



**PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK  
Regular Park Board Meeting  
Hedges Administrative Center  
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60302  
Thursday, March 19, 2026, 7:00pm**

**AGENDA**

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

**II. Approval of Agenda**

**III. Visitor/Public Comment**

*Each person is limited to three minutes. The Board sets a limit of 30 minutes for public comments.*

**IV. Consent Agenda**

**A. Cash and Investment Summary\***

**B. Warrants and Bills\***

**C. Minutes\***

**D. Disposal Ordinance 2026-03-13\***

**V. Staff Reports**

**A. Executive Director's Report\***

**B. Updates and Information\***

**C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports\***

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – Commissioner Lentz**

1. WSSRA Annual Report Update

2. Intergovernmental Agreement - PDOP/D97 Summer Camp Approval\*

**B. Parks and Planning Committee – Commissioner Worley-Hood**

1. Memorandum of Agreement - West Cook TreeKeepers Approval\*

**C. Administration and Finance Committee – Commissioner Wollmuth**

1. Election/Referendum Results Update

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Lentz

Commissioner Onayemi

Commissioner Wollmuth

Commissioner Worley-Hood

President Porreca

**IX. Closed Session**

Motion to convene into closed session for the discussion of performance of a specific employee of the Park District.

**X. Adjournment**

*\*Information attached. | \*\*Information to be provided at/prior to the meeting. | **Update/Recap** – verbal report to be provided at the meeting, no materials attached.*



**AGENDA COMMENTS**

**Regular Park Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2026, 7:00pm**

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
- II. **Approval of Agenda** (Voice Vote)  
No additions to the Agenda are anticipated at this time.
- III. **Visitor/Public Comment**
- IV. **Consent Agenda** (Roll Call Vote) – Commissioner Wollmuth  
*Commissioner Wollmuth: Motion of the Board for approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes:*
  - *Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of February 2026;*
  - *approval of the minutes from the Continued Regular Board Meeting and Committee of the Whole meeting from February 5, 2026; Regular Board Meeting from February 19, 2026;*
  - *Approval of Disposal Ordinance 2026-03-13.*
- V. **Staff Reports**
  - A. **Executive Director’s Report\***
  - B. **Updates and Information\***
  - C. **Revenue/Expense Status Reports\***
- VI. **Old Business**
  - A. **Recreation and Facility Program Committee – Commissioner Lentz**
    1. WSSRA Annual Report Update
    2. IGA PDOP/D97 Summer camp  
*Commissioner Lentz: I move that the Board approve the D97/PDOP Intergovernmental Agreement for summer camp services for summer 2026.*
  - B. **Parks and Planning Committee – Commissioner Worley-Hood**
    1. Memorandum of Agreement - West Cook TreeKeepers  
*Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Board approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement with Park District, Openlands, West Cook TreeKeepers.*
  - C. **Administration and Finance Committee – Commissioner Wollmuth**
    1. Election/Referendum Results Update
- VII. **New Business**
- VIII. **Commissioner’s Comments**  
Commissioner Lentz  
Commissioner Onayemi  
Commissioner Wollmuth  
Commissioner Worley-Hood  
President Porreca
- IX. **Closed Session**  
Motion to convene into closed session for the discussion of performance of a specific employee of the Park District.
- X. **Adjournment**

**Park District of Oak Park  
Continued Regular Board Meeting from January 15, 2026  
John Hedges Administrative Center  
218 Madison Street  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

**Minutes**

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

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Wollmuth and President Porreca.

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

**Others:** Georgia Keleher, President SCCOPRF, and a resident.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 3:0**

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Cheney Mansion HVAC Geothermal Contract Approval – Commissioner Lentz: *I move that the Board approve a contract with AMS Industries for an amount not to exceed \$736,617.00 for the Cheney HVAC Geothermal Rebid Project to include the Base Bid and Alternate #1 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract.* Executive Director Arnold informed the Board we went out to bid in October 2025, and all bids received were over budget. The system was redesigned to work the same as what is currently at Pleasant Home and the bid packet was split into a base bid for the first floor, Alternate 1 for the second floor, and Alternate 2 for the third floor. AMS Industries came in at \$736,617 for the base bid and Alternate 1. We are also working with a consultant for a rebate for 30-50% of which is not in the capital improvement plan. We would plan to use the rebate to complete Alternate 2 for the third floor. The Board asked if we had worked with AMS Industries before, which was confirmed as they did the same work at Pleasant Home. Mark Nussbaum is the engineer on the project and the home's historical elements will not be affected. Motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 3:0.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS** – None

**V. CLOSED SESSION** – None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:04pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Onayemi and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to adjourn the Continued Regular Board Meeting from January 15, 2026. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 3:0.**

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

March 19, 2026

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**Date**

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

March 19, 2026

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**Date**



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

**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Wollmuth and President Porreca.

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

**Others:** Georgia Keleher, President SCCOPRF, and a resident.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Nick Binotti, Oak Park Resident - began by telling the Board that he was here due to a serious ethics breach that took place with the D200 school Board and the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation on a contentious project. As he has found out that the Park District has also worked with the Good Heart Work Smart Foundation he wanted to warn the District that in light of this serious breach that we should put on hold any workings with them and do a full accounting and a thorough analysis for assurances that an ethics breach won't happen again. He has been to all the entities and has encouraged them to talk through these dealings so that we hold democratic votes in our meetings and fears this breach will get buried but he wants to make sure it never goes away or is swept under the rug and then becomes a full-blown problem.

**III. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

- A. Senior Citizens' Center Oak Park River Forest (SCCOPRF) Update – Georgia Keleher, President SCCOPRF, wanted to share the happenings that took place in 2025. She began by informing the Board that the SCCOPRF was the oldest senior services in Illinois and that their group was incorporated in 1958. They joined with Oak Park in 2019, and their mission has stayed steadfast and that they're not just about keeping busy, it is about lifelong learning pursuits and their programming reflect that. They currently have 500 paid memberships up from 100 when they merged in 2019. Funding for equipment, supplies and underwriting of the tuition comes from the Economy Shop and the Ulyssean Award Dinner where Tina Birnbaum and Paula

Waldron were honored. The Board agreed the Ulyssean Award Dinner was a lovely event and were happy to hear of the SCCOPRF progress.

