



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

Thursday, August 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; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks & Planning; Nelson Acevedo, Parks & Facilities Manager; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources & Risk Management; Ann Marie Buczek, Communication and Community Engagement Manager; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant

Others Present: Ade Onayemi with the Oak Park Township; Members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Park District staff members Roger Oney, Jorge Hernandez, and Robert Poirier.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC

Roger Oney: Roger informed the Board of the frustrations with the union negotiations. Roger noted that the union has brought in a reasonable bargain which has been received with dismissive comments and identified to be a very high reaching proposal by the Park District. Union staff members are requesting pay rates based on the current baseline inflation.

Jorge Hernandez: Jorge informed the Board that he started working with the Park District three months ago. His job is to help maintain the baseball fields. However, he is unable to afford to put his kids in these programs. Jorge wished that when he started this job that this would of helped him afford to put his kids in these sports programs.

Robert Poirier: Robert informed the Board that he has been working with the Park District for almost 10 years. When he started the job, the pay was not good but did have good benefits. However his patience has been running out at it was noted that their current pay is "generous". Robert shared that other Park District staff members have had promotions and better pay. Also noted that the new CRC building has been providing profit to the Park District and this shows as new Park District vehicles have been purchased and it has been frustrating for him to see.



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 2024; approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting from July 25, 2024; and approval of Disposal Ordinance 2024-08-09. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

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 there are now reduced pool hours. Rehm Pool construction will take place after Labor Day and plan to finish before the next season. There are two Movies in the Park events left for the summer as well as Concerts in the Park.

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. Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan (CSMP) Update – Executive Director Arnold noted that Jamie Sabbach with 110% was here today and met with staff and conducted the Beneficiary of Services session. 110% will be keeping the community survey open until August 31st. Two individuals from 110% were on-site visiting Oak Park shops and parks and collecting feedback from the public. Jamie will plan to return on November 21st to give another update on the CSMP report which the plan for approval in December.

2. Field Center Design Professional Services Approval – Executive Director Arnold and Chris Lindgren and Ade Onayemi (lead judge for the Field Center Design Competition) gave a background on the winning design by Patrick Brown with ORG, Inc. for Field Center. The Future plans are to go out to bid for the construction of the project by the end of the year, with construction starting at the beginning of 2025. Ade gave his praise on the idea of opening the design competition to the public and feels that a great diverse group of organizations and people submitted their designs to the competition. Ade appreciated the Board and staff for their input during the process and does think that they achieved their goal with their final choice. The Board thanked Ade for his help in judging for the competition and is also excited for the process. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to approve authorization to Executive Director Arnold to execute a contract with ORG, Inc. for professional services in an amount not to exceed \$248,000. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

B. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – None

C. Parks and Planning Committee – None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None



IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Wick: Thanked the public comment speakers for their feedback and their fellow SEIU supporters. Commissioner Wick noted that this week is the last week for Romeo and Juliet with Festival Theater. They have had a good turnout in the past.

Commissioner Wollmuth: Gave his thanks to SEIU and was glad that they were here today. Missed IGOV meeting as he was out of town.

Commissioner Lentz: Attended the PlanItGreen meeting in which Chris Lindgren gave a report which was well received. Has seen a lot of people out in the pools and at the parks and see the collaboration that the public has with staff.

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Gave his thanks to SEIU. Attended the IGOV meeting and noted that they may have a potential candidate.

President Porreca: Noted that Commissioner Lentz was awarded the Ulyssean Award from the Senior Citizens Center of Oak Park & River Forest for her activism to Oak Park. Also gave her thanks to SEIU and noted that she was a former union member as a former teacher and recognizes the work that unions do and has faith for good results.

X. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:54pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to convene into closed session for the discussion of the collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representative, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. **The motion was passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

At 8:20pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to adjourn the Closed Session, and to resume the Regular Board Meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:21pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

September 19, 2024

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

September 19, 2024

Date