



**Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Community Recreation Center
229 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302**

Thursday, December 5, 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; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Parks & Facilities; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Chris Lindgren, Deputy Director of Properties & Planning; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant

Others: Keven Graham with TERRA Engineering; and community members: Sam Elsener, Sean Hennessy, Dave Ardell, Nick Nichols, Brad Rist, Denny Burke, and Peter Wessel.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Elsener: Sam noted to the Board that he grew up in Oak Park, attended OPRF High School, and is also part of Oak Park Youth Baseball and Softball (OPYB/S). He expressed concern about the lack of lights at Field Park. Due to insufficient lighting, sports programs would need to end earlier, limiting practice and playtime. Sam also mentioned that adding more lights would increase revenue.

Sean Hennessy: Sean noted that he has been an Oak Park resident for six years and is also part of OPYB/S. He reiterated some of the comments made by Sam and highlighted the community's demand for additional sports programming. Sean emphasized that adding lights at the park would help meet this demand.

Dave Ardell: Dave, a 20-year resident of Oak Park, noted that his sons grew up playing at Field Park. He expressed his desire for more lighting at the park, stating that it would be a great benefit to the community.

Nick Nichols: Nick, a 15-year resident of Oak Park, mentioned that his family has participated in a variety of programs offered by the Park District. He pointed out the growing demand for additional sports programming for children and expressed his support for adding more lighting at Field Park to accommodate this need.

Brad Rist: Brad, who has two children attending Mann School next to Field Park, noted that the high school has taken up much of the park field space, reducing the availability for OPYB/S programming. He expressed his support for additional lighting at Field Park and emphasized the benefits the lights would bring to the community.



Denny Burke: Denny noted that he has two children who attend Mann School and also use Field Park. He mentioned that his kids visit the park at least 3-4 times a week and are excited about the plans for the new Field Center. Denny emphasized that relocating the building to the northwest corner of the park would make it much easier for parents to drop off and pick up their children, as well as improve accessibility. He expressed great excitement about the plans.

Peter Wessel: Peter, a member of the OPYB/S Board, noted the safety benefits that additional lighting at Field Park would provide.

III. PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- A. Field Park Master Plan Update – Keven Graham from TERRA Engineering provided the Board with an update on the Field Park Master Planning process, including a presentation of an alternative design for the new Field Center, which would be located within the same footprint as the current Field Center building. The Board discussed both designs for the new Field Center building and asked Keven questions regarding the differences between the two designs, including construction time and cost variations. Executive Director Arnold also mentioned that there is a plan for another community meeting to be held in January 2025, with additional details to be provided at a later date. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

IV. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. 2025 Board Action Calendar – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Board Action Calendar was prepared to help staff track all of the different items that will be coming before the Board during the 2025 Calendar year. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- B. Letter to WSSRA of Appointment of Representatives – Executive Director Arnold noted that every year, WSSRA requests a letter to be made to note the Park District’s appointment to the WSSRA Board of Directors. Executive Director Arnold is noted as the Regular Representative, and Commissioner Worley-Hood is noted as the alternate. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- C. Bi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes – Executive Director Arnold noted that in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Board is required to review closed session minutes bi-annually to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists on all or parts of the closed session minutes. It was recommended that the Board continues to hold the identified closed session minutes at this time. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**
- D. PACT Agreements – Executive Director Arnold noted to the Board that some of the PACT Agreements are up for renewal. These agreements were created so that other user groups and organizations would be able to use Park District facilities. The 2025 PACT applications were received and processed, with each organization contacted with their designated placement level based on the PACT (Partner, Associate, Companion, and Tenant) program. As such, it was recommended that the Board approve all of the PACT agreements provided and be fully executed. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**



**PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK**

- E. OPPL IGA for PDOP Passes Reservations (Cubhouse / Ice Rink / Pool) – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Park District has partnered with the Oak Park Public Library (OPPL) to offer free, weeklong passes for OPPL cardholders to access Rehm or Ridgeland pool, Cubhouse Indoor Playground, or Paul Hruby Ice Arena. Beginning on January 1, 2025, Cubhouse and Rink passes will be available to check out at the OPPL. Pool passes will be available from Memorial Day through Labor Day and can be used during Public Swim hours at either Rehm or Ridgeland pool. Both entities have agreed to provide marketing support to engage community members. The Board really liked this idea to provide greater access to the facilities to all residents. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

- F. SEIU Contract Update – Executive Director Arnold noted that The Articles of Agreement between the Park District of Oak Park and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73 expired on March 31, 2024. Staff and representatives of SEIU negotiated new terms to renew the existing provisions of the collective bargaining unit agreement. Multiple discussions were held from August to November and an agreement was reached. SEIU members meeting to discuss and vote to ratify the proposed changes. In addition, retroactive pay will be given to eligible staff. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the December Regular Board Meeting.**

V. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. CLOSED SESSION – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:14pm, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a voice vote of 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners



President
Board of Park Commissioners

January 30, 2024

Date

January 30, 2024

Date