### **III. PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- A. Field Park Project Owner Purchased Equipment – Executive Director Arnold noted as we just did with the Longfellow project, the PDOP pulls out some of our purchases partly to get items ordered quickly but also to save on markups. Sourcewell publicly bids items just for this purpose and meets the Districts procurement requirements. The purchases from Sourcewell are for Landscape Structures playground equipment and splash pad equipment, Forever Lawn’s playground grass, and Landscape Forms for a total of \$401,027.07. The Board asked questions regarding the grass and was reminded that the rubberized surface did not hold up well with use and weather conditions, but the grass is currently used at Rehm, Barrie, Scoville, and Andersen parks and it does not have the balls in it like the sports fields and is handicap accessible. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the February Regular Board Meeting.**
  
- B. Field Park Legal Bid Update – The PDOP went out to bid on January 7 with a mandatory walk-through on January 20 with five addendums added. Seven bids were opened on February 4, 2026, with Hacienda being lowest, responsive responsible bid. The bid tabulation sheet will be included in the Regular Board Meeting Packet along with the recommendation for Hacienda. Discussion took place on the other bids received. Hacienda’s bid along with the Sourcewell purchases is slightly over the budgeted amount, but the contract includes the hauling of contaminated material off site which we do not expect to use so it is believed we can make the budgeted amount. The installation of the Sourcewell purchases is also included in the contract. The Board asked about Hacienda’s work, and it was confirmed they completed the Andersen updates and recently were hired for the Longfellow project and the PDOP are happy with the work they have received from them. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the February Regular Board Meeting.**
  
- C. Shared Mower Replacement PDOP | D97 – Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the IGA with D97 and our Capital Improvement Plan for the PDOP to maintain D97’s sports fields and that shared costs for a replacement mower taking place at the 10 year period, is now. Through our joint purchasing, a Toro Ground Master 7200 Traction Unit was found for \$31,369.92 with D97 paying \$15,648.96. Additionally, the PDOP will purchase a snow removal kit for \$26,260.98 as the mowers get a ton of use during the winter clearing snow throughout the parks. The Board confirmed if it was gas or electric and was told it would be gas powered. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the February Regular Board Meeting.**
  
- D. Professional Services Agreement Pleasant Home ADA Restroom – Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that when the Park District separated with the Pleasant Home Foundation one of the commitments made was if any large scale projects took place a task force would be created. Laura Thompson, former Executive Director for the Foundation assembled the task force with architects Frank Heitzman, Doug Gilbert, Commissioner Chris Wollmuth, along Bill Hamilton and me. We met twice on site on and verified options were very limited on where to locate the ADA restroom. Once the location by the lift into the home using the indoor basement stairs

access position was confirmed, three architects were met with at the site to discuss the project. Daniel Roush was the preferred architect. Upon discussions on Daniel’s proposal, we are recommending his proposal to design the ADA restroom for an amount not to exceed \$40,000. The Board discussed the timeline of work starting in January 2027. The Board also confirmed the need for this project and the cost of it, and all agreed that to make the home welcoming for all, it would need to be built. **This item will be brought before the Board on the regular agenda at the February Regular Board Meeting.**

**IV. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- A. Park District Citizen Committee Approval - Mekhala Merchant – Executive Director Arnold noted the importance of the PDCC and that it is comprised of 13 residents and staff. Currently there are only 11 members on the committee. Mekhala Merchant has expressed interest in joining the PDCC. Mekhala attended the January PDCC meeting and expressed her desire to learn more, engage, and be more active with the community. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the February Regular Board Meeting.**
  
- B. 2025 Performance Measures Year in Review – Mitch Bowlin provided the Board with a recap of the Park District’s 2025 Performance Measures and introduced Cara Bryan who will be presenting these reports moving forward. All nine of the strategic goals had been met but a number of the budget goals were still in the process due to the audit not being complete as well as the Rehm pool project extended construction completion. Specific programming and staff goals were shown to the Board. The Board was impressed with the detail and the growth from the Covid years.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS** – None

**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 3:0.**

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

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March 19, 2026  
**Date**

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

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March 19, 2026  
**Date**

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

**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

**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; Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Chad Drufke, Program & Operations Manager; Joe Lilly, Program Manager-Early Childhood, Nature, Clubhouse, and Teens; Anne Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent Properties and Planning; Nelson Acevedo, Director of Parks and Facilities; Susan Crane, Historic Properties and Special Events Manager; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

**Others:** Docents of Pleasant Home and their guests.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0**

**III. VISITOR/PUBLIC** – None.

**IV. COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

The Board presented the 2025 IAPD/IPRA Community Service Awards to the following recipients: Theresa Czarnik, Hilda Etedgi, Brian Flora, Paula Fenza, Esperanza Garcia-Alvarez, and Raeann Spencer. The Board introduced the recipients and presented those in attendance each with their Community Service Award. These individuals were awarded with the Community Service Award for their outstanding contribution, unselfish devotion and passion, and crucial support during the transition from the Pleasant Home Foundation to the PDOP and as docents for Pleasant Home sharing it's history with their knowledge and tours. The Board and staff thanked them for their volunteer work as docents to their community. Each recipient shared memories of Pleasant Home and thanked the Park District. A brief reception also took place for the awardees after the award ceremony.

## **V. 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 January 2026; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting January 8, 2026, and Regular Board Meeting January 15, 2026; approval of the appointment of Mekhala Merchant as a member of the Park District Citizen Committee to serve a three-year term; and approval of Disposal Ordinance 2026-02-13. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

## **VI. 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 emails sent with confirmation that staff are meeting with IDPH and the contractor to get the final license for Rehm. The Field project is moving forward, staff are staying on top of the construction to stay on schedule, and more carpenters are being hired for help with the rammed earth. The facility has nothing scheduled until a week before D97 starts but we need to be ready by end of August. Kids Around the World is taking out Longfellow's old playground by March 3 with a completion date expected by the end of the year. Finally, a reminder for the final Referendum Community Meeting is scheduled on February 25 at CRC.

**B. Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.

**C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Administration and Finance Committee**

1. 2025 PDOP Annual Report – A copy of the 2025 Annual Report has been shared with the Board which highlights accomplishments in 2025. In addition, a copy of the Annual Report will also be made available at the end of the month to residents. The Board mentioned how great it was to not only see all the goals that were completed throughout the year but how they all tie into our values. The Board was informed of the Values Champions awards that were launched last year for one full-time, one part-time, and one seasonal staff person; each nominated by their peers and supervisors, showcased on pdop.org, and each received an award. The Board was also happy to see the number of households we reach and those who use our services increase every year.
2. IGA Shared Facilities PDOP | OPPL at Dole Center Update - Executive Director reminded the Board that we own the Dole Center, but we lease the first floor to the Oak Park Public Library and lease part to the basement to the Oak Park Society of Model Engineers. Last year staff had a waitlist at the Whittier School for after school care. Currently there is the multi-purpose space that is located in the library area and is in their lease agreement that is largely unused. All the other rooms are being used mornings through evenings with the life-long learners and programs. Therefore, we are looking at a trial period of 20 months for after school care in that multi-purpose space. Twenty students are already on the waitlist that will be ready to use the afterschool care and we are hoping to begin this in March. This will add no cost for the space, only the supervision and supplies. This is being presented to the Library Board next week and we are looking forward to expanding this program.

