



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

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

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties & Planning; Roger Oney, Maintenance Supervisor Parks and Facilities; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others: None

II. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

III. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. 2025 Tax Teay Levy - Abatement Resolution for 2025 Levy Adjustment - Executive Director Arnold and Mitch Bowlin noted that, since 2022, Cook County has been automatically increasing tax levies to recapture losses from assessment appeals refunds. The District has the option to abate this levy increase and the Board agreed that the Park District has always abated the levy and not collecting additional taxes from residents. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**
- B. 2026 Full-Time Salaiy Bands - Executive Director Arnold and Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, noted that in the Board packets information on salary ranges for full-time staffwere included which is looked at on an annual basis and has been increased for 2026 by 3%, all falling within the ranges presented to you. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**
- C. IPRA/IAPD Conference Update - Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the conference will be held Januaiy 29-31, with 25 staff members and five Board members attending. Senator Harmon, Eileen Lynch, and Representative Lilly have been invited to join our table at the annual awards luncheon during the conference where we will be receiving our Distinguished Accreditation Award. The Board briefly discussed the sessions our staff would be conducting



**PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK**

whom are: Mitch Bowlin, Ann Marie Buczek, and Susan Crane along with three staff that will be presenting at Wisconsin state conference. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

IV. PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – None

V. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. CLOSED SESSION – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:07pm, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed with a voice vote of 4:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners



President
Board of Park Commissioners

February 19, 2026

Date

February 19, 2026

Date