



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

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:18pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Wollmuth

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

**Others:** Peter Andersen with Oak Park Festival Theater

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

III. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Festival Theater Support Request Discussion – Peter Andersen from the Oak Park Festival Theatre (FT) noted that FT has launched a capital campaign with a key focus on enhancing sustainability by installing new LED lighting and implementing a reusable stage system. He requested funding support from the Board for the lighting upgrade. The Board then discussed the possibility of using the Austin Gardens Trust Fund to support the lighting update. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**
- B. 2024 Tax Teay Levy – Abatement Resolution for 2024 Levy Adjustment – Executive Director Arnold and Mitch Bowlin noted that, since 2022, Cook County has been automatically increasing tax levies to recapture losses from assessment appeals refunds. The District has the option to abate this levy increase. The 2025 budget did not account for this additional levy. Since the levy is not part of the current budget and does not affect future PTELL calculations, staff recommends abating the levy and not collecting additional taxes from residents. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**
- C. IPRA/IAPD Conference Update – Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the conference will be held next week, with 26 staff members and four Board members attending. Staff will also be taking a tour of the CRC and Caroll during the conference, and some staff members will be conducting presentations at the event. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**



**PARK DISTRICT  
of OAK PARK**

IV. PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – None

V. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None


VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. CLOSED SESSION – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:34pm, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a voice vote of 4:0.**

  
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Secretary  
Board of Park Commissioners

  
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President  
Board of Park Commissioners

February 20, 2025  
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Date

February 20, 2025  
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Date