**B. Parks and Planning Committee**

1. Approval of Field Park Improvements – Commissioner Worley-Hood: *I move that the Park Board approve the contract with Hacienda Landscaping Inc., 17840 Grove Road, Minooka, IL for an amount not to exceed \$605,353.25 for the Field Park Renovations project base bid and authorize the Executive Director Jan Arnold permission to sign the contract.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of that the bid went out on January 7 with pre-bid walkthroughs, and the bids were opened on February 4. Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. was the low, responsible bidder. The bid includes the removal of contaminated soil but if it is not used, it would be deducted from the total. The Board confirmed there was a contingency but were also reassured that our knowledge of working with Hacienda in prior projects, a contingency most likely would not be needed. 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. Approval of Field Park Project Owner Purchased Equipment – Commissioner Worley-Hood: *I move that the Park Board approve the purchase of Landscape Structures - Playground Equipment for \$135,760.00, Landscape Structures - Splash Pad Equipment \$48,111.00, Forever Lawn – Playground Grass Ultra \$164,896.07, and Landscape Forms \$41,800.00 for a total of \$390,567.07 through Sourcewell and authorize Executive Director Jan Arnold to executive the contracts.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that we will be purchasing these as we did with the owner purchases we approved in the December meeting for Longfellow; it saves on lead time and reduces costs with no contractor markup. Sourcewell publicly bids these items so that we don't have to go out to bid. Hacienda Landscape, Inc. has the installation of these items in their contract. There were no additional questions from the Board. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**
  
3. Field Center Demolition Update – Executive Director Jan Arnold reminded the Board of the Field Center demolition bid. There was a mandatory pre-bid meeting which seven companies attended. The bids are due back on February 25, and the low responsive, responsible bidder will be brought to the Board for approval at the Continued Regular Board Meeting. The Board asked about the parking spaces and were informed that the Village is requiring two additional ADA parking spaces, but that D97's parking lot could count for our building - we would only need to expand two spaces. D97 will bid that and we will reimburse them. **No Board action is required on this item at this time.**
  
4. Approval of Shared Mower Replacement PDOP |D97 – Commissioner Worley-Hood: *I move that the Park Board approve the purchase of a zero-turn mower, Toro Ground Master 7200 Traction Unit for a purchase price of \$31,369.92 and the snow conversion kit for a purchase price \$26,260.98 for a combined total of \$57,630.90 and authorize Executive Director Arnold to sign the contract.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that stated in the 2014 Sports Fields Maintenance Agreement it was listed that D97 would pay for a mower for their use on their properties. When the last agreement in 2024 was negotiated, it was noted that we would share the costs as we use it as well during the winter months. The cost of the snow conversion kit will



be paid entirely by the PDOP as we use it solely for our snow removal in our parks. \$75,000 is currently allocated for this equipment in the budget. The Board discussed the life span of the mowers and the superior ability this equipment has not only as a mower but as a snow remover with it fitting on the sidewalk without grass getting chewed up along the walkways. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

5. Approval of Pleasant Home Professional Services Agreement ADA Restroom – Commissioner Worley-Hood: *I move that the Park Board approve the professional services contract with Daniel Rouse, from Oak Park, IL, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the design and overseeing of the construction of the ADA restroom in Pleasant Home and authorize Executive Director Jan Arnold to sign a contract.* As Board the Board is aware, there is no ADA toilets in Pleasant Home which is needed with the events and programs that take place there. When the PDOP and the Pleasant Home Foundation separated, it was agreed upon that if there were any large projects at Pleasant Home we would engage a task force. Staff and I asked Laura Thompson prior PHF Board President to chair the task force. The task force consisted of Laura Thompson, Frank Heitzman, Doug Gilbert, Commissioner Worley-Hood and staff, and they met with three different architects and chose Daniel Rouse for the project. They then worked with Daniel on a proposal and agreed upon a proposal not to exceed \$40,000. The project will take place between January and February next year. The Board questioned if they had to go through the Historic Preservation Society and they were told yes that Daniel would need to run the project through two, the State and Oak Park, but we do not see a problem as it is using current space at the back of the home. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

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

1. Annual Historic Homes Report – Susan Crane, Historic Properties and Special Events Manager, provided information in addition to her annual report in the packet saying that rentals continue to be the largest percent of revenue. Program revenue, especially the adult programming, has continued to grow since late 2024, including the partnering with Fitzgeralds that each event has been at capacity, and Oak Park Festival Theatre added a holiday program reading at Pleasant Home which sold out. Fundraising has been a successful partnership as well, increasing the historic property's reach and the nonprofits holding successful events. The Adult fall/winter section was in the brochure as a separate out pull section which they felt really had a good impact on adult programming as well as Ann Marie's focus groups and new Eblasts they've been sending out twice a month, allowing them to run programs not listed in the pullout guide. Susan also discussed the help the docents provide to Pleasant Home, expenses, and the geo thermal installation. Also helpful with the wedding rentals is the DocuSign now set up and Noelle Combs follow-ups to viewings. They will continue to cultivate family programming and unique programming. The Board thanked Susan for her work at the properties and with her partnerships and appreciated the email blasts and their creativity to make the spaces successful.
2. Annual Recreation Report The Recreation and Special Facilities departments provided a joint annual update to the Board on Park District programming. Chad Drufke mentioned that the youth

sports age group 3-5 has seen a decrease which is not a surprise as there are currently less children in that age group in Oak Park, but they continue to add additional classes such as youth pickleball instruction classes, one day volleyball tournament for teens, floor hockey has been brought back in, along with sports partnerships. Adult pickleball increased in 2025 in both leagues and instructions, women's basketball moved to the CRC as a monthly membership with Tuesday night being women's play, as well as adult softball, soccer, and coed kickball. The national average for retention for fitness is 60% we are at 62%; 10,890 memberships paid or free. The CRC held various wellness seminars, fairs, and blood drives. The CRC had 1,300 afterschool memberships signed up in 2025 and already have hit 1,000 by February of this year.

Joe Lilly oversees the general recreation fitness and classes which continue to increase with the CRC. He also provided updates to the Board in fine arts, performing arts, early childhood, and Austin Gardens with their homeschool nature and adventure classes on Fridays being very strong as well as local groups earning their badges. Life Long Learners had a spike at the end of the year to lock in last year's pricing. In 2026 they are excited for Field Center opening up for after school registration as it doubles the amount of space available. Joe and both Abby Meachum and Abby Sachs presented at the Wisconsin state conference.

Mike Biardo started by updating the board with the pool's big highlight, the receiving of the Ellis Platinum award. Swim academy records were set with their two-week sessions, but attendance was down due to Rehm construction and 2.5 inches of rain last summer. Mike then went on to update the Board on life guards, ice skating and hockey camps, and skate and swim camp. Public skate had an uptick with the addition of free skates and consistent times scheduled, synchronized swim teams had a large aging-out, and 1,500 viewed the ice shows last year. Customer service implemented iPad for Spanish speaking guests and Keely Garbacz held district-wide cash services training for the pool, skates, which improved services.

Keith Kerrigan informed the Board that priority registration for gymnastics was taken away allowing participants to continue session-to-session strictly making it either resident or non-resident, creating more opportunities for registrants to continue with their sessions in a transparent way. Advanced gymnasts moved to a monthly payment schedule. All of these changes have had very good success with very little push back. The Board was also updated on two additional preschools, successful parents nights out, a ninja challenge class added on Sundays, summer camps, and 98 birthday parties booked out of 108. The Board commended him and Ann Marie for their training and information shared with the families prior to the changes taking place.

Maureen McCarthy also updated the Board on the PACT Agreements. The Board discussed the OPRF and Fenwick agreements and agreed that were informed that the Park District was living up to our end of the agreements, but we need to make sure that OPRF and Fenwick provide what they signed on for in the agreement. The Board thanked everyone for their reports.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS** – None

#### **IV. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Wollmuth:** Commissioner Wollmuth attended the FOPCON meeting and said that the agreement looks to be heading a good direction and that with persistence it is meeting our goals as much as theirs. With these final markups, it will hopefully be completed soon.

**Commissioner Lentz:** Commissioner Lentz wanted to note that as she listened to staff this evening giving their reports, she was so impressed by what the PDOP has accomplished especially with our limited resources and is proud to be a part of this agency.

