



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

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Minutes

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Ann Marie Buczak, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement; Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Roger Oney, Parks & Facilities Supervisor; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others: Caitlyn Culbertson, Elrod Friedman LLP.

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 November 2025; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from November 6, 2025 and Regular Board Meeting from November 20, 2025; approval of Disposal Ordinance 2025-12-12; approval of the PACT Agreements for Fenwick, SEOPCO, Troup 20, Ascencion, St. Giles, Windmills, AYSO, OPYBS, Chicago Edge, Alliance, OPRFYU, and East Avenue Lacrosse; approval of the 2026 Board Action Calendar; approval of the Letter to WSSRA of Appointment of Representatives; approval to continue to hold the identified closed session minutes; approval of Personnel Policy Manual; approval of Administrative and Board Policy Manual; approval of Crisis Manual; and Safety Manual; and, approval of IGA Oak Park Township-PDOP Scholarship Funds. **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 staff have been busy with holiday programs and community families are engaging in the fun. Staff celebrated the holidays at Circle Lanes. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board during the holidays when she would be out of the office, Maureen McCarthy would be the point of contact and wished everyone happy holidays.
- B. Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
- C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

1. Annual Highlights/Accomplishments – Executive Director Arnold provided the Board with an overview of the Park District's highlights and accomplishments over the past year, including updates on facilities, programming, awards and grants received, and staff updates. The Annual Report will be completed in March. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

B. Administration and Finance Committee

1. 2025 Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan Update – Executive Director Arnold discussed the 2025 goals and action items the Board approved for the completion this year through 2030 reminding them that the goals and action items would be looked at each year. Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations, recapped on the completed goals for 2025 and informed the Board that all the goals including CAPRA, Distinguished Accreditation, and the Gold Medal, had been completed; the only goal not completed yet is the complete cost of service analysis, but the teams were working on it, and it should be completed shortly. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

C. Parks and Planning Committee

1. Longfellow Playground Sourcewell Purchase Approval – *Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Park Board approve the Sourcewell purchase of the Landscape Structures - Playground Equipment \$435,638.00, Landscape Structures - Splash Pad Equipment \$79,928.00, for a total of \$515,566 and the Forever Lawn – Playground Grass Ultra for \$172,689.98 for the Longfellow Park Development Project and authorize Executive Director Arnold to execute the contracts.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the playground/splash pad equipment and the playground surface that the PDOP is requesting the use of Sourcewell for their purchase for a total of \$688,255.98. The Board had no further questions from the COW meeting discussion. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
2. Longfellow Park Portland Loo Sole Source Purchase Agreement – *Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Park Board approve the Sole Source purchase of the Portland Loo Single Occupant Public Toilet \$179,160 from Madden Fabrication, Beaverton, OR, for the Longfellow Park Development Project and authorize Executive Director Arnold to execute the contract.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the Portland Loo is only made by one company in Beaverton OR making it a Sole Source purchase. The Portland Loo purchase had been pulled out of the Hacienda contract, saving on marked ups by buying directly from the supplier; the installation costs remained in the contract. Currently there is a Portland Loo at Rehm which has been successful year-round. There were no additional questions from the Board. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
2. Field Park Playground Improvements Bid Update – Executive Director Arnold noted the current work for the Field Center taking place before we do the playground and the demolition. Moving forward we are going out to bid on January 2 on the playground, which is due back on January 28, which will be brought to you in February. This timeline will give potential contractors leeway for when the project starts in June to get on their docket sooner rather than later. The Demo is part of the Field Center project and is in the capital plan and will be bid and come to the Board separately. The Board are looking forward to the new play area with the bigger berms than the previous ones. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Wollmuth: I move for the Park Board approval of Resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$40,000,000 general obligation park bonds to the voters of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March, 2026. Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the Park District has heard the desire by the community

to have access to an indoor aquatic facility for many years now. In 2017 the District entered into discussions with the OPRF to see if there was a possible partnership opportunity to meet the community desire, but competing needs of the two organizations made that not feasible. As a result of these conditions, the Park District included a question in the 2023 community survey to ask residents if they would support a tax increase to provide for the construction of an indoor aquatic facility. 69% of respondents to that survey said they would either support or strongly support a tax increase for that purpose. Following that survey, in 2024 as part of the Comprehensive Strategic Master Plan, the District had community meetings and pop-up engagements where the question was asked again, and at that time 73% of respondents said they would support a referendum for an indoor aquatic facility. The Board accepted the 2025-2029 CSMP in February 2025 where going to referendum in 2026 was proposed. In 2025 the District engaged with architects for preliminary designs of such a facility to estimate costs. It was determined that such a facility would cost \$40,000,000 to construct. The Park District does not have that amount of money available for capital projects, so in order to proceed the community would need to approve a bond referendum. In June, the Board Retreat included conversations regarding funding options for such an asset. Direction to staff was to prepare for the potential referendum and present it to the Park Board in December for consideration.

The Board expressed the appreciation for the process and going to the constituents. Striving to be responsive to interest is what the PDOP is about, and it is great that we have taken the steps; good conversations and letting them decide. They confirmed it is a binding referendum, if the community says yes, the PDOP has seven years to get the bond and get it in.

Executive Director Arnold went on to remind the Board to please note that voting to approve this resolution does not imply that any commissioner individually supports this project. A vote for this resolution is supporting giving the community the opportunity to vote, not the project itself. The message for the referendum is community vision, community decision, your vote as this is up to the residents of Oak Park.

Caitlyn Culbertson, Elrod Friedman LLP, summed it up that we are strictly here to put the information out to the voters. When approached by other local governments and residents with questions, to just provide the facts and guide them to the website where all the information will be.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$40,000,000 general obligation park bonds to the voters of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois, at the general primary election to be held on the 17th day of March, 2026. Motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Onayemi: Commissioner Onayemi wanted to inform everyone the Library would be holding a Kwanzaa event on December 30. He wished everyone happy holidays and thanked staff for the PDOP highlights.

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Commissioner Worley-Hood enjoyed a few of the holiday events and went on to say that it will be an exciting few months ahead at the Park District and wished all happy holidays.

Commissioner Wollmuth: Commissioner Wollmuth mentioned he had attended events at Cheney Mansion including the Charlie Brown Christmas and noted all the programs going on and the work put into them by staff and wished all happy holidays.

Commissioner Lentz: Commissioner Lentz commented on how good it is that we have structured and linked our goals and activities and how that link helps to keep us on track and guides us in our work to meet our primary goals. She thanked those that attended the Seven Generations Ahead Meeting and was happy to see how they worked with and encouraged our young people to actively participate. Happy holidays!

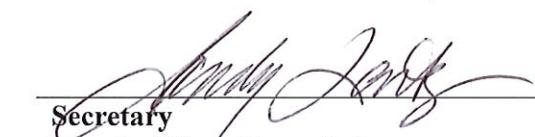


President Porreca: President Porreca mentioned she has taken her whole family to many of the holiday events and wanted to give a shout out to the staff for their attention to detail and all the decorations at Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home and she wished everyone happy holidays and Merry Christmas!

X. CLOSED SESSION – None

XI. ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING

At 8:09pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to adjourn the Regular Board meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

January 15, 2026
Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

January 15, 2026
Date