



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

Thursday, November 21, 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; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Park & Facilities; Chris Lindgren, Deputy Director of Properties & Planning; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources & Risk Management; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant.

Others: Ade Onayemi, Jack Lesniak, Michele Silvetti-Schmitt, Ben Blount, Tim Puntillo, Ana Garcia Doyle, Jim Doyle, and Catherine Wetzel (Community Service Award Recipients), and community members: Tony Roeder, John Michel, Joy Michel, Les Golden, Jess Schneider, and Kyle Tobolik.

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 2024 IAPD/IPRA Community Service Awards to the following recipients: Ade Onayemi, Jack Lesniak, Michele Silvetti-Schmitt, Ben Blount, Tim Puntillo, Ana Garcia Doyle, Jim Doyle, and Catherine Wetzel. Commissioner Wollmuth introduced the recipients and presented them each with their Community Service Award. These individuals were awarded the Community Service Award for their service as judges for the Field Center Design Competition. 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

Tony Roeder: Tony noted to the Board that he has organized the neighbors in saving the Field Park berm. He also noted that he spoke with President Porreca and Commissioner Wollmuth on this matter as well. He is currently taking a neutral position on this issues but expressed his appreciation to the Board for pausing the construction of the Field Center building so that the Park District and the neighbors can come to some sort of agreement.

John Michel: Thanks Tony for his help on the process. John has interviewed various people around the Field Park neighborhood and has also collected signatures for a petition against the new Field Center building. John noted that there are not a lot of natural areas for kids in Oak Park and the northwest portion of Field Center is great. Noted that there are a lot of options to put the new Field Center building in another location of the park.

Joy Michel: Joy expressed that she would like to see other drawings for the construction of the new Field Center building as she expressed concerns on traffic if the new building is to be constructed on the northwest portion of the park.

Les Golden: Les noted that he doesn't understand why there is no cooperation with the school (Mann) to free up some space for the dance program there instead of building a new building at Field Park. Would like for staff to consider other areas of Field Park and the school parking lot for the new building location.

Jess Schneider: Jeff noted that there are a lot of similarities with the proposed Field Center building and the plans for the Quantum Campus on South Shore. Noted that South Shore also had disagreements with their neighbors for the new construction and noted the parallels of this and Oak Park.

Kyle Tobolik: Kyle noted that he has met with people in the neighborhood and noticed that people are on the spectrum in regards to the new Field Center building. Kyle would also like to see alternatives to where the new building can be constructed.

V. PUBLIC HEARING – Statutory Budget & Appropriation

The Public Hearing for the Statutory Budget & Appropriation was called to order at 8:00pm. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the Park District is required to adopt a Budget and Appropriation (B & A) Ordinance and file it with the County Clerk within 30 days of its approval. A Public Hearing is also required to be held prior to the approval of the B & A. The notice was also published in the local newspaper seven days before the hearing. Executive Director Arnold noted that the B & A consists of two columns of data: one column lists the Park District's budget by line item, while the second column includes the same item, with a 15% increase (referred as the appropriation). No public comment was made during the Public Hearing. No additional questions were asked by the Board. At 8:02pm, the Public Hearing for Statutory Budget & Appropriation was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5-0.**

VI. 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 October 2024; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from October 3, 2024, Budget Meeting from October 3, 2024, and Regular Board Meeting from October 17, 2024; approval of the Working Budget – Departmental Goals 2025; approval of 2024 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Ordinance for the 2019/2020 Bonds (Ordinance No. 2024-11-02 and Ordinance No. 2024-11-03); approval of the Fixed Assets; approval of the Credential Certificate for the IAPD Annual Meeting; approval of the Crisis Management Plan; and, approval for the appointment of Blake MacGregor as a member of the Park District Citizen Committee to serve a three-year term. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**



VII. 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 holiday lights are up on the parks and will be up until February 8th. Staff will be attending a Safety Committee meeting at Tinley Park. Staff are now in the process of training swimmers for lifeguards for the summer programs. PACT agreements will be coming to the Board in December for their review and considerations. Holiday programming at the Park District has begun.
- B. **Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
- C. **Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Administration and Finance Committee

1. 2024 Tax Levy Ordinance – Executive Director Arnold noted that annually, the Board must approve a property tax levy ordinance and file it with the County no later than the last Tuesday in December. 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 or 5%. This year's tax levy is 3.4% (to capture CPI) with an additional 1.5% for new growth. No questions were asked by the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick, and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to approve the 2024 Tax Levy. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
2. 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the Park District is required to adopt a Budget and Appropriation (B & A) Ordinance and file it with the County Clerk within 30-days of its approval. Executive Director Arnold noted that the B & A consists of two columns of data: one column lists the Park District's budget by line item, while the second column includes the same item, with a 15% increase (referred as the appropriation). No questions were asked by the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick, and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to approve the 2. 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
3. 2024 Parks Report Card – Mitch Bowlin noted that non-maintenance staff visited the Parks in 2024 to conduct a survey on the conditions of the park. Mitch noted that staff evaluated the athletic fields, playgrounds, and bathrooms at each park. Overall scores were good for each of these items, and there was a decrease in the score for bathrooms due to the high usage of the restrooms this year. Staff have also conducted an evaluation for the economic and racial equity at each park for the Board's review. The Board was pleased with getting the 2024 Parks Report Card.
4. Annual Review of Park District Attorney Update – Jan Arnold noted that staff currently use Elrod Friedman (attorney Caitlyn R. Culbertson) as their Park District Attorney. Jan recommends continuing to receive legal counsel from Elrod Friedman and Caitlyn as they have been very helpful to the park district. The Board has been impressed with the work that Caitlyn has provided to the Park District.



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

5. Personnel Policy Manual Update – Staff review the Personnel Policy on an annual basis. Some changes to their best practices were made. No questions were provided from the Board at this time. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
6. Administrative and Board Policy Manual Update — Staff review the Administrative and Board Policy Manuals on an annual basis. Some changes to their best practices were made. No questions were provided from the Board at this time. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
7. Safety Manual Update — Staff review the Safety Manual on an annual basis. Some changes to their best practices were made. No questions were provided from the Board at this time. **This item will be brought before the Board at the Consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

B. Parks and Planning Committee – None

C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Wollmuth: Commissioner Wollmuth attended the IGOV meeting on Saturday which had low attendance. FOPCON meeting was on Monday in which they finish setting up goals for each of their committees.

Commissioner Lentz: Received a call from PlanItGreen. They have also installed solar panels on the landscape trailers. On December 10, Commissioner Lentz will be attending a leadership forum.

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Noted his praise to staff on their great work on Field Center.

Commissioner Wick: Attended the Legal Symposium and notes that it's definitely worth attending. Attended the Festival Theater meeting in which they are looking for more members. Attended the ESAC meeting in which Steve Miller is back on the team. Enjoys attending their meetings as they are a very passionate group of people.

President Porreca: President Porreca received letters from her 3rd grade class and would like the Board to respond to their questions.

X. CLOSED SESSION – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**



PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

Amily Jentz

Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

December 19, 2024

Date

Kasa

President
Board of Park Commissioners

December 19, 2024

Date