**Commissioner Onayemi:** Commissioner Onayemi agreed with Commissioner Lentz's comment and went on to say that even though he has participated with the Park District and local government before, you just don't see the overall picture, and he too is amazed at what gets done in the space that we have for our community. He also cannot remember what we were doing prior to having the CRC as it is such a huge part of the community now. He expressed kudos to the staff and mentioned that doing his homework for the Park District and seeing what we do versus what other Park Districts do is very impressive.

**Commissioner Worley-Hood:** Commissioner Worley-Hood attended a COG meeting that the tone has shown that a few attendees are advocating for items that they don't have all the information on. Commissioner Worley-Hood stated that he appreciates the Recreation Report and the trends that it uses as it prepares us to know what is coming. He mentioned he would love to see some demographics in regard to the scholarship being used as it would help to answer some questions he's encountered with concerns we overserve higher incomes and he believes the demographics would definitely show that not to be the case. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that we ask residents to identify their race, but it is not a requirement and if they choose not to, there is no way to show the actual demographics.

**President Porreca:** President Porreca attended the FOPCON meetings with Chris and Jan and feels that the discussions are heading in the right direction, she also attended the Festival Theatre Gala with Commissioner Worley-Hood and exclaimed it was a wonderful event, and the Park District was praised for their 50 year partnership with Festival Theatre and for the lights and sound system. She wanted to point out that residents have every right to not like the referendum, they have every right to not want to lose an outdoor pool, to feel nostalgic regarding their memories of the Ridgeland Common outdoor pool from when they were young, to vote no, but they do not have the right to bully, libel, and defame the Executive Director nor staff for doing their job. The Park Board made their decision on December 18. No decision was made prior to that during any discussions that took place as noted in the minutes; it was a Board decision voted on December 18. We the Board, sought to become public figures, we went out and asked for votes to become public figures. Jan Arnold, the Executive Director, simply is doing her job. Jan has been nothing but a professional, highly regarded Executive Director not only locally but nationally awarded. We as the Board need to support and protect the hard working staff of this Park District who have always worked for the residents. It is our job to support staff.

**X. CLOSED SESSION** – None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:04pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

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

March 19, 2026  

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**Date**

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

March 19, 2026  

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**Date**

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03-13

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY  
OWNED BY THE PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Park District of Oak Park, it is no longer necessary, useful, or in the best interests of the Park District to retain ownership of the personal property described in this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the President and the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of Oak Park to dispose of said personal property in the manner described in this Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Commissioners of the Park District of Oak Park, Cook County and State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance as findings of the President and Board of Commissioners.

Section 2. Disposal of Surplus Property. The President and Board of Commissioners find that the personal property described in Exhibit A attached to this Ordinance and by this reference incorporated into this Ordinance (the “Surplus Property”) is no longer necessary or useful to the Park District, and thus the Executive Director of the Park District is hereby authorized to direct the sale or disposal of the Surplus Property in the manner most appropriate to the Park District. The Surplus Property shall be sold or disposed of in “as is” condition.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this 19th day of March 2026

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

APPROVED this 19th day of March 2026.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kassie Porreca, Park Board President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Lentz, Secretary

(See Other Side)

DESCRIPTION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

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- Cheney Mansion Broken Stored Basement Furniture (9 pieces)
- Toro 605 CFM Blower, Out of Commission
- Toro Chainsaw Electric, Out of Commission
- Toro Flex-force Battery, Out of Commission
- BlackJack DW Spectrum and Hikvision Recorder
- Aruba Switch
- Exterior Camera Holder
- 41 Obsolete Security Cameras



**Executive Director's Report**

***From the desk of Jan Arnold***

**Thursday, March 13, 2026**

1. **Upcoming Board Meetings** – The March Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026, at **7:00pm** and the April Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2026, at **7:00pm**. All meetings will take place at the John Hedges Administrative Center. At the end of my report, there are some events you may consider stopping by.
2. **Spring/Summer Brochure** – The brochure was released online on February 27. Brochures were delivered to Oak Park residents beginning on February 27-March 2. Program registration started March 7 for residents and on March 14 for non-residents.
3. **Summer Job Openings** – We are currently recruiting for summer part-time positions. If you know of any good candidates, please refer them to <https://pdop.org/jobs/summer-jobs/> on our website.
4. **Shamrock Scavenger Hunt** – From March 3 -17, 10am-4pm join the hunt to find shamrocks that the leprechaun scattered around the Conservatory! Prizes will be awarded to those that find all seven lucky shamrocks hidden among our plants. Living shamrocks will also be available for sale.
5. **Maple Sugar Festival** – The festival took place at Austin Gardens on Sunday March 8, from 11am-1pm. Attendees learned how to identify and tap a maple tree, including drilling and setting the tap. Then, the sap was simmered over a fire to make syrup and maple candy!
6. **2026 Ice Show Practice To Podium** – The Paul Hruby Ice Arena's 2026 Ice Show *Practice to Podium* is scheduled on March 20-22. There are 180+ registrations with 70+ performances. There will be an evening show both Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 6pm with matinees in the afternoon on both Saturday and Sunday beginning at 1:30pm. We are all looking forward to seeing the skaters performing for all their friends, families, and the community!
7. **Indoor Pool Referendum Community Meeting** – The Park District held the final of three information meetings on February 25, 2026, from 7-8:00pm at the Community Recreation Center. There were approximately 40 in attendance. Please visit the PDOP website for all information on the indoor pool referendum. The residents will have the opportunity to vote on March 17.
8. **IAPD 2026 Legislative Committee** – The IAPD 2026 Legislative Conference is taking place in Springfield with a reception on Tuesday May 5, and the conference taking place on Wednesday May 6. Currently three staff members and one commissioner are scheduled to attend. Legislators will provide up-to-date information on pending legislation and is very beneficial in identifying concerns.
9. **Field Center Project** – The Field Center Project Schedule has been updated with delays due to numerous circumstances, including MWRD Permit approval delays, poor weather conditions, and extreme cold. The schedule has been pushed out to July 24. Innovative Earth has been building and installing frames for the Rammed Earth walls. Rebar installation for the walls has begun with the framing to be completed in early March. Wall installation should begin in mid-to-late March. The General Contractor is working with Innovative Earth to supply additional labor to speed this part of

the project up to be ready for roof installation on schedule. Jan Arnold has signed off on the playground, splashpad, lighting equipment, and Forever Lawn Playground turf. The documents and purchase orders have been sent to the manufacturers. The demolition bid for the original Field Center demolition was opened on February 25. Field Center demo was approved at the March 5 Continued Regular Board Meeting, but the exact date will be determined after further progress on the new Field Center has occurred. Framing is being finalized this week, and rammed earth should start around March 19 -20.

