



# **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, July 24, 2025**

## **Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

### **I. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioners Lentz, Onayemi, Wollmuth, Worley-Hood, and President Porreca.

**Park District Staff Present:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties & Planning; Nelson Acevedo, Director of Parks and Planning; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Roger Oney, Building and Grounds, and Karen Gruszka, 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 Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of June 2025; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from June 5, 2025, Board retreat from June 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting from June 19, 2025; and Special Board Meeting from June 27, 2025; and Disposal Ordinance 2025-07-24. **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 Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold noted summer weather has attracted a lot of swimmers, the poured concrete is taking place at Rehm pool, and we had to cancel the swim lessons today due to weather which will be made up tomorrow, it was the last one of the season. There are three more movies at the park which are Santa Claus The Movie, the community choice movie scheduled August 22, and Wicked scheduled on September 19. Concerts In Park end August 24, which have had a few rainouts but have had great crowds. An accident was reported on the blue stone in front of Cheney in January that we are working on with the VOP. The VOP informed the PDOP that an agreement was in place for the slate in front of the Cheney Mansion entrance from 2012. The blue stone was installed in 2011 and will now be taken out and will be replaced with concrete. We are looking to retract the VOP contract once the blue stone has been replaced; there is money in the budget to do that this year. The Field Center construction signs are going up August 11 with fencing going up August 12 to keep the trees protected and will begin on August 18.



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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. 2025 Performance Measure 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Review – The Board was informed this is the 10<sup>th</sup> year the staff are bringing these types of presentations to them. Staff currently are working on the hiring of a Data & Dashboard Analyst who will be able to further use the gathered information to help tell stories, look for trends, and share insights with all; we hope to have that position filled in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Staff meet quarterly to go over the information gathered and discuss the dashboards. All strategic goals have been either completed or are in progress. Fund balances are at or above where we recommend them to be and are in compliance. The tax bill remains below 5% of the total taxing property. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

B. **Parks and Planning Committee** – None

#### C. **Recreation and Facility Program Committee**

1. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2026-2030 Approval – Executive Director Arnold noted that for best practices, the Park District reviews its CIP at the beginning of its annual budget process. Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations, ran through a summary of the revenue sources, projections and transfers. He then ran through upcoming capital improvements by park and by year including: Field Center and Park, Longfellow Park, Cheney Mansion, GRC, Rehm Pool, Pleasant Home, Austin Gardens, Oak Park Conservatory and Dole Center, Randolph Park, Maple Park, and the CRC along with vehicle and technology budgeted costs. The Board questioned whether we use the report cards and surveys when creating upcoming projects and Executive Director Arnold responded that the projects are usually strategically planned but if something came up from the survey or report cards that needed repair, they would look at moving that project up. The Board thanked staff for the transparent and easy to follow plan and the extensive information gathered for it. **This will come to the Board for approval at the August 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.**
2. ESAC Committee Applications Approval – Laura Smith-MacGregor and Kara Finnegan - Executive Director Arnold informed the board of the two new applications to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) and that they both had attended meetings. Each individual is bringing new attributes and energy to the committee, and are plant and zero waste oriented. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
3. Solar Contract for CRC  
Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the additional solar panels needed at the CRC for it to continue to be a Net Zero facility. Bids were opened on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 2:00pm. Unfortunately, the solar numbers came in higher than budgeted, however, staff forgot to calculate in the rebate which gets us much closer to the budgeted number. Staff are reaching out to the VOP and ComEd to confirm zoning and space. Once we have confirmed the rebate monies and allowances for the solar, we will come back to the Board for approval. **The motion was tabled to a future meeting.**



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## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS** – None.

## **IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Wollmuth:** Stated that the Parks Foundation had new people providing it with some fresh, good vibes. Executive Director Arnold kept the meeting on track. He is new to IGOV and is looking forward to attending those meetings.

**Commissioner Worley-Hood:** Mentioned upon returning from vacation that the parks are doing great and he attended the FOPCON meeting this past week where he was introduced to everyone and he heard about the desired contract renegotiations.

**Commissioner Onayemi:** Attended the July 4th celebration and had a blast, stating he was impressed with how many people were present. He joined the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee this past Monday where attendees stated they would miss Commissioner Wollmuth. Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory, ran a wonderful meeting and they are trying to get more volunteers.

**Commissioner Lentz:** Attended Festival Theater and reminded the Board this is its 50th season and said, "It started with a bang!" Their first show of the summer had great reviews and the PDOP was credited with our participation for the new lights; she is really pleased with how well their group has been surviving for all these years. Commissioner Lentz also said after watching our Capital Improvement Plan presentation that it confirms how far ahead we are in planning, and she is glad other entities are moving forward with CIPs as well.

**President Porreca:** Commented she and Executive Director Arnold attended the Community Night at Festival Theatre where they also saw the new lights, and it was a very nice evening.

## **X. CLOSED SESSION** – None

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:26pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

  
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**Secretary**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

August 21, 2025  
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**Date**

  
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**President**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

August 21, 2025  
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**Date**