

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

Thursday, March 13, 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; Chris Lindgren, Deputy Director of Properties & Planning; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Susan Crane, Historic Properties & Special Events Manager; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; and Edith Wood, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Marianne Birko with WSSRA

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 February 2025; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from February 6, 2025, Regular Board Meeting from February 20, 2025, and Closed Session Meeting from February 20, 2025; acceptance of the Executive Director's Review and Contract Extension; and, approval of the IPRA Environmental Report Card. **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 highlighted that the Annual Ice Show will take place tomorrow through Sunday, and everyone is very excited. The staff is also working closely with community partners on the Multicultural Fest, which will be held on Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m. at Scoville Park.
- 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. WSSRA Annual Report Update – Marianne Birko from WSSRA provided the Board with an annual update. She noted that in 2024, the number of Oak Park participants has increased to 191 individuals in their programs. The total number of programs has also grown to 46, including gymnastics, swimming, ice rink activities, Parent Date Night, and Boxability. Oak Park also hosted WSSRA's annual legislative breakfast. Additionally, WSSRA launched a new collaboration with District 200 called the Sparks Program to expand their offerings in the community. WSSRA also hosted the Special Olympics, creating 630 new program opportunities. Staffing at WSSRA has continued to grow, but recruitment remains a challenge, and the demand for programming has steadily increased. The WSSRA budget has grown by 4% compared to the previous year. In 2024, five fundraising events were held, with proceeds going toward program scholarships and the purchase of a new vehicle. Marianne mentioned that Oak Park families have expressed high satisfaction with the programs and extended her gratitude to Executive Director Arnold, the Board, and the staff for their ongoing support.

B. Parks and Planning Committee

1. Annual Historic Properties Operations Report – Susan Crane provided the Board with an annual update on Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home. Programming remains strong at both locations, and the Coach House at Cheney Mansion has been rented out to a family. While programming expenses have increased in 2024, these programs have still contributed to the Capital Fund. New programs for 2024 include a Bridgerton-themed event and collaborations with Fitzgerald's. Cooking classes continue to thrive, with plans to add more themed dinner classes in the future. Family events continue to sell out, and staff are planning to add more literary-themed family events. The addition of the Santa Trolley at Pleasant Home in 2024 was also a great success. Looking ahead to 2025, the geothermal installation at Cheney Mansion is set to begin. The Chamber of Commerce will hold business hours at Cheney Mansion, with the Marketing Team in attendance to promote rentals for the historic properties. Staff are anticipating potential economic impacts on rentals in 2025 and are planning to introduce additional programming to help balance this. They are also collaborating with Camille Wilson White to host an art event at Cheney Mansion. In addition, staff plan to rebrand sections of the program guide to attract more registrations. Pleasant Home will also be getting a new electric oven installed.
2. Approval of Field Park Playground Professional Services Contract – Executive Director Arnold noted that in the 2025-2029 CIP, staff have allocated \$1,000,000 for professional services and playground improvements at Field Park. Staff previously worked with Altamanu in 2014 to assist with the Master Planning process; however, since Altamanu is closing its business, staff have reached out to Terra Engineering to complete the 2024 Master Plan. Terra will be responsible for preparing the landscape architectural and engineering construction project details. The project is expected to go out to bid in September 2025, with construction beginning in April 2026 and final completion anticipated by September 2026. A motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the contract with Terra Engineering Ltd. for an amount not to exceed \$128,500 and to give the Executive Director permission to sign the contract. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

C. Administration and Finance Committee – None

VII. NEW BUSINESS – None**VIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Lentz: Commissioner Lentz noted that she is looking forward to summer.

Commissioner Wick: Commissioner Wick attended the Festival Theater meeting, where they continue to face challenges in recruiting Board members. However, the two newest members have been a great addition.

Commissioner Wollmuth: Commissioner Wollmuth noted that the FOPCON meeting is scheduled for next Monday.

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Commissioner Worley-Hood noted that the IGOV meeting is scheduled for next week. He also mentioned that he has started a new job. Commissioner Worley-Hood shared that D97 is not confident that funds for turf replacement at Irving will be available. As a result, he has reached out to AYSO to explore the possibility of securing funding for the turf replacement.

President Porreca: President Porreca attended the Legislative Breakfast, which she described as a nice event. She also received a letter from a resident praising the value of the Active Adults programs and expressing a desire for updates to the Dole Center. Additionally, President Porreca attended the COG meeting, where the Village of Oak Park asked all government entities if they could assist in obtaining credentials to officially designate Oak Park as a Welcoming Community.

IX. CLOSED SESSION – None**X. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:27pm, 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

April 17, 2025

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

April 17, 2025

Date