10. **Andersen Park Improvements** – The Andersen Project is substantially complete. The facility was opened to the public on November 15. The project passed all remaining Village inspections, and the project is largely closed out. Hacienda is required by contract to check plantings in the spring and replace any that have not survived. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2026.
11. **Cheney Mansion Geothermal Well Project** – After the Cheney Mansion Geothermal HVAC installation project came in significantly over budget, Mark Nussbaum worked on a new system with an equipment design similar to the one in Pleasant Home with the Base Bid including the first-floor system, Alternate 1 the second-floor system, and Alternate 2 for the third-floor system. On February 5 at the Continued Regular Board meeting, the Board approved a contract with AMS Industries for the Base Bid and Alternate 1. A pre-construction meeting was held on February 19 at Cheney Mansion to discuss the project schedule, equipment order, and coordination around events. AMS Industries is working on two schedule scenarios, that will include all the work taking place in a continuous time frame. The first schedule will be spring to summer, and the second option will be fall, starting in September. AMS has started to send submittals to Mark Nussbaum for review.
12. **Longfellow Park Improvement** – The PDOP received a \$600,000 OSRAD for park improvements to include a new playground, splash pad, pickleball courts, etc. At the project bid opening held on October 30, the apparent low bid was provided by Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. which the Board approved at the Regular Board Meeting on November 20. Staff presented a recommendation for owner purchased equipment at the December Board Meeting which has since been ordered. The pre-construction meeting was held on February 5 with Park District, PRI, the General Contractor, Hacienda Landscaping, Forever Lawn, and Musco Lighting in attendance confirming the project start date of March 2 with a fence going up immediately. PRI is working with the Village of Oak Park to finalize the permit. A variance will be needed for the fencing height around the pickleball courts as the maximum fence height now allowed by the village is 8 feet and the plans call for a 10 foot fence. Arrangements are being made for delivery of playground, spray pad equipment, and the Portland Loo base template. Kids Around the World were on-site to remove the old playground on March 11 and staff have removed benches and most signage per the contract. The construction area has been fenced and demo has begun.
13. **CRC Solar Project** – The Park District has entered into a contract agreement with Windfree Solar following the Park Board's approval at the Continued Board Meeting on September 4. The Park District has also entered into an agreement with Energy Tax Savers to apply for a federal grant that could be valued at 30 to 50 percent of the total project cost if certain US equipment sourcing percentages are met. Windfree Solar representatives met staff on site on November to determine a few options to lay out the canopies and determine equipment locations inside the facility. As of January 1, Windfree Solar is in the process of designing the canopies and the solar system for a May and June installation. The Design Process is on-going. Windfree Solar will be in communication with

the Village for Permit Approval when the design is complete. Installation for the equipment remains on target to be completed by July 1.

14. **Rehm Pool Project** – The Park District hired Perkins & Will (PW) to complete a Rehm Pool Master plan in 2023. A meeting of the PHTA, the Pool and Hot Tub Association, took place on February 23 with part of the agenda discussing the drain issue that has come about regarding the drains installed at the Rehm Project. The issue is confusion regarding the drain design, pipe sizes, and flow rates. The committee discussion indicated that the drain design does in fact meet IDPH design code for pool drains and PHTA will be issuing a clarification letter to support approval by IDPH. On February 20, a final MWRD inspection was held at Rehm with the PDOP, VOP, MWRD and the contractor and the drain work passed final inspection. PDOP worked with Senator Harmon's office on obtaining the final approval for the project completion. Staff are waiting for ability to apply for license which we hope to have by the end of the month.

### **Calendar of Events**

Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays of each month – Drop-in Nature Center Hour, AGEEC, 12pm

March 3-17, 2026 – Shamrock Scavenger Hunt, Oak Park Conservatory, 10am-4pm (Tues – Sun)

**March 19, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting, Hedges Administrative Center, 7:00pm**

**March 20-22, 2026 – Ice Show *Practice to Podium* – The Paul Hruby Ice Arena, 6pm evening shows, 1:30pm matinee shows**

**April 4, 2026 – Egg Dash & Scramble, Maple Park, 9am, 10am, 11am (free but ticketed event)**

Please visit the PDOP Website for online activities and programming.



MARCH 2026

# Updates & Information

## **BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

### **FINANCE**

#### ***Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations***

- Audit fieldwork was completed during the week of February 23.
- The Cook County Tax Abatement Resolution has been filed for FY2026.
- The final list of Statement of Economic Interest filers has been submitted to the County. Filings are due by May 1. Please monitor your Park District email account for the filing notice.
- The District continues to receive funds from the TY 2024 levy. To date approximately \$400,000 of PDOP tax revenues remain undistributed by the County.
- The District invested approximately \$5 million of reserve funds in laddered term series investments to preserve interest revenue as rates are expected to drop this year.

### **MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

#### ***Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement***

- Developed marketing/communication materials to support spring registration, programs, and events.
- Developed communication materials to support upcoming Longfellow Park renovation and prescribed burns, including fliers to area neighbors, banners in parks, and digital media promotion.
- Finalizing the first step in designing the PDOP website to meet ADA accessibility standards. Next steps include approving the site's organizational structure, building upon learnings from community input, including focus group insights, and staff needs.
- Initiated work on PDOP's Brand Style Guide update.
- Continued development of new program area dashboards to track participation, aid in program development, and identify general trends.
- Attended IPRA's Communication & Marketing Section meeting on social media analytics.
- Finalized voter education communications for indoor pool referendum.
- Sold \$21,200 in sponsorships and advertising, including onsite sponsorships for Egg Dash & Scramble, park banners, and pickleball windscreen renewals.

### **GUEST SERVICES**

#### ***Scott Sekulich, Registration and Customer Support Manager***

- Thus far around 378 (390 in 2025) financial assistance applications have been submitted for 2026.
- \$27,445 in Scholarship funds have been used in February 2026. (we had \$30,163 in 2025).
- 20 Dog park renewals were purchased in the month of February with four of them being non-residents.

- Summer Camp registration went well. Close to 7,140 activity registrations took place in the first 10 minutes. Currently sitting at 9,803 registrations across 2,257 children.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### **Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources & Risk Management**

- Actively recruiting for a full-time General Maintenance Worker.
- Hired Jaleyn Cook for General Maintenance Worker and Josh Gronwold for Program Supervisor of Aquatics.
- Trained new and rehired staff members in New Hire Orientation, Customer Service, First Aid, and CPR/AED.
- Conducted FT Benefit Orientation sessions with newly hired full-time staff.
- Conducted New Driver Orientation and Road Check.
- Safety Action Committee completed Hazard Hunter Inspections.
- HR Generalist attended OPRF's Civics Learning Fair to promote volunteer opportunities.
- HR Manager represented PDOP at OPRF's Job Fair.
- HR Staff attended Manager's Meeting, DEI Committee meeting, Safety Action Committee, and Career Pathways Committee meeting.
- Risk Manager attended two PDRMA training sessions.
- Transitioned CPR and First Aid certifiers from American Heart Association to Ellis and Associates.
- Risk Manager completed monthly facility inspections using new MaintainX System.
- Held best practice quarterly meeting with Paycom, Finance and HR.
- Sent all staff the annual review task of the safety and personnel policy manuals via Paycom.

## PARKS AND PROPERTIES

### MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

#### **Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties & Planning**

- Staff have begun using MaintainX for their work management software. Overall, reception has been positive and improvements in workflow and communication have already been seen.
- Community Recreation Center has been mostly painted with the exception of the gym and walking track which are scheduled to be done at a later date.
- The gym floor in the CRC is scheduled to be refinished on March 31.
- Tuckpointing to the Conservatory south facade is scheduled for March 11.
- RCRC Tunnel doors will be replaced this month.
- Staff have put up the player bench sunshades at Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex for the start of OPRF softball season. The remaining player bench sun shades are planned to be installed the first of April.
- Batting cage has been put up at Ridgeland Common turf field.
- Baseball infields are being edged to remove the built up lip transition between the infield and grass outfield. Maple north/south, Carroll, Euclid, Barrie, Fox, Longfellow, and Field park baseball infields have been edged so far and will continue with the rest of the fields before the start of baseball season.
- A deep cleaning of rink dasher boards was performed on March 9.
- Preparation begins for the annual ice show which is scheduled to open March 20.
- Thanks to the nicer weather staff have resumed installing memorial plaques and have been grinding stumps.

