



**PARK DISTRICT**  
of OAK PARK

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

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**

**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; Chad Drufke, Program & Operations Manager; Joe Lilly, Program Manager; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**III. VISITOR/PUBLIC** – None

**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 January 2025; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting (January 16, 2025), and Regular Board Meeting (January 30, 2025); approval of the Carroll Park Master Plan Update; approval for the appointment of Daniel Crane as a member of the Park District Citizen Committee to serve a three-year term; and approval of Disposal Ordinance 2025-02-14. **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's Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold noted that the Spring/Summer program guide will be available online in March with registration opening on March 8 for residents and March 15 for non-residents. The sled hill at Barrie Park has been actively used over the winter. The Ice Show will be held from March 14 through the 16. In addition, staff are working on finalizing the Gold Medal application.

**B. Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.

**C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.



**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Administration and Finance Committee**

1. 2024 PDOP Annual Report – A copy of the 2024 Annual Report has been shared with the Board which highlights accomplishments in 2024. In addition, a copy of the Annual Report will also be made available in the Spring/Summer program guide.
2. Approval of Indoor Pool Concept Study – Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that based on the results of the 2023 Community Survey, a large support for an indoor pool was received by the community. As such, staff believe that additional information needs to be gathered and shared with the community, including estimates for construction and operating costs. Staff will work with Perkins+Will to create a concept study. In addition, staff will also be visiting other locations to gather input on the operation costs to run an indoor pool. Once completed, the results of the study will be presented to the Board for a decision on whether and when to propose a referendum to the community for a tax rate increase to fund the project. A motion was made by Commissioner Wick, and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to approve the authorization for Executive Director Arnold to sign a contact with Perkins+Will in an amount not to exceed \$44,500 for the Indoor Pool Concept Study. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

**B. Parks and Planning Committee**

1. Approval of Professional Services for Longfellow Park Improvements – Executive Director Arnold noted that the most recent park master plan was completed in December 2023. Updates to Longfellow Park include updating the playground, adding a dedicated pickleball area, and improving the splash pad. Staff worked with Planning Resources, Inc. to develop a proposal for professional services for the park improvements. A motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wick to approve the contract with Planning Resources, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$259,850 and to give the Executive Director permission to sign the contract. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
2. Approval of Andersen Park Improvement Construction Contract – Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that they had approved the design contract with Planning Resources, Inc. in December 2022 to create the drawings, specifications, and construction services for the park improvements at Andersen. Staff went out to bid on January 28 with six bids received. After reviewing the bids, staff identified Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. to be the lowest and most responsible bidder. Staff have previously worked with Hacienda with great success. Hacienda included three bid alternates, totaling \$590,591.50. Staff are also recommending a contingency of \$45,000, bringing the total to \$635,591.50, which allows for the purchase of all necessary equipment while staying within the project budget. A motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wick to approve the contract with Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$635,591.50 for the Andersen Park Improvements Project and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
3. Approval of Andersen Park Improvements Playground & Splash Pad Purchase – Executive Director Arnold noted, as part of the Andersen Park Improvements there are some items that will be directly purchase by staff. These items include playground pieces and splash pad features as well as playground safety turf surfacing (further discussed below). These items have been competitively bid through Sourcewell Contracts (to save on costs). The purchase includes



## PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

playground components from Landscape Structures, Inc. for \$158,075 and splash pad design and components for \$88,504. A motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wick to approve the contract with Landscape Structures, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$246,579.00 for the playground and splash pad purchase and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

4. Approval of Andersen Park Improvements Playground Grass Purchase – In addition to the Playground and Splash Pad purchase previously noted, staff also worked with Sourcewell Contracts for a competitive bid for the safety turf grass surfacing. The safety turf grass surfacing will be purchased from ForeverLawn Chicago, LLC for \$116,014.87. A motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to approve the contract with ForeverLawn Chicago, LLC. for an amount not to exceed \$116,014.87 for the playground grass purchase and allow the Executive Director to sign the contract. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
5. Approval of Cheney Mansion Geothermal Wells Project – Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the Geothermal Wells Project will be phased out with the installation of the wells occurring first, followed by the installation of the remaining of the system at a later date to avoid conflicts with programming and weddings. Staff went out to bid on January 15 and one bid was received. Advanced Geothermal was the sole bidder and has done two geothermal installations with the Park District with favorable results. Although the bid did come in slightly higher than anticipated, feedback is that the cost has risen due to labor and material costs increasing significantly over the last few years. A motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to approve the contract with Advanced Geothermal Plumbing & Heating, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 and allow the Executive Director to sign the contract. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

