



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

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

Thursday, September 5, 2024

Minutes

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Lentz, Wick, Worley-Hood, and President Porreca

Absent: Commissioner Wollmuth

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources & Risk Management; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Chris Lindgren, Deputy Director of Properties & Planning; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant

Others Present: Members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Park District staff members Roger Oney, Sean Larsen, Robert Poirier, Bob Ryan, Glenn Wooden, and Mark Regalado (SEIU Member)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Oney – Roger informed the Board that they love their job and are just looking for a solution to the contract negotiations. Roger noted his concern over outdated language in their contract and not all members of the union were present during the bargaining process.

Sean Larsen – Sean is currently a Landscape Technician and also noted that they love their job. He is currently a solo union member for the Conservatory. Sean noted his concerns over turnover with their part-time staff.

Robert Poirier – Robert has been working with the Park District for 8 years. Robert expressed his concern on how people are managed and treated. Also expressed concern for when a supervisor recently retired, the position was eliminated.

Bob Ryan – Bob noted that this was his first year working with the Park District. Bob noted that he struggles with wage increases as they are tied with performance evaluations and feels that these evaluations are discriminatory.



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Glenn Wooden – Glenn has worked with the Park District for 9 years. He also noted that his children have also worked for the Park District. Glenn noted that he enjoys what he does however, he has noticed other employees move up within the organization and he and his department seem stagnant.

Mark Regalado – Mark noted that he attended the Board meeting to provide his support to his fellow SEIU members. Mark believes that the workers deserve a fair pay and if they are not able to may enough for the cost of living, then that is an issue for everyone.

III. PARK AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- A. Dole Center Tuckpointing Contract Update – Executive Director Arnold and Chris Lindgren noted that the Park District has allocated \$350,000 in the 2024 CIP for repairs and upgrades to the Dole Center. Tuckpointing at the south façade is in need to repairs due to most of the weather damage is done in that area. The project is using Omnia Partners cooperative purchasing program contractor to complete the repairs. In which Omnia has contracts that they publicly bid so any public entity can take advantage of their competitive pricing. The anticipated start date for the repairs will be for Fall 2024. Staff will bring a recommendation for the Board's consideration and approval at the Regular Board Meeting. **This item will be brought before the Board at the regular agenda at the September Regular Board Meeting.**

IV. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Community Service Award Discussion – Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that eight individuals have been nominated for the Community Service Award. The Board agreed on the nominations. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**
- B. Elected Officials BBQ Update – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Elected Officials BBQ is scheduled for September 11, 2024, at Cheney Mansion. Sweet Baby Ray's will be catering for the event. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**
- C. Board of Commissioner's General Practices Manual Update – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Park District's elected Board of Commissioners use the General Practices Manual in their day-to-day workings with the Park District. As such, the manual was last approved in December 2017. Since the last approval, updates were made to the manual. The Board also noted other updates that would need to be made in the manual. **This item will be brought before the Board at the regular agenda at the September Regular Board Meeting.**
- D. Proposed 2024 Tax Levy – Mitch Bowlin informed the Board that the Park District funds part of its operations through property taxes. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) limits the dollar amount of the tax levy increase to an amount no greater than the consumer price index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less. The 2024 tax year levy PTELL limit is 3.4% plus new growth. Mitch also informed the Board that staff are in the process of completing the 2025 Budget in which the Budget meetings are scheduled for the end of the month and in October. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**



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V. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. CLOSED SESSION – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58pm, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a voice vote of 4:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners



President
Board of Park Commissioners

October 17, 2024

Date

October 17, 2024

Date