to Dole; it is a great facility with great people. Their numbers are up to 172. Classes have been added and with grants such as the OPRF Rotary, they were able to get another Kiln, worth over \$5,000, they also have a new lapidary system. Everyone is enjoying the trips as well. Jack stated their weakness is they are having trouble getting board members and having a quota so they can hold them. The Board discussed with him why he feels they aren't getting people in to be on their Board and brain stormed on some additional ways to reach potential board members including putting in viewpoints in the paper and having a stand at the Farmers Market. They all thanked him for his volunteering and look forward of more to come next year.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Lentz** – IGOV has been working on their upcoming forum and governing bodies have decided to do more pieces in the Wednesday Journal's viewpoints on the work the entities are doing especially in the sustainability field.
- **Commissioner Wick** – Said that the IGOV is also looking at doing a get-to-know commissioners event the second Saturday in February. He was very pleased with the PlanItGreen symposium had said they had great speakers. He then reminded the Board to complete their Board Development package if they hadn't yet to get their points towards their Boardmanship and finally, he wanted to wish everyone happy holidays and said he is grateful for the Park District and his peers.
- **Commissioner Wollmuth** – Said it has been a pleasure and appreciates the staff and the Board. He wanted to suggest the commissioners send out small batches of emails to groups they associate with on the CRC, and stated that it could go a long way, you just never know.
- **Commissioner Worley-Hood** – Had a great weekend with the Santa Trolley. Also mentioned that he was really pleased with the minority engagement for the CRC and the ownership the PDOP took from that

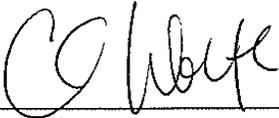
perspective. He then also challenged the Board to continue their outreach into the community for the CRC and that their work was not over yet, they need to keep informing the residents that this is their building.

- **President Porreca** – Attended Tea with Santa and said the home was just beautiful as were all the decorations. She let the Board know that she did submit her information for renewed Boardmanship with IAPD and agreed that it was a great process that they all should be doing. She also informed them she was really looking forward to attending a three day learning field trip on Presidents weekend with Reesheda Graham Washington, which was limited to 20 people, for an immersive experience in seeing and experiencing racially important destinations in history.

IX. CLOSED SESSION - None

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:39pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

January 20, 2022

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

January 20, 2022

Date