



**PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK**

**Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302**

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.

I. Roll Call

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

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director, Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Illiana DeLaRosa, Finance Manager; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Marianne Birko, WSSRA Executive Director.

II. Public Comment – None

III. Recreation Committee – None

1. WSSRA Annual Report

Marianne Birko, Executive Director WSSRA, gave an overview of the previous year and talked about the challenges they faced with the pandemic and continue to face. Although an improvement over 2020, and progression with in-person programming, they are continuing to use Zoom in many areas and will most likely continue to as a way to expand their reach for those that cannot attend in person programming as well as socialization for many. Staffing has been a huge struggle with the loss of four full-time staff equaling 31% of their workforce as well as finding all their part-time staff especially, as much of their work requires 1:1 ratio. They are marketing heavily and partnering with schools for anyone who has the desire for this work as skills can be taught and stressed the importance of word-of-mouth for finding staff. Marianne gave a snapshot of their budget, fundraising, partner shares, their continuing to try and bring in additional partners, participation, their new sensory room home, and their Lekotek borrowing program. The Board discussed with Marianne the possible impact of Covid on children and their development down the line and thanked her and WSSRA for all of their work they do for the communities. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

2. Apparel Bid

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of their approval last year for our screen printed apparel with SP Designs & Mfg., Inc., Cape Coral, FL; due to unreliability on more than one occasion as well as errors in orders, the District will no longer be working with them. Staff went out to bid and bids received were opened on February 2. Numbers and references are being checked for all our camps and staff's needs and will be brought to the Board for approval at the February 17, Regular Board Meeting. **This will be brought to the Board at the February Regular Board Meeting under the regular agenda.**

IV. Parks and Planning Committee

A. ESAC Application – Debra McQueen

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is actively looking for members. Debra McQueen expressed interest, attended meetings, and submitted an application to join the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee. Debra lives near Austin Gardens, is interested in sustainability, plant health, and is an architect. She currently is a member of the Oak Park Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board was informed that, once approved, she will join the committee upon her replacement on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board discussed the advantages of having an architect back on the committee. **This item will be brought to the Board for approval at the February Regular Board Meeting under the consent agenda.**

V. Administration and Finance Committee

1. Banking Services RFP Contract Approval

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, reminded the Board our current banking services are with Byline Bank who purchased the Community Bank of Oak Park in 2019. In an effort to remain transparent and good stewards, the Park District went out for an RFP for banking services in December, 2021. Four banks responded with Byline Bank offering the best services at the lowest price. The Board confirmed that staff have been pleased with their current service and thanked staff and agreed it was good to go out and see what other services/costs are available. **This will come before the Board on the regular agenda at the March Regular Board Meeting.**

VI. New Business – None

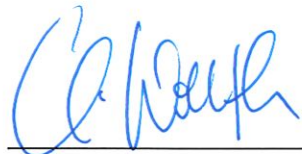
VII. Closed Session

At 8:09pm Commissioner Wollmuth moved and Commissioner Wick seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners convene into closed session for the discussion of the performance of specific employee of the District. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

At 9:01pm a motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to adjourn the Closed Session. **The motion passed a voice vote of 5:0.**

VIII. Adjournment

At 9:01p.m. a voice vote was taken to adjourn the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried in a voice vote.**



**Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners**

March 17, 2022

Date



**President
Board of Park Commissioners**

March 17, 2022

Date