



**PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK**

Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 7:30pm

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; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Joan Fiscella, League of Women Voters, and residents.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda. **The motion was passed by a voice vote.**

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – Statutory Budget & Appropriation

Discussion of Statutory Budget & Appropriation

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, reminded the Board that two budget meetings were held where the Board discussed each section of the budget. The Budget and Appropriation Ordinance sets the legal spending authority for the District. The appropriation amount is 15% more and sets the legal spending limits to provide flexibility against individual budgets. Highlights of the budget includes: completion of Carroll Center, Wenonah and Randolph Parks enhancements, expanded offerings at Dole Center, completion of CAPRA, and a part-time volunteer coordinator.

Public Comments for Budget & Appropriation Hearing:

Kitty Conklin read a comment from Kara Keller who is a realtor in Oak Park and River Forest for the past fifteen years. Ms. Keller's statement read that the housing market in general was down 22% the first half of 2019. A Crain's article said that housing was up 38% overall, with a medium 100 days on the market. We have diversity, good schools, good neighborhoods, and increased vacancies yet Oak Park is overlooked to buy in because of the high taxes. Are you going to continue undermining the housing sales and community?

Corey Gimble: Stated that he took this opportunity to show up for everybody in Oak Park and has listened to all the Boards, not of just the Park District. He stated, "You know all the reasons to vote no. People are taking note and there will be ramifications."

Pete Prokopowicz: Attended several meetings and asked why we're taking 100% of the levy even though they have not been using it with previous budgets. He stated, "One thing that is clear, is that the people feel conflicted; they're paying their taxes! To save us all tax anguish, vote no. It doesn't help the residents by taking the additional legal limit."

Tom MacMillan: Shared that he has been a resident for 35 years and a user of the Park District but was here for same reason, to implore the Park District to not to grab extra TIF dollars. "If you don't go to referendum because you fear you wouldn't get it, don't go taking money that is not yours. What's the rush, you get enough now. There should be no rush for taking money from your fellow citizens; taking without a referendum is the wrong thing to do."

Jack Powers: Stated that a simple majority in many Boards passes but with really important things, 2/3 vote is not a good vote. A Board is elected to not just represent the Park District but to represent the taxpayers. Look at phases for things, look at taking out some programs and services, and stay within budget. You cannot treat the citizens of Oak Park like an ATM. There are five salaries over \$100,000 in the Park District, how does that make sense?

President Lentz thanked the residents for their public comment and the hearing was adjourned.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Porreca and seconded by Commissioner Wick to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of November, 2019; approval of minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting, November 7, 2019, and the Regular Board Meeting, November 21, 2019; approval of the 2019 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Ordinance 2019-12-02 for 2012 Bond; approval of the 2019 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Ordinance 2019-12-03 for 2013 Bond; approval of the 2019 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Ordinance 2019-12-04 for 2019 Bond; approval of the Working Budget – Department Goals; approval of Bi-Annual Review and Release of Closed Session Minutes from April 5, 2018, March 21, 2019, April 4, 2019, May 16, 2019, July 11, 2019, and September 19, 2019; approval of the Board Action Calendar; approval of PlanitGreen Climate Letter of Commitment; and approval of the PACT Agreements. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, updated the Board that the new registration system rolled out on Saturday and increased online registrations from 80-85% to 95%, a special thanks to Kyle and Scott for their leadership with Amelia; Stevenson Park will be opened once the handrails are in place, mounds will be added in the spring; the air barrier is being applied at Carroll by staff saving the District \$10,000; the annual conference will be held in January 24-25; we are still waiting to hear from OSLAD regarding the grant presentations done in October; and the ice rinks are up but waiting for conducive weather to fill them and in the meantime, skating is available at RCRC.

