



# **PARK DISTRICT** of OAK PARK

**Park District of Oak Park  
Continued Regular Board Meeting from August 21, 2025  
Hedges Administrative Center  
218 Madison Street  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302**

**Thursday September 4, 2025, 7:30pm**

## **AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Old Business**
  - A. CRC Solar PV and Canopy Installation Contract\*
- IV. New Business**
- V. Closed Session**
- VI. Adjournment**

\* Indicates information attached.

\*\* Indicates information to be provided before or at the meeting.

Update/Recap indicates verbal report provided at meeting no materials attached.

The Park District of Oak Park welcomes the opportunity to assist residents and visitors with disabilities. If you need special accommodations for this meeting, please call (708) 725-2052 or via email at [bill.hamilton@pdop.org](mailto:bill.hamilton@pdop.org).

*In partnership with the community, we enrich lives by providing meaningful experiences through programs, parks, and facilities.*



# **PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK**

## **AGENDA COMMENTS**

**Continued Regular Board Meeting from August 21, 2025  
Thursday, September 4, 2025, 7:30pm**

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

**II. Approval of Agenda (Voice Vote)**

No additions to the Agenda are anticipated at this time.

**III. Old Business**

**A. CRC Solar PV and Canopy Installation Contract\***

*Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Board approve a contract with Windfree Wind & Solar Energy Design Co. from Chicago, IL in the amount of \$518,403 for Solar PV and canopy installation at the Park District of Oak Park's Community Recreation Center and to give the Executive Director permission to sign the contract. (Roll Call Vote)*

**IV. New Business – None**

**V. Closed Session – None**

**VI. Adjournment**

\* Indicates information attached.

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# Memo

**To:** Jake Wooley-Hood, Chair, Parks and Planning Committee  
Board of Park Commissioners

**From:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director

**Date:** August 28, 2025

**Re:** CRC Solar PV and Canopy Installation Contract



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## Statement

The Park District of Oak Park's Community Recreation Center (CRC) was designed as a Net Zero facility. When designing the facility, staff anticipated approximately 6,000 memberships. Since opening in 2023, the facility has consistently had approximately 11,000 members, creating additional energy demands. This is a good problem and to solve, PDOP is seeking to add additional solar panels/structures on the west parking lot to meet the goal of a Net Zero facility.

## Discussion

The Park District worked with Charlie Saville with Elara Energy Services to develop the legal bid outlining the Solar PV requirements necessary to produce the additional solar capacity. The Legal bid for a Design/Build Solar PV System went out on June 25 with the bids due on July 21. Bids were opened on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 2:00pm. One bid was received from Windfree Wind & Solar Energy Design Co. (Windfree Solar) featuring a 68.04 kW system producing and estimated 81.215 kWh per year. Unfortunately, the solar numbers came in higher than the \$400,000 allocated at \$531,215. Staff worked with Jack Johannesson from Windfree Solar to reduce the quote to \$518,403 and also realized they had not included the calculation for the current federal rebate. Staff have since learned that these incentives are still available through July 2026, bringing us much closer to the budgeted number. The estimated direct grant payment is \$95,932 based on solar equipment and installation costs. The cost of canopy materials and installation are not eligible to be applied to the grant. Including the grant funding amount, the total cost of the project to the Park District would be \$422,471.

Staff applied for a zoning variance with the Village of Oak Park to increase parking lot coverage with solar canopies from 20% to 60%, which will be scheduled to be approved at the Zoning Committee Meeting held on September 3, 2025. While we still need to get final confirmation from ComEd, staff are requesting to move forward with the contract. If we are not allowed to install the rear canopy, our consultants still believe our additional front canopy will allow us to meet our target.

## Recommendation

Staff recommend, based upon zoning approval by the VOP, the Park Board approve the contract with Windfree Wind & Solar Energy Design Co. from Chicago, IL, for an amount not to exceed \$518,403 and to give the Executive Director permission to sign the contract.