**PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK**

**Regular Park Board Meeting**

**Hedges Administrative Center**

**218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60302**

**Thursday, September 21, 2023**

**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 Wood, Executive Assistant.

**Others Present:** Paul Rubio (resident of Oak Park), Tom Arvetis and Kevin Theis of Oak Park Festival Theater.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

**The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

**III. Visitor/Public Comment**

Paul Rubio: Paul wanted to reflect on George the Parrot who recently passed away at the Conservatory. Paul noted that George made a wonderful addition to the Conservatory in which he has visited since he was a child. Paul considered George a friend and was grateful to get to know him. Paul provided his thanks to the Conservatory for taking care of George.

**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 August 2023; approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting from August 17, 2023; approval of Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Applications for Ambria Jones and Meghan Strubel; and, approval of Disposal Ordinance 2023-09-15. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

**V. Staff Reports**

1. **Executive Director’s Report** – In addition to the Executive Director Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold Commissioner Lentz, Wick, and President Porreca will be in attendance to the Best of the Best Award Gala that will take place on October 20. The Frank Lloyd Wright Races will take place on October 15 and staff are still looking for adult volunteers. Fall Fest will take place on Sunday, September 24 at Rehm Park and at the Conservatory. At the Conservatory, a professional pumpkin carver will be present in which two pumpkins will be carved, one of a venus fly trap, and the other of George the Parrot. On Wednesday, October 4, the Longfellow Master Plan Review will take place via teams. Lastly, on September 27, Senator Don Harmon will be visiting the CRC for a small event.
2. **Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
3. **Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

**VI. Old Business**

1. **Parks and Planning Committee**
2. Festival Theater Update – Tom Arvetis and Kevin Theis of Oak Park Festival Theater provided the Board with an update of their past year. Items discussed included the new access for office space at Cheney Mansion’s third floor. A new Artistic Director (Peter G. Andersen) has joined Festival Theater and also directed A Midsummer Night's Dream. The production of A Midsummer Night's Dream was completed in which it was a successful show. During the performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream, Festival Theater staff also collected some data on how many people was their first time visiting Austin Gardens, the types of transportation that guest used to arrive to the park, what they liked about the experience from the play, and took inventory of the age groups that were attending the shows. The next production for Festival Theater will be Seagulls at Pleasant Home. Festival Theater also had a discussion with the Board on what other economic impacts have these shows brought to the Oak Park neighborhood. The Board was pleased with the information provided by Festival Theater.
3. **Recreation and Facility Program Committee** – None
4. **Administration and Finance Committee** – None

**VII. New Business** – None

**VIII. Commissioner’s Comments**

**Commissioner Worley-Hood**: No comments were provided by Commissioner Worley-Hood.

**Commissioner Wick**: Commissioner Wick attended the ESAC meeting on Monday. The ESAC did lose two of their member but will now be gaining two new members. Commissioner Wick also completed the interview for the 10 year Board Member Service Anniversary Award that will be issued at the Best of the best Award Gala.

**Commissioner Wollmuth**: Commissioner Wollmuth attended the FOPCON meeting which was a fast and productive meeting.

**Commissioner Lentz**: Commissioner Lentz attended the IGOV meeting on Saturday in which a chair has yet to be elected. IGOV is having their next meeting in December which will focus on mental health. Also attended the PDCC meeting which was also a short and fast meeting. Positive responses were received during the PDCC on the secret shopper program. Commissioner Lentz continues to visit the CRC in which she noticed that the bike racks have been full which is great to see. She also asked some of the kids at the CRC what they liked about it and the kids provided positive reviews on the CRC and would like to see tutoring also be available.

**President Porreca**: No comments were provided by President Porreca.

**IX. Closed Session** – None

**X. Adjournment**

At 8:04pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| **Secretary****Board of Park Commissioners** |  | **President****Board of Park Commissioners** |
| October 19, 2023 |  | October 19, 2023 |
| **Date** |  | **Date** |