



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

Park District of Oak Park (PDOP)
Committee of the Whole Meeting
John Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:30pm

Minutes

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks & Planning; and Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation

Others: Darrell Garrison, Gabe Yang and Kylie Foman of Planning Resources Inc.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Peggy Kell – Thanked staff for email to Zoom attendees for this meeting to discuss the Longfellow Park master plan. Shared her thoughts on need for 6 versus the 4 proposed pickleball courts. Asked about the existing berm based on expanded splash pad.

Joanne Libfeld – Expressed concerns for the distance of the serve area for the new pickleball courts at Taylor Park. Shared her support for having six pickleball courts versus four in the Longfellow Park updated plan. Suggested that pickleball players be involved in the design of the new courts to add details that only pickleball players would know were needed.

James Lavagnic – Shared that the new design of the pickleball courts at Taylor did not provide adequate space for serving. Shared his suggestions and support on adding six pickleball courts at Longfellow Park. Suggested short fencing be used around courts. Felt best place in Oak Park to expand pickleball would be Scoville Park where players could use local business after play.

Joan Slanid – Shared she lives by Rehm. The pickleball courts at Euclid are always full. She shared that today they went and played at Columbus Park before she had a group of 16-18, but would prefer to play in Oak Park since she pays taxes here. Suggested current pickleball players should be involved in the design specifics. Said she had not been contacted regarding future meetings.

III. PARK AND PLANNING COMMITTEE –

A. Longfellow Master Plan Update

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that Planning Resources, Inc. (PRI) created the Longfellow Master Plan in 2007 and revision in 2014. Darrell Garrison, PRI provided an overview of the proposed master plan update and the feedback received from the virtual meeting held on Wednesday, October 4. Darrell focused on saving the mature trees, providing the two different age groups with inclusive playground features, expanding the splash pad, eliminating the sandbox (sanitation and

maintenance reasons, creation of sensory space and addition of four dedicated pickleball courts. Board Members asked questions regarding the request for six courts versus the four proposed. Lots of discussion on the changes to MWRD and thus the needs that adding six would require for water retention and storm water management. Board asked about other locations for more dedicated pickleball courts. Staff shared a new product that they plan to purchase for the Barrie location to improve the traction as this is the best location for six pickleball courts based on limited park space. **This will come before the Board at the December Regular Board Meeting under the Consent Agenda.**

B. Fox Master Plan Update

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that Planning Resources, Inc. (PRI) was hired in 2005 to create the Fox Master Plan with Phase I improvements being completed in 2009 and for the revision in 2014. The Park District staff handled this master plan review since all phases of the original plan have been completed. Staff shared a virtual community meeting that was held on November 2 where feedback on the park was received. Some community members shared safety concerns for accessing the park and PDOP referred them to VOP. The playground replacement was the main focus and staff provided an option for both age groups. The playground will be upgraded in 2026. No changes to the splash pad or sandbox will occur. Some residents asked PDOP to consider lights and synthetic turf. Staff do not recommend those at this site but will continue to explore other opportunities. Board members shared that the turf infield in River Forest might be a good option to review for future planning. Also, the new lighting at OPRFHS seems to be well contained and thus other park opportunities might become opportunities for lighting. They also shared that for these types of improvements they would look to the sport groups to fund those amenities as they would be the beneficiaries. **This will come before the Board at the December Regular Board Meeting under the Consent Agenda.**

C. Tree Removal and Pruning Contract

The PDOP went out with VOP on August 9, 2023 and opened the three bids received on September 1, 2023. The lowest and responsible bidder was Davis Tree Care, which the Park District has worked with before and had good experience. The bid is for pruning five parks in 2024 as well as for pricing for tree removals. The contract is for three years with a \$24,640 cost for pruning. **This will come before the Board on the regular agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

D. Voltpost Electric Vehicle Charger Contract

Staff shared that the new technology allows EV charging stations to use existing light posts in parking lots. PDOP would be the first in ComEd's service area and we would replace the two carpool spots at RCRC with the EV charging locations. There is a \$5,000 annual fee that PDOP would recoup with the cost of vehicle charging like what we have at our 228-230 Madison lot. The Board shared their thanks for staff pursuing these types of opportunities. The Board asked if there are other locations. Staff shared that since we have limited parking lots, we do not have many opportunities. However, the Village would be able to replicate, and we hope they might have interest after viewing this installation by PDOP. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

V. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. 2024 Board Action Calendar

Executive Director Arnold noted that the Board Action Calendar was prepared to help staff track all of the different items that will be coming before the Board during the 2024 Calendar year. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

B. Letter to WSSRA of Appointment of Representatives

Executive Director Arnold noted that every year, WSSRA requests a letter to be made to note the Park District's appointment to the WSSRA Board of Directors. Executive Director Arnold is noted as the Regular Representative, and Commissioner Worley-Hood is noted as the alternate. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

C. Bi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes

Executive Director Arnold noted that in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Board is required to review closed session minutes semi-annually to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists on all or parts of the closed session minutes. It was recommended that the Board continues to hold the identified closed session minutes at this time. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

D. PACT Facility Use License Agreements for 2024

Executive Director Arnold noted to the Board that some of the PACT Agreements are up for renewal. These agreements were created so that other user groups and organizations would be able to use Park District facilities. The 2024 PACT applications were received and processed, with each organization contacted with their designated placement level based on the PACT (Partner, Associate, Companion, and Tenant) program. As such, it was recommended that the Board approve all of the PACT agreements provided and be fully executed. The Board had a discussion on the organizations under the PACT agreements. A suggestion was made to relook at the allocation of indoor versus outdoor space based on demand as well as value of space. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

E. PDOP/Township for Bus Agreement

The Board was updated that the 2017 agreement is ending with the Township. Review of the IGA which is a set \$25 fee for each day the Township uses a PDOP bus, plus they must refill the fuel. Also, PDOP will pay the Township \$25 each day they provide transportation for PDOP after school. **This will come before the Board under the regular agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

F. IT Contractual Services Agreement

The Board was reminded that in 2020 PDOP moved to an outsourced its IT services and support. Staff shared the new contract with fees that will be fixed for the next three years. PDOP has added staff as well as facilities including the CRC since the last agreement. Staff shared their high level of satisfaction with Noventech. The Board agreed that outsourcing IT made lots of sense with the constant change in technology. **This will come before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

G. 5 Year Strategic Comprehensive Master Plan Professional Services

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the Comprehensive Master Plan history for the Park District and of the current Comprehensive Plan and the PDOP Strategic Plan both expire in December 2024. Thus, staff are recommending a 5-year plan to run from 2025-2029. Two RFPs were received. Staff met with Commissioner Worley-Hood and 110%, Inc. was unanimously selected based on their team, their approach and how those align with the needs of PDOP. The Board discussed the qualifications and agreed with the staff's recommendation. **This will come before the Board at the December Regular Board Meeting under the Regular Agenda.**

H. PDOP/D97 IGA for Shared Facilities

The Board was reminded of the intergovernmental cooperation the Park District has had with D97 and the past agreement. The new agreement is only 18-months compared to the typical 5-year

agreement. Staff assured the Board that this was not due to any concerns between the two entities but with new D97 leadership they are looking at all agreements and requested a shorter agreement for this renewal. **This will come before the Board under the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

III. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS –

A. VOP Partnership Julian Property

Director Arnold shared that Village Manager Jackson had reached out to discuss the potential for collaboration between VOP and PDOP on the Dr. Percy Julian property. Director Arnold shared that the preliminary discussions were that VOP is looking to lease or purchase the property to create a memorial to Dr. Julian. Village Manager Jackson shared the preliminary discussion is that the Village would fund the purchase and the development of the parcel and assign ownership to PDOP. PDOP and VOP would work together on the creation of a passive park concept in 2024. The Board provided consensus that they would be open to continuing the conversation and felt this would be a good opportunity.

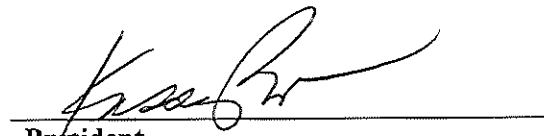
VII. CLOSED SESSION – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:26pm, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a voice vote of 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners



President
Board of Park Commissioners

January 18, 2024

Date

January 18, 2024

Date