



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

**Thursday, February 15, 2024**

**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; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources & Risk Management; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks & Planning; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory Operations; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Special Facilities & Customer Service; and Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation.

**Others Present:** Senator Don Harmon; Representative La Shawn Ford; Representative Camille Lilly; and Camille Wilson White, Oak Park Area Arts Council.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**III. ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

The Board presented the 2023 IAPD/IPRA Community Service Awards to the following recipients: Senator Don Harmon, Representative La Shawn Ford, Representative Camille Lilly, and Camille Wilson White, Oak Park Area Arts Council. The Board introduced the recipients and presented them each with their Community Service Award. These individuals were awarded with the Community Service Award for their outstanding contribution and unselfish devotion for the advancement of parks, recreation, and leisure in the community of Oak Park and the State of Illinois. The Board and staff thanked them for their devotion to their community. A brief reception also took place for the awardees after the award ceremony.

**IV. VISITOR/PUBLIC** – None

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Worley-Hood to approve the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of January 2024; approval of the minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting for January 11, 2024; and Regular Board Meeting from January 18, 2024; and approval of Disposal Ordinance 2024-02-09. **The motion was 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 noted that the Comprehensive Strategic



## **PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK**

Master Plan process kicked off this morning during the All-Staff meeting with the planning team (Jamie Sabbach with 110%) receiving input from staff. The current Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategic Plan are set to expire at the end of the year. Over the course of the year there will be multiple meetings with staff, community members, and key stakeholders to gather input and shape the District's plans for the next five years.

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

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

### **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Administration and Finance Committee**

1. 2023 PDOP Annual Report – Staff provided the Board with a general overview of the Park District for 2023. In 2023, the Park District focused on providing inclusive and welcoming places and spaces for residents in which the Community Recreation Center (CRC) was the focal point of the year. Membership goals for the CRC were surpassed in the first three months of opening. Renovations for Barrie Park wrapped up in 2023 bringing new playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment, nature and creative play areas, and a new bioswale. As pickleball continues to gain popularity, the Park District continues to support with greater access to the sport both indoors and outdoors. The Park District continues to focus on energy reduction throughout the agency which includes the construction of the CRC, replacing traditional light bulbs with LED lights inside Ridgeland, Taylor and Maple park tennis courts, adding battery-powered and electric vehicles to our fleet, and installing 665 solar panels to our 10<sup>th</sup> facility. In addition, the Park District received recognitions in 2023 as a Gold Medal Finalist; receiving the Platinum ranking by Ellis and Associates for aquatics safety; the Golden Guard and Outstanding Responder Award for lifeguarding skills; the Dr. William Fitzsimmons Public Health Award to Cheney Mansion staff for assisting the Village Health Department with COVID vaccine administration; the Best Green Practices Award from the IAPD; the Champions of Change Award from IPRA for DEI efforts; and the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
2. Pleasant Home Foundation Update – Executive Director Arnold provided the Board with an update on the Pleasant Home Foundation. It was noted that the Park District will allow Pleasant Home Foundation to keep the two George Maher windows that were removed from Pleasant Home as they were not from Pleasant Home. The Board asked that the Pleasant Home Foundation agree that if the George Maher Society ever ceases to exist, that the windows be donated to an arts nonprofit. Additionally, that a clause on no disparaging words about the Park District be included in the agreement.

**B. Parks and Planning Committee** – None

**C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee** – None

### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS** – None





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**IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Wollmuth:** Attended the IGOV meeting.

**Commissioner Lentz:** Appreciated the Community Service Awards ceremony that took place at the beginning of the meeting.

**Commissioner Wick:** Attended the Festival Theater gala on Saturday. They will also be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025.

**Commissioner Worley-Hood:** Attended COG meeting.

**President Porreca:** Shared how the Park District follows best practices.

**X. CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:30pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to convene into closed session for the discussion of performance of a specific employee of the Park District. **The motion was passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

At 8:48pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Worley-Hood to adjourn the Closed Session and to resume the Regular Board Meeting. **The motions was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:49pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

  
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**Secretary**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

March 21, 2024

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**Date**

  
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**President**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

March 21, 2024

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**Date**