- Holiday lights have been taken down and stored for the off-season.
- PACT permits have been distributed amongst all of the PACT groups, and the spring/summer session has begun.

## HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### **Susan Crane, Historical Properties & Special Events Manager**

#### **Cheney Mansion**

- Busy first couple of weeks with Valentine-themed programs for adults and families and then rolled right into Fat Tuesday. We hosted a first-ever chocolate-making class with a local chocolatier and both sessions were full. We will be adding additional sessions in April and in the fall. Candle making with a Valentine theme and our annual Valentine Dinner Dance were big successes. We also hosted our annual themed Family Valentine party with a nice group enjoying the “glow” theme with games, dancing, and a glow-in-the-dark graffiti wall, where they could add their own artistic touches to.
- Fitzgerald’s was back at Cheney on Fat Tuesday for a Mardi Gras themed event, complete with a New Orleans style brass band making a grand entrance and themed food and drink for all. The event was well attended with about 60 people enjoying a fun evening that ended just in time to be in bed by nine!
- We also partnered again with Oak Park Area Arts Council for an art event *A Couple of Caricatures*, where 19 artists were in residence to do quick portraits of families, couples, or singles. Additional portraits could be purchased with the proceeds to OPAAC directly; good turnout for a first-time event like this, and all in attendance commented on how much they liked all of the different styles.
- We also managed to squeeze in two private events, and our tours for future events were very robust throughout the month, with 21 appointments mostly for 2027 weddings, along with a few for smaller events in 2026.

#### **Pleasant Home**

- Busy first two weeks at Pleasant, also with some good programming. We held our indoor yoga and brunch on the 1st, with a strong turnout. We hosted our first Galentine's event which had a strong turnout and partnered with a local mobile spa company to offer chair massages and make your own fragrance along with fun activities, themed food, and beverages. We also hosted our annual Victorian Valentine Tea at Pleasant for families, and it was well attended.
- We hosted a beautiful Petite Ceremony in the Great Hall toward the end of the month as well as a memorial service at the end of February.
- Our docents have worked hard to put a display together in one of the exhibition rooms in preparation for March’s Women’s Month, highlighting the women of Pleasant Home. It is located on the second floor and will be up throughout March. For our open days we had 20 visitors throughout the month.

#### **Community Events**

- On February 7 we hosted Winter Fest again at Longfellow Park and Center. Winter-themed activities were on tap. We had a big temperature dip the night before, and while it was great for ice skating, our attendance was a little soft. Those who came out enjoyed a visit and photos with the Abominable Snowman and many who have never skated appreciated the skates we had on hand to be able to get on the ice and try.

## OAK PARK CONSERVATORY

### **Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations**

- The Conservatory welcomed 2,444 visitors in February.
- During February, there were four Rentals including one children's birthday party package.
- Storytime had 12 participants.
- Guided tours included Berwyn Schools (38) and Opportunity Knocks (12).
- Toddler exploration time had 38 participants.
- Drought Tolerant Gardens Lecture had 62 participants.
- Plant Help Desk had six inquiries in February.
- Lunar New Year Celebration in partnership with Brookfield Zoo, broadened cultural programming and drew 450 participants.
- Valentine's Market and a new Bloom Bar and Bites workshop took place in February.
- Greenhouse staff and volunteers transplanted and grew over 3,011 plants for the parks, conservatory sales, and the FOPCON plant sale.
- Dormant winter pruning was completed at Austin, Longfellow, Cheney Mansion, Stevenson, and Wenonah parks
- Staff attended a Tree Ordinance Administration Workshop at the Morton Arboretum and iLandscape Tradeshow & Conference.
- The District received eight free large tree donations from the Landscape Illinois organization.
- Staff training took place at the Conservatory, centered around the District's IPM policies and procedures for licensed applicator and operator Ddistrict employees.

## **RECREATION**

### RIDGELAND COMMON RECREATION COMPLEX

#### **Mike Baiardo, Superintendent of Special Facilities**

##### **Aquatics**

- Returning Aquatic Leadership staff have begun training in March with four attending Ellis & Associates - Lifeguard Instructor training.
- Pool Passes for the 2026 Summer Season started with the Polar Bear Sale and a total of 990 versus 1,620 in 2025 purchased through February 28.
- A new Pool Passholder Welcome Email is now sent automatically to participants that purchase passes with information for the upcoming season. Linking the landing page of the website was created to cater to passholders.
- Spring swim lessons were offered for the first time since 2019, and we have more than 80 participants. Lessons in the afternoon this spring are at Fenwick March 8 – April 26.

##### **Ice Arena**

- The Ice Bears organization will be having nine new volunteers join for the upcoming spring season in both Assistant Coach and Manager roles.
- There is a total of eight (same amount as 2025) Spring Ice Bears teams. Three Mite, Three Squirt, and Two Pee Wee teams.
- There is a total of ten Jr Coaches in the spring Hockey Program starting March 9.
- The annual Ice Show scheduled for March 20 at 6:00pm, March 21 at 1:30pm and 6:00pm, and March 22 at 1:30pm, has more than 200 registrations for all of the Ice Show's numbers/pieces.

This year's theme is Practice to Podium. Staff are finishing up choreographing for numbers/pieces. Set up for the Ice Show will be on March 13, followed by dress rehearsals on March 17 and 18.

- Valentine Teen Skate served 42 participants which included skate, trivia activity, and pizza.

### **Customer Service**

- Sixteen pool cashiers are planning on being hired, with eight already hired. Interviews and offer letters are looking to conclude by the end of March or sooner.
- Pool Birthday Parties opened up for booking on March 7, the date for all spring and summer aquatic registration.
- Ice Show Tickets went live on February 25. Wednesday March 4, tickets began being open to pick up in person. Guest Services at RCRC have been staying on top of the orders.

## **GYMNASTICS & RECREATION CENTER**

### **Keith Kerrigan, Program & Operations Manager**

- The GRC held its annual Cartwheel-A-Thon fundraiser during classes from February 2 through 8. Over the week, 563 gymnasts performed 36,958 cartwheels and raised \$5,273.90 in pledges to support the Booster Club.
- Our competitive gymnastics teams attended the Milwaukee Motorcycle meet February 13-15. Our Level 7 girls took 4th place as a team, and one of our Level 8 girls came in 1st on bars. Our Level 8 boys took 2nd place.
- Our teams also attended the Great Western meet February 20-22. Our Level 4 girls and Level 7 girls both took 4th place for their levels, one of our Level 4 girls was 1st place all-around, and a Level 3 girl got an amazing 9.8 on beam. Our Level 5 boys came in 2nd place as a team.

