

**Park District of Oak Park (PDOP)
Regular Board Meeting
John Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302**

Thursday, October 20, 2022

Minutes

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

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; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks & Planning; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; and Edith Rodriguez, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Edward Kerros and Jessica Freiburg with The Parks Foundation, Thomas Howe with AYSO, Sam Elsener with OPYB/S, and residents.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. PARKS FOUNDATION UPDATE

Edward Kerros and Jessica Freiburg with The Parks Foundation presented the Board with a check for \$10,000 to donate to the Park District's Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund is made available to assist under-resourced individuals and families who lack financial access participate in Park District programs. The Board thanked The Parks Foundation for their donation as this will be a great support for the community.

IV. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kelly Arquette – has been a resident of Oak Park for 20 years and lives across the street from Pleasant Home and Scoville Park. Kelly informed the Board that her car was stolen on the intersection of Lake Street and Scoville Avenue in addition to three other vehicles that were also previously stolen in the area. Kelly expressed her concerned that all entities in Oak Park are not working together to make safety their priority. A block meeting was held with other residents and the Oak Park Chief of Police, and other trustees but Kelly noticed that a representative from the Park District was not present. Kelly asked that the Park District conduct a formal meeting with the other trustees to speak on this issue and would like to hear back on how the meeting goes.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Consent Agenda, which included the approval of the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of September 2022; approval of the minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting for

September 1, 2022, Continued Regular Board Meeting from August 18, 2022, Regular Board Meeting from September 15, 2022, and Budget Session Meeting from September 29, 2022; approval of the 2023 Committee and Board Meeting Calendar; and approval of Disposal Ordinance 2022-10-14. **The motion passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Executive Director's Report** – In addition to the Executive Director Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the Frank Lloyd Wright Race took place on October 16th. 2,097 runners/walkers attended the race which was a 10% decrease from 2019. Although there was a decrease in the number of runners for the 5K and 10K races, there was an increase of walkers registered. Staff will look at other organization to gather more volunteers for the race. The Park District won the IAPD Best Green Practices Award. Staff and Board members attended the event.
- B. Updates & Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
- C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Special Facilities Program Committee – None

B. Parks and Planning Committee – None

C. Administration and Finance Committee

1. Audit Engagement Letter – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Park District has used Lauterbach and Amen (L&A) as the auditor for the Park District's finance statements for fiscal years 2016-2021. In addition, L&A provides actuary services as required for the pension and post-employment benefit portion of the audit, fixed asset services, and free training for staff. Based on this, the Administrative and Finance Committee recommends the approval of L&A's proposal to extent auditing services for the years of 2022-2024. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick, and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve L&A's proposal to extent auditing services for the years of 2022-2024. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
2. Community Solar Contract – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Park District is looking to move the remainder of its available electric load to a community solar program. In 2021, the Park District signed an electric supply contract with Clearway Energy to supply 15% of the electric load via a solar farm in Illinois, and the Park District is now looking to sign a similar contract for 31% of the electric load with Nexamp. The electric supply would become available in November 2023 and it will be for a 15-year supply contract. There is also flexibility to shift the electric load as needed, meaning that staff are free to add solar panels to any facility and the energy from the solar farm can be provided to different locations at no cost to the Park District. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick, and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve a contract for community solar electric supply. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
3. 2022 Performance Measure Quarterly Review – Mitch Bowlin informed the Board that the Park District has seen a strong rebound in pass sales (for pool, rink, and pool/rink combo)

since the pandemic in 2020. The Cubhouse and Fitness programs have not rebounded since Cubhouse opened in October 2022, and the plan for additional fitness classes to come once the CRC opens. For program registrations, there is a 1% increase year-to-date over the final numbers from 2021. Staff have seen an all-time high increase in registration for the Nature & Adventure programs, as well as Youth Athletics programming. Gymnastic is still down from 2019, due to short staff. As for refunds, staff has seen a 7% increase from 2021. This change from 2019-2022 is partially due to the way Amilia records refunds compared to Rectrac (previous registration program used in 2019). In Amilia, if a customer cancels multiple registration at once, that is counted as one refund instead of several. The Board appreciated the information provided in the presentation. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. AYSO Update – Thomas Howe with AYSO provided an update to the Board. Thomas noted that AYSO has had many new board members which has been a challenging time but does feel good about the work being done by the new members. AYSO has seen some growth in their numbers post-COVID. Scholarships continue to be offered for families to participate in their programs. A VIP program is also offered for special needs kids which has been great and would like a bigger spotlight on the program. The Board asked if AYSO has been in contact with WSSRA for their VIP program. Thomas noted that there is a lot of focus to bring the AYSO back in order after the pandemic and will work on ways for better marketing.
- B. OPYB/S Update – Sam Elsener with OPYB/S provided an update to the Board. Sam has been part of OPYB/S for three years now (joined right before the pandemic). OPYB/S is continuing to provide a fun, safe, and rewarding youth softball/baseball program to the community. OPYB/S has been in challenging and unique situations due to the pandemic, and had noted that the community has been great through the process. OPYB/S continues to offer various programs for kids of all ages and skill levels. OPYB/S has also been sponsored by the White Sox which has allowed them to keep their costs to families down. Sam also provided a breakdown on the different rates provided, which includes discount rates if families register early. Scholarship also continue to be provided to families as well. The OPYB/S board is composed of volunteers. In addition, OPYB/S has improved communication to parents by identifying Ambassadors at each elementary school to answer questions and be a point of contact for parents. They have also begun to do end of year surveys of families to get input and track their performance. Overall, the average rating families gave to OPYB/S was just over an 8 on a scale of 1-10. The Board liked that the parents/guardians are involved in the programs.
- C. NRPA Recap – The Board discussed things that they enjoyed and learned through the conference. The Board noted that the NRPA conference was a great experience. Also noted that it was great to see that each Board member had a different experience during the conference. The Board also enjoyed getting the opportunity to interact with staff as well.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lentz – Attended the WSSRA meeting in which WSSRA is looking into expanding and looking at different properties. Also visited Rehm park and was happy to see the kids play with the accessible equipment.

Commissioner Wick – Ran the Frank Lloyd Wright race and the weather was great. Agrees that staff need move volunteers for the next race. Attended both the IGOV and FOPCON meetings as well. At the IGOV meeting, saw that there was a great collaboration with the Park District. In addition, at the FOPCON meeting, a strategic meeting was held.

Commissioner Wollmuth – Attended the Illinois Green Alliance Awards event to receive the Emerald Award and gave his congrats to the Board and staff. Attended the OPYB/S meeting and would like to find ways to better support the athletic programs as sports are changing dramatically. Excited to see the event that the Parks Foundation will have on the CRC.

Commissioner Worley-Hood – Noted that Pleasant Home will be holding a fundraiser to fund for lighting.

President Porreca – Great to see that the Park District has won for the 7th year in a row the Best of the Best Award from IAPD for best green practices. Also appreciated the presentations made in the budget meeting by staff. Attended the Illinois Principals Association meeting and people are really excited to see the construction of the CRC.

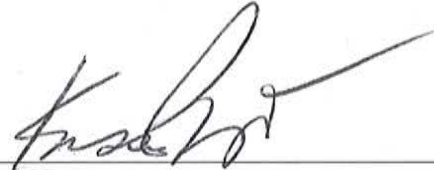
X. CLOSED SESSION – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:01pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners



President
Board of Park Commissioners

November 17, 2022

Date

November 17, 2022

Date