### C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

1. Annual Recreation Report – The Recreation and Special Facilities departments provided a joint annual update to the Board on Park District programming. Chad Drufke gave an update on fitness, martial arts, and sports programming. Overall, 2024 showed positive results with increased participation in volleyball. A new sponsorship was also secured for tennis programming. The women's basketball league also saw growth in 2024, which was great to see. A decrease was noted in co-ed softball and soccer, prompting staff to rework these programs and introduce a men's league. The CRC entered its second year with over 10,000 memberships, and goals for 2025 include strategies to increase membership retention.

Joe Lilly provided the Board with updates on Nature and Adventure, Active Adult, and Early Childhood programming. Nature and Adventure programming saw record-high participation, largely due to the opening of the Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center. Active Adult programming continues to grow, although there has been a dip in Early Childhood half-day programming. For 2025, staff will be replacing Active Adult with the Lifelong Learners program and will place increased focus on Austin Gardens due to its popularity.

Mike Baiardo updated the Board on Customer Service, aquatics, and ice rink programming. In 2024, staff reorganized the customer service area for greater efficiency, including moving dog park registrations online. A warmer summer is hoped for, as pool participation dipped last year. Ice



## PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

programming continues to grow and has received positive feedback. One change that has been well-received is including skate rentals as part of the ice rink pass cost.

Keith Kerrigan provided the Board with an update from Gymnastics. Although there was a decrease in participation (down 900), this is due to changes in program registration. These changes have resulted in more regular patrons using the facility, as opposed to those who purchase memberships but don't participate as frequently. Staff are working to increase preschool playtime and will collaborate with marketing to raise awareness. Additionally, staff plan to expand camp programs for 2025.

Maureen McCarthy also reported that in 2024, 93,000 registrations were made for programming, and 368 households received Financial Assistance. The Board was pleased to hear the updates and the goals for 2025.

2. Approval of Bus Transportation Contract – Executive Director Arnold noted that due to the significant number of vehicles needed for transportation and the resulting costs, staff found it more efficient to contract a single company. Staff went out to bid on January 10. One bid was received from Safeway Transportation Services Corp. Safeway submitted a bid for \$58 per hour, with a minimum of 3 hours for field trips during the school year and summer camp trips. Performance will also be evaluated annually. Staff have worked with Safeway in the past and have been satisfied with their service. A motion was made by Commissioner Lentz, and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to approve a contract with Safeway Transportation Services for bus service from March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026 (one full year) with the option to renew based on performance for two additional years. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

### VII. NEW BUSINESS – None

### VIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

**Commissioner Wollmuth:** Commissioner Wollmuth attended his committee meetings.

**Commissioner Lentz:** Commissioner Lentz noted that it was nice to have great weather for the ice rink.

**Commissioner Wick:** Commissioner Wick attended Winter Fest and thought that this new location was great. Also saw that the ice rink was packed.

**Commissioner Worley-Hood:** Commissioner Worley-Hood will be attending the WSSRA Legislative Lunch at Cheney Mansion next Friday.

**President Porreca:** President Porreca attended the Board Commissioner Candidate Information meeting on Monday. President Porreca along with other government organization and entities were at Unity Temple to emphasize Oak Park's commitment to inclusivity.

### IX. CLOSED SESSION

At 8:48pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to convene into closed session for the discussion of performance of a specific employee of the Park District. **The motion was passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**



**PARK DISTRICT**  
of OAK PARK

At 9:15pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Wick to adjourn the Closed Session and to resume the Regular Board Meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:15pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary  
Board of Park Commissioners

March 13, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
Board of Park Commissioners

March 13, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date