



Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole
Via Zoom Meeting

Thursday, July 2, 2020

Minutes

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

I. Roll Call

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

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

Others Present: Mark Burkland, Attorney.

II. Public Comment - None

III. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None

IV. Parks and Planning Committee

A. 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan Update

The Board was informed that the CIP would be brought to them at the July Regular Board Meeting. Executive Director Arnold also informed them, due to Covid 19 and the losses incurred by the District, Rehm Park renovations would be pushed to 2021 which would not affect the OSLAD \$400,000 grant. Upkeep and maintenance to be done at parks in the upcoming years would be shown in the CIP as well. At the Board Retreat, she will get the Board's direction and goals which will help finalize the CIP for their presentation at the Regular Board Meeting, also she noted, we should know more about the school's plans by then for our programming. **This will come before the Board at the July Regular Board Meeting under the regular agenda.**

V. Administration and Finance Committee

A. 2020-2022 Youth Interventionist Agreement

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the current Youth Interventionist Agreement which goes through the end of July. The new agreement runs from July 2020-2022. Both the villages of Oak Park and River Forest have dropped out of the agreement. The first year the cost would be \$13,000 and the second year the cost would be \$13,260; approximately 5.5% of the agreement. Staff support this agreement and relationship with the Township. Commissioner Wick asked if there is any trades for these services and which the answer was no. Commissioner Worley-Hood stated he has had conversations regarding this and has heard great things and is very supportive of it. Commissioner Lentz agreed and said it is a good thing for everyone in the community, building these types of relationships. **This will come before the Board at the July Regular Board Meeting under the regular agenda.**

B. PDOP Rules and Regulations Update

The Board was reminded of the Park District's Rules and Regulations. Recently, especially with the closing of businesses during the pandemic, the Park District has had an increase of requests along with unauthorized use of Park District property breaking policy 7.16 which prohibits the purchase, sales, peddling or solicitation in our parks. There have been problems with the tennis courts being used commercially in the past but an increase in fitness in our parks has also been taking place. Executive Director Arnold said that we have been trying to help out the businesses by helping them to find spaces they can use including the PDOP calling the village for these companies possible use of their parkways and green space behind their parking lots for yoga and fitness along with tennis courts in Chicago they could try using if available. Commissioner Lentz says she has spotted a group of men doing calisthenics but they did not appear to be organized. Executive Director Arnold confirmed unorganized exercise is encouraged, but if it is a commercial group or an organization, they need to get a permit which the parks had not been authorizing due to Covid 19; but she again stated, no part of our parks should be used commercially. Mark Burkland, attorney, informed the Board that Gary Balling, previous Executive Director, had difficulties with this exact problem causing his request for the policy to be created. Mr. Burkland stated that it of course can be modified, per their discussion/decision. Commissioner Wollmuth stated that he had talked to a college boy who was out trying to give tennis lessons to make some money for college since his job had been cancelled for the summer. He stated that he doesn't necessarily oppose this type of use in this instance and would like to help him and others like him out during these hard times. Commissioner Worley-Hood stated that we can't set policies during times of crises because it would just open the flood gates along with allowing competition in our parks to our own programs. Discussion took place regarding possible ways to limit times of commercial use. Commissioner Porreca then stated that as stewards of the parks they should not be letting people make money while on Park District property, that tax dollars spent on the upkeep of the parks is for use by the residents not private companies and also mentioned wear and tear of the parks and facilities with more use due to the commercial use and asked who would pay for that? Commissioner Wick questioned if this needed to be decided at this time or if it could be brought back so they could do more research on it. Executive Director answered that it could be tabled and that the Board could review it in the annual approval of the Rules and Regulations which are located in the policy manual during the November Regular Board Meeting. The Board agreed to table the discussion. **This will come before the Board at a future Regular Board Meeting.**

C. Board Retreat – July 14, 2020 Update

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the upcoming Board Retreat on July 14. Reesheda Graham-Washington has been scheduled to run the training on equity beginning at 9am. After the lunch break, the Board's Goals for 2021 would be discussed so that the Executive Director's goals and the District's goals can align with them. The Board was also informed that we should hear on what the school's plans for the fall are on July 15. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

VI. New Business - None

VII. Closed Session

At 8:44pm Commissioner Wick moved and Commissioner Porreca seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners convene into closed session for discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

At 9:02pm a motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to adjourn the Closed Session. **The motion passed a roll call vote of 5:0.**

VIII. Adjournment

At 9:02p.m. a roll call vote was taken to adjourn the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried in a roll call 5:0.



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

August 20, 2020

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

August 20, 2020

Date

