



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK
Regular Park Board Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Minutes

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Lentz, Wick, Wollmuth, and President Porreca.

Absent: Commissioner Worley-Hood.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0.

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT – None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of July 2023; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from July 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting from July 20, 2023, and Closed Session from July 20, 2023; and, approval of the Executive Director's 2023-2025 Employment Agreement. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0.**

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director's Report – In addition to the Executive Director Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold noted that the pools had their third review this week and received exceeds for 2023. Concerts in the Park ended for the summer this week. Barrie Park improvement project is still ongoing with an estimated completion date of December 1. In addition, the snow hill will be closed in spring and summer 2024 for the grass planting. Fall Fest will take place on Sunday September 24 at Rehm Park. The CRC continues to receive registrations.

B. Updates and Information – Written report included in the Board Packet.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Administration and Finance Committee

1. **Strategic Plan Update** – Executive Director Arnold and Mitch Bowlin provided the Board with an update on the Strategic Plan. Staff are continuing to work on their goals and are on



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track to finish them all for 2023. Staff are working on some of the remaining goals. Staff are recommending using the GARE racial equity tool for decision making and look to rollout in 2024. Staff also completed greenhouse inventory in 2022 and will provide Board update in December. New safety audits are to be completed soon. The Board was pleased to see that staff are doing check-ins on their updates and reviews on these updates are done four times a year.

2. Mid-Year Budget Update – Executive Director Arnold and Mitch Bowlin provided the Board with an update on the Mid-Year Budget. It was noted that taxes are still delayed from Cook County which was anticipated. The Park District has a good cash balance at the moment. If the delay is more than 60 days, staff will plan on having a higher budget. However, if the delay goes until the end of February, then staff will need to see what projects will need to be put on hold. The capital budget continues to be larger due to the CRC however, this was already forecasted by staff and does not appear to be a problem. Intergovernmental revenue is over budget due to grants that the District has received. Investment income is high due to inflation; however, staff do not expect to see this increase again later on. For expenses, wages are below budget due to not all positions being filled (including three full-time positions). Utilities are significantly under budget to date, however, the Park District has yet to receive the summer water budget, especially for pools. For the CRC, since this is the first year in operation, overall, everything is going well and will also be receiving a grant soon. The Board was pleased to see the information that was provided.
3. Approval of Triton Tutoring IGA – Executive Director Arnold notes that one of the services that the Park District will be offering at the CRC is homework assistant. Staff will be partnering with Triton College to hire and train college student to deliver the service. The Homework Assistance program will run Monday through Thursday from 3:30pm to 6pm. As such, staff recommend that the board approve the IGA with Triton College for Homework Assistant for the CRC Afterschool Program for the 2023-2024 school year. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the IGA with Triton College for Homework Assistance for the CRC Afterschool Program for the 2023-2024 school year. **The motion was approved by a voice vote of 4-0.**

B. Parks and Planning Committee – None

C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Application – Executive Director Arnold noted that the ESAC currently has six of the eight spots filled and is actively searching for new committee members. Victoria Peipert, resident of Oak Park, has expressed interest and submitted a committee interest application. Victoria lives near Field Park and has a Master in Science Information. She is a Sustainability Manager and has an interest in furthering the district's growth in sustainability programming and development. As such, staff recommend the approval of the application of Victoria Peipert as a citizen committee member to the ESAC. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the application of Victoria Peipert as a citizen committee member to the ESAC. **The motion was approved by a voice vote of 4-0.**



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- 2. Pleasant Home Foundation Discussion – The Board has a discussion on the terms of the agreement between the Park District and the Foundation as it is planned to expire by the end of the year.

VIII. COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Wick: Commissioner Wick noted that Midsummer Night's Dream was well received last week. Festival Theater will plan to have another show sometime in November/December in Pleasant Home. Commissioner Wick also noticed the CRC yard signs at various neighbor’s yard and took pictures of all the ones that he saw and created a collage frame for Executive Director Arnold.

Commissioner Wollmuth: D97 is still in the process of electing members for their board. Attended the Pleasant Home meeting online. There was no IGOV meeting recently. Attended FOPCON’s meeting and it was great. Also watched the Midsummer Night's Dream play with his family and thought that it was great.

Commissioner Lentz: Commissioner Lentz has received some great reports on the CRC. Also visited the CRC and noticed that there are people coming and going every 2-3 minutes, which was great to see. All of Commissioner Lentz meetings were on summer break.

President Porreca: President Porreca also visited the CRC and also notice the constant flow of people that were attending. Had a meeting with one of the Village of Oak Park Board members which was very pleasant.

IX. CLOSED SESSION – None

X. ADJOURNMENT

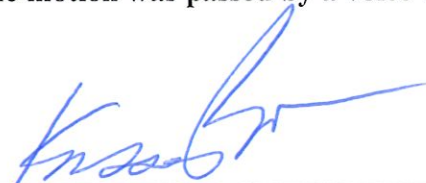
At 8:27pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

September 21, 2023

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

September 21, 2023

Date