

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

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties and Planning; Nelson Acevedo, Director of Properties and Planning; Roger Oney, Properties & Planning; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant

Others Present: None.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. PARK AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

IV. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Community Service Award Discussion – Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that six individuals have been nominated for the Community Service Award. The Board agreed on the nominations and responded that the individuals are going to be proud of the work they have done and being honored by the District. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**
- B. Elected Officials BBQ Update – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Elected Officials BBQ is scheduled for October 8, 2025, at Cheney Mansion. Sweet Baby Ray's will be catering for the event. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**
- C. Board of Commissioner's General Practices Manual Update – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Park District's elected Board of Commissioners use the General Practices Manual in their day-to-day workings with the Park District. As such, the manual was last approved in September 2024. Since the last approval, updates were made to the manual including the listing of current partnerships and the updating of the COW meetings which



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

will be taking place every month but July and August. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the September Regular Board Meeting.**

- D. Proposed 2024 Tax Levy – Mitch Bowlin informed the Board that the Park District funds part of its operations through property taxes. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) limits the dollar amount of the tax levy increase to an amount no greater than the consumer price index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less. Staff are budgeting for a 4.4% increase as discussed with the Board during the Capital Improvement Plan review. Discussion took place on the possible differences we could expect and how the other entities are working with possible changes forthcoming. Also noted were the federal cuts that schools, libraries, and townships social services are experiencing. The Board noted with the work that we have put into our budgets that we are in the best position we could plan for. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

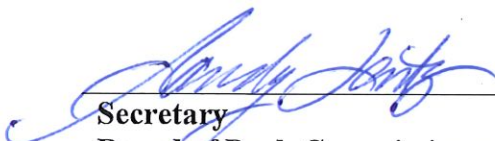
V. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – The Board discussed possibly combining the upcoming budget meetings to one night as one of the members wouldn't be able to attend both meetings. It was suggested for both meetings to take place on one night, October 9. All were in agreement of the combining of the meetings to one night.

VII. CLOSED SESSION – None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:44pm, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a voice vote of 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

October 16, 2025

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

October 16, 2025

Date