## **GENERAL RECREATION**

### **Joe Lilly, Program Manager**

#### **After School/Teens**

- After school is preparing for spring break and prepping on safety procedures as the temperatures warm and we are able to be outside more frequently.
- Registration for next year is going well with additional spots added to Field Center thanks to the new building and Dole center thanks to the PDOP/Library partnership.
- There is a glow in the dark teen dodgeball event on March 20.

#### **ECE:**

- Austin Gardens enrichments continue to grow.
- We are currently looking for a new lead teacher for our Pre-K classroom.
- Teachers just finished parent teacher conferences and are preparing students for spring break.

#### **Nature/Adventure:**

- Austin Gardens birthday parties debuted this spring with families already expressing interest.
- Scout Badge classes have been added for the spring/summer.
- We are looking at expanding homeschool opportunities across departments.

**Arts/Lifelong Learners:**

- Lifelong Learners are adjusting to a new registration process with the annual tiles.
- Additional stained glass classes have been added due to interest and waitlists.
- New Cheer classes have been added to Performing Arts which filled immediately after registration opened.

**COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER*****Chad Drufke, Program Manager*****CRC**

- As of March 7, we have 6,157 paid monthly CRC memberships. We also have 3,777 free track memberships, and 1,019 free afterschool memberships. In total we have 10,953 CRC memberships free or paid.
- The gymnasium floor will be refinished during the week of March 30, therefore the gymnasium and track will not be available to members during that week.
- The CRC afterschool program averaged 78 participants per evening in the month of February.

**Sports/Martial Arts/Facility Attendants**

- The grade 3-8 youth basketball league will have their version of “March Madness” during the week of March 8. Championship games will take place on March 15 on the OPRFHS varsity basketball gym floor.
- The youth volleyball league begins on March 7. The league has four teams, and they will have practices and games at CRC.
- Sports in house summer camp staffing is almost complete with just one position, the camp coordinator position still needs to be filled.



# Memo

**To:** Sandy Lentz, Recreation and Facility Program Committee  
Board of Park Commissioners

**From:** Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation

**CC:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director

**Date:** March 13, 2026

**Re:** D97/PDOP Summer Camp Intergovernmental Agreement



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## Statement

There has been a tradition of excellent cooperation between Elementary School District 97 and the Park District of Oak Park, and we desire to continue and to enhance that tradition. In order to best continue this tradition of cooperation, The Park District and School District are partnering on a summer camp initiative for families of children in grades 1 – 5 who receive free and reduced lunch.

The Park District will provide up to two weeks of day camp for free for reduced lunch families. The Park District will utilize our financial assistance program that allows families a discount based on their free or reduced lunch status. The School District will pay the remaining portion of the fees. D97 contributed \$28,367 in 2025 and the PDOP contributed \$26,123 from the financial assistance fund.

## Discussion

Staff from each District met to review IGA. We believe this program will assist some of our most vulnerable families with needed summer camp programs. We expect to serve families we have not served in the past and hope relationships are built that encourage further participation with Park District programs and services.

## Conclusion

The Recreation and Facility Program Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve the attached D97/PDOP Intergovernmental Agreement for summer camp services for summer 2026.

Attachment: IGA PDOP/D97 Summer Camp

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

**THIS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT** (“Agreement”) is made and entered into this 27th day of January, 2026 between the Park District of Oak Park, an Illinois municipal corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Park District") and the Board of Education of Oak Park Elementary School District 97 (hereinafter referred to as the “School District”) (also collectively referred to as the “Parties” and individually as “Party”).

### RECITALS

**WHEREAS**, the School District and the Park District are units of local government as defined in Article VII, Section 1, of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and public agencies as that term is defined in Section 2 of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, 5 ILCS 220/2; and

**WHEREAS**, Article VII, Section 10, of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 provides units of local government to contract or otherwise associate among themselves to obtain or share services and to exercise, combine or transfer any power or function in any manner not prohibited by law or by ordinance and to use their credit, revenues and other resources to pay costs related to intergovernmental activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/1 *et seq.*) further provides any power or powers, privileges, functions, or authority exercised or which may be exercised by a public agency of this State may be exercised, combined, transferred, and enjoyed jointly with any other public agency of this State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Park District has an established and robust Summer Camp program that consists of multiple options and offerings for children to attend age-appropriate summer camp programs of varying interests and lengths; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to provide for the cost-sharing of summer camp fees for the School District's students in grades K-4 who qualify for the free and reduced-priced meal program to attend two weeks of camp of their choosing;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of these recitals and the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by the Parties, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **INCORPORATION OF RECITALS.** The above recitals are incorporated into this Agreement.
2. **COST SHARING.** The Park District agrees to pay up to 75% of camp fees for eligible K-4 School District students, to be determined based on individual student’s level of eligibility for the free and reduced meal program, for the School District’s students to attend

two weeks of summer camp of their choosing. The School District agrees to cover any remaining costs associated with eligible students' camp attendance over the aforementioned two week period.

**3. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.** In order to be eligible for the cost sharing provisions under this Agreement, students must be eligible for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. The Parties acknowledge that disclosing a student's eligibility for the Free and Reduced Meal Program without parental or legal guardian's consent is prohibited by 7 CFR 245.6(i) and agree to abide by the disclosure requirements under the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq.

The Park District shall obtain written consent from the student's parent or guardian for the School District to disclose a student's eligibility for the Free and Reduced Meal program through verification with the School District by including the following language in the PDOP Financial Assistance 2026 application:

**I agree to allow Oak Park School District 97 to disclose my child's eligibility for the Free and Reduced Meal Program to the Park District of Oak Park for the limited purpose of verifying financial assistance eligibility.**

**I further understand that if I consent to this disclosure, neither the Oak Park School District 97 nor the Park District of Oak Park will share this information with any other entity or program.**

**I understand that refusing to allow Oak Park School District 97 to disclose my child's eligibility will not affect my student's eligibility to participate in the Free and Reduced Meal Program or the Park District of Oak Park Financial Assistance program.**

**If I refuse to consent to this disclosure, I may attach documentation confirming eligibility for the Free and Reduced Meal Program to this application.**

The Park District shall not use this information for any purpose other than for which it has obtained prior written consent from the student's parent or legal guardian or for any other purposes contained outside this Agreement. Prior to the School District confirming a student's eligibility, the Park District shall provide the School District with documentation signed by the student's parent or legal guardian so that the School District can confirm proper consent was provided.

**4. FURTHER ACTS.** Each party shall, at the request and expense of the other, execute and deliver any further documents and do all acts and things as that party may reasonably be required to carry out the true intent and meaning of this Agreement.

**5. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES.** This Agreement is not intended to confer any right upon any third party who is not a Party to this Agreement.

6. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** The Parties acknowledge that each is an independent contractor and that the Park District alone retains control of the manner and means of conducting its summer camp program activities in furtherance of this Agreement. The Park District, as well as any persons or agents it may employ, are not employees of the School District, and neither this Agreement nor the administration thereof shall operate to render or deem either Party hereto the agent, partner, or employee of the other.

7. **TERM AND TERMINATION.** The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date of the last Party to sign this Agreement and shall continue until August 31, 2026 unless terminated in writing by both Parties. If any Party breaches the terms of this Agreement and fails to cure said breach within thirty (30) days of a receipt of a written notice of breach, then this Agreement shall terminate as to the breaching Party immediately thereafter but shall continue in full force and effect, to the extent applicable, as to the non-breaching Party. A Party who has provided such notice of termination shall not be entitled to any refund or reimbursement for any costs paid pursuant to this Agreement and shall be responsible to pay any and all cost obligations under this Agreement through the effective date of the termination. Either Party may terminate this agreement for any reason by providing sixty (60) days notice to the other Party.