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

C. Revenue/Expense Status Report – No questions asked.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None

B. Parks and Planning Committee

1. IDNR PARC Grant Resolution of Authorization

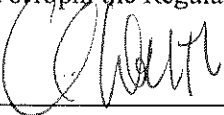
Commissioner Wick moved and Commissioner Wollmuth seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners adopt the Resolution of Authorization for the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources PARC grant application DOC 3 for a community Recreation center and authorize Executive Director Arnold to sign the agreement. The Board was reminded this grant application, similar to the OSLAD application, does require matching local funds. The Park District of Forest Park received a PARC grant in 2014 to assist in their construction of the Roos Recreation Center. In 2016, a feasibility study was conducted

- **Commissioner Lentz** – Stated the lights on the building and in Scoville Park are beautiful and that she is looking forward to the IPRA conference; it has intense training sessions and is very beneficial.

IX. CLOSED SESSION - None

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

January 16, 2019
Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

January 16, 2019
Date

to explore the idea of building a community recreation center in Oak Park. In addition the most recent Community Survey also showed community needs for missing amenities in the Park District of Oak Park portfolio such as gymnasiums, a walking track, fitness center, and indoor pool. Land has been donated by a private donor for the center and a capital campaign is getting underway with the help of the Parks Foundation of Oak Park. Staff request the ability to seek at PARC grant for the project titled "Community Recreation Center" in the amount of \$2.5M. The Board discussed the timeline of the project. **The motion passed by a roll call vote 5:0.**

C. Administration and Finance Committee

1. 2019 Tax Levy Ordinance 2019-12-01

Commissioner Porreca moved and Commissioner Worley-Hood seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the 2018 Tax Levy Ordinance 2019-12-01. A hearing was held on December 5, at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Executive Arnold reminded the Board that the 2019 tax levy is a 9.19% increase equaling a total level of \$10,488,291. The CPI of 1.9% equals \$177,510 in new taxes or \$4 per/\$100k of home value. She also reminded the Board of the major budget impacts to the Park District with the minimum wage increase of \$15 per hour by the year 2025, an increase of expense of \$160,000 annually for the same number of hours, resulting in an additional \$1,300,000 by the year 2025, compared to what the agency spent in 2017 for the same positions. Therefore, the \$305,000 additional funds that the District will receive from the expiring TIFs will help the District absorb the minimum wage increase without sacrificing quality of park maintenance. The District will continue to look at cost saving opportunities to make up the additional \$1M in increased minimum wages. Staff recommends approval of the Tax Levy Ordinance 2019-12-01. **The motion passed by a roll call vote 4:1.**

2. 2020 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2019-12-05

Commissioner Porreca moved and Commissioner Worley-Hood seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2019-12-05. The Executive Director reminded the Board, as discussed earlier during the hearing, that the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance provides for a 15% increase to allow for unforeseen changes within budget lines. However, staff work their day-to-day operations within the working budget that was reviewed by the Board at its meetings on October 10 and 17. The Board had no further questions from the Hearing. Upon adoption, it will be filed with the County Clerk. **The motion passed by a roll call vote 5:0.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Worley-Hood** – Appreciated all the work the last several months the staff have put into the parks and the holiday programs including the Santa Trolley and stated it has been really fun to see all the people using the Park District.
- **Commissioner Porreca** – Informed the Board that she attended the WSSRA Board Meeting last week and they had completed the evaluation of Marianne Birko. The WSSRF is planning its next fundraiser.
- **Commissioner Wick** – IGOV met this past week, the forum is still taking place on Saturday, February 1, which is open to ask questions. Any questions received in advance for the panel would be appreciated. It will be from 9:30am – 12:00pm at Julian. He also wanted to give a huge shout-out to the OPRFHS Prisms of Winter Concert, it was amazing!
- **Commissioner Wollmuth** – Stated there were no liaison meetings with OPYB/S or AYSO in December. The East Avenue Soccer League, Alliance, and Edge Soccer touched base with them. Their initial feelings are good and we will continue to build bridges within the groups.