



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

Thursday, October 17, 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 Business Operations; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement; Chris Lindgren, Deputy Director of Properties & Planning; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant.

Others: Roger Oney, Ramon Ochoa, and Sean Larsen (Park District staff and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) members); Sam Elsener with Oak Park Youth Baseball and Softball (OPYB/S); and Rick Young with American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC

Roger Oney – Roger expressed concerns on the lack of progress on the bargaining agreement as it has been ongoing for 2 months. Roger believes that the union members have addressed some of the issues but are still not in agreement. They are looking to increase the minimum wage to \$20 in which Roger mentioned it would not be a tax increase for the agency. Roger noted that the union members are not looking to cause trouble.

Ramon Ochoa – Ramon wanted to acknowledge the bargaining team and also mentioned that they have been receiving support from the community.

Sean Larsen – Sean wanted to express his support to the union members. Noted that they have already lost 2 union members and is tired of seeing them leave and that it is disheartening which also makes it hard to focus at work. Noted that the community supports the parks for their beauty but doesn't understand why the Park District doesn't support them.

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 September 2024; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting from September 19, 2024, Closed Session from September 19, 2024, and Budget Meeting from September 26, 2024; approval of the 2025 Committee & Board Meeting Calendar; and



approval of the Park District Citizen Committee Applications for Denny Burke and Janet Coffey.
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 the Frank Lloyd Wrights races are this weekend. Registration has increased by 5% and staff are still looking for volunteers. The Park District has been awarded the Best of the Best for Green Practices, and the award ceremony will take place in two weeks. Staff attended the NRPA conference, and although they did not win the Gold Medal award, staff enjoyed the conference and learned new ideas.
- B. Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
- C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

1. Oak Park Youth Baseball and Softball (OPYB/S) Update – Sam Elsener with OPYB/S provided the Board with an update. Sam has been a representative for the organization for 6 years. The mission and vision for OPYB/S is for affordable recreation for the community. OPYB/S had another great season with over 400 volunteers. OPYB/S has raised \$10,000 in scholarship funds. One of the issues Sam expressed include limited field space. Due to the limited field space, there is pressure for the organization to switch to full-time travel. In addition, registration numbers have also gone down. Sam also noted issues on lack of lighting in the parks. The Board appreciated the updates given by Sam.
2. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Update – Rick Young with AYSO provided the Board with an update. Rick noted that registration for Fall and Spring was good and up from last year. Rick also expressed concerns for lack of field space. With this, AYSO is alternating practices on smaller fields. AYSO also stated a cleat-swap program which was well attended. They have also shifted the divisions by grade to keep the competition more in line. Rick is also looking forward to the new field at Lindberg Park. The Board thanked Rick for his updates.

B. Administration and Finance Committee

1. 2024 Performance Measure 3rd Quarter Review – Mitch Bowlin provided the Board with an update regarding the status of performance measures. Mitch noted that both the Strategic Plan Goals and the Budget Goals are in a good place and should be completed by the end of the year. There was one budget goal that has been cancelled due to staffing. Currently, the percentage of household participating is higher than previous years. Staff have seen an increase in program registrations post COVID. Most of the data trend comes from the CRC and drop-in and single session programs. Staff are also 1% away from hitting the 50% target for CRC Oak Park household members. Staff have also noticed an increase in staff participation in Launchpad for innovative ideas. Staff are looking to continue to make a push for innovation. The Board was pleased with the updates given.



2. VOP IGA Regarding Discounted Memberships for Village Employees – Executive Director Arnold noted that as part of the Village of Oak Park’s Wellness Initiative, the Park District shall offer qualifying Village employees a discounted membership (at the resident rate) to the amenities available at the CRC. Payment of membership due to the Park District shall be the obligation of the Village on a monthly basis. The memberships would be effective December 2024 for Village employees. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Oak Park for discounted memberships to Village employees at the CRC. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

C. Parks and Planning Committee

1. 947 Ridgeland Solar Project Update – Executive Director Arnold and Chris Lindgren informed the Board that staff went out to bid on October 15, 2024, for the solar array on the new roof of 647 Ridgeland. However, staff did not receive any bids during this time as companies have been overbooked with projects. Staff are looking to scale down to a smaller system that is within the allowed budget for Executive Director Arnold to approve and complete the installation by December 31, 2024.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

IX. COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Lentz: Commissioner Lentz attended the NRPA conference and through that the event was excellent. The sessions were a great experience.

Commissioner Wollmuth: Commissioner Wollmuth attended an event at Cheney with his family and it was a great time.

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Commissioner Worley-Hood was proud to see the Park District’s advocacy on safety issues at the park. Will also plan to volunteer at the Frank Lloyd Wright race event.

Commissioner Wick: Commissioner Wick also plans to volunteer at the Frank Lloyd Wright race event. Festival Theater is planning on a workshop with their board and are also planning for their 50th anniversary event. Also attended the NRPA conference and thought that it was a great event.

President Porreca: President Porreca noted to staff that they should be proud of their dedication and is also proud to be associated with the Park District. President Porreca also provided her thanks to Roger for attended the Board meetings and relates to Roger as she was previously a union member and encourages Roger to trust the process.

X. CLOSED SESSION – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:46pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK


Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

November 21, 2024
Date


President
Board of Park Commissioners

November 21, 2024
Date