8. **INDEMNIFICATION.** Each Party shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Parties from all claims, demands, causes of action, losses, liabilities, damages, penalties, fines, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, which are incurred by another Party, but only to the extent arising from the indemnifying Party's breach of this Agreement or negligence.

9. **SCOPE OF LIABILITY.** The Parties acknowledge that the School District's sole responsibilities under this agreement are to share the cost of summer camp program fees for eligible students and to verify students' eligibility for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. The Park District shall not hold the School District liable for any injuries, losses, damages, or claims incurred in during its administration and operation of summer camp programs.

10. **NO ASSIGNMENT OR DELEGATION.** Each Party represents and warrants that it has not and will not assign, sublet or transfer any rights or obligations under this Agreement. Nothing herein shall be construed as creating any personal liability on the part of any officer or agent of any public body that may not be a party hereto, nor shall it be construed as giving any right or benefits hereunder to anyone other than the Park District and the School District.

11. **ADVICE OF COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING OF AGREEMENT.** The Parties each understand their right to discuss all aspects of this Agreement with their legal counsel and have done so if desired. The Parties acknowledge that they have carefully read and fully understand all provisions of this Agreement.

12. **BINDING EFFECT AND INTERPRETATION.** The Parties intend this Agreement to

be legally binding. This Agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their legal representatives, successors and assigns. The provisions of this Agreement are severable and no provision shall be affected by the invalidity of any other provision. This Agreement has been jointly drafted by the Parties, and in the event any court determines any provision of this Agreement to be ambiguous, the ambiguity shall not be construed against any Party.

13. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.** The Parties shall comply with all federal, state, county and municipal laws, rules and regulations that apply to the performance of each party's respective obligations under this Agreement.

14. **AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS.** This Agreement may be modified or amended from time to time by the authorized representatives of the Park District and the School District, provided, however, that no such amendment or modification shall be effective unless reduced to writing and duly authorized and signed by the authorized representative of the Park District and the authorized representative of the School District.

15. **SAVINGS CLAUSE.** If any provision of this Agreement, or the application of such provision, shall be rendered or declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by reason of its requiring any steps, actions or results, the remaining parts or portions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

16. **CAPTIONS AND SECTION HEADINGS.** Captions and section headings are for convenience only and are not a part of this Agreement and shall not be used in construing it.

17. **NON-WAIVER OF RIGHTS.** No failure of either Party to exercise any power given to it hereunder or to insist upon strict compliance by the other Party with its obligations hereunder, and no custom or practice of the Parties at variance with the terms hereof, shall constitute a waiver of either Party's right to demand exact compliance with the terms hereof.

18. **NOTICES, INVOICES AND COMMUNICATIONS.** All notices, invoices or other communications under or in respect to this Agreement shall be in writing and sent by United States mail, personal service or by electronic transmission to the persons and addresses indicated below, or said persons designees who shall be designated in writing pursuant to this Section, or to such addresses and persons as either party hereto shall notify the other party of in writing pursuant to the provisions of this subsection:

**TO THE PARK DISTRICT:**

Jan Arnold  
Executive Director  
Park District of Oak Park  
229 Madison St.  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302  
Fax: (708) 725-2000

**TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 97:**

Patrick Robinson  
Interim Superintendent  
Oak Park ESD 97  
260 Madison St.  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302  
Fax: (708) 524-3000

Email:

Email: [probinson@op97.org](mailto:probinson@op97.org)

With a Copy to:

Robbins Schwartz  
Attn: Matthew J. Gardner  
190 South LaSalle Street, Suite 2550  
Chicago, IL 60603-3410

Mailing of such notice as and when above provided shall be equivalent to personal notice and shall be deemed to have been given at the time of mailing. Notice by electronic transmission shall be effective as of date and time of electronic transmission, provided that the notice transmitted shall be sent on business days during business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Chicago time). In the event electronic notice is transmitted during non-business hours, the effective date and time of notice is the first hour of the first business day after transmission.

19. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** In connection with this Agreement, the Park District or the School District may provide the other Party with confidential information regarding eligibility for free or reduced meal programs or other such information that a Party may deem confidential. The receiving Party agrees to: (i) treat and to obligate its employees or agents to treat as confidential all such information; (ii) not to disclose any such information to any person, company or corporation or use the same in any manner whatsoever without first obtaining the other Party's written approval; (iii) not to disclose to the other Party any information obtained from a third party on a confidential basis unless written permission is received from such third party to disclose such information; (iv) limit the exposure of confidential information to only those employees with a need to know. Nothing in this Section shall limit or restrict a Party from producing such information if required pursuant to a court order, subpoena, or valid Freedom of Information Act request. The Parties will coordinate and cooperate to address any legal objections or response to such court order, subpoena, or Freedom of Information Act request.

20. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement sets forth all the covenants, conditions and promises between the parties. There are no covenants, promises, agreements, conditions or understandings between the Parties, either oral or written, other than those contained in this Agreement.

21. **GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE.** The laws of the State of Illinois shall apply to the interpretation of this Agreement. Venue for any action taken by either the Park District or the School District to enforce the terms of this Agreement shall be in the Circuit Court of the Cook County, Illinois.

22. **BINDING AUTHORITY.** The individuals executing this Agreement on behalf of the Parties represent that they have the legal power, right, and actual authority to bind their respective Party to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

23. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** The effective date of this Agreement as reflected above shall be the last date that it is executed by one of the Parties as reflected below.

24. **COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE OR PDF SIGNATURES.** This Agreement shall be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be considered an original and together shall be one and the same Agreement. A facsimile or pdf/email copy of this Agreement and any signatures thereon will be considered for all purposes as an original.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized representatives on the dates set forth below.

**PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK**

**OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 97**

\_\_\_\_\_  
By:  
Its: Executive Director

*Patrick CL Robinson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Patrick Robinson  
Its: Interim Superintendent

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

Date: **Feb 17, 2026**, 2026



# PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

## Memo

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

**From:** Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture/Oak Park Conservatory

**Cc:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director

**Date:** March 13, 2026

**Re:** Memorandum of Agreement – West Cook TreeKeepers

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### Statement

The Park District of Oak Park has received a Memorandum of Agreement with Openlands and the West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter to formalize a partnership Tree stewardship in our parks.

### Discussion

Under this agreement, Openlands provides program structure, training resources, and volunteer tracking support; West Cook TreeKeepers lead stewardship and education efforts, and the Park District provides authorization, coordination, and in-kind support of tools, mulch, facilities, and outreach. The agreement establishes a three-year term (with extension option), includes no financial obligation beyond each party's own expenses, and may be terminated by either party with 30 days' written notice.

### Conclusion

The Parks and Planning Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement with Park District, Openlands, West Cook TreeKeepers as this partnership strengthens volunteer engagement in our parks, expands tree care efforts, and supports long-term urban forest sustainability within our parks.

Attachment: MOU PDOP | Openlands | West Cook TreeKeepers

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK, OPENLANDS, WEST COOK TREEKEEPERS**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is made effective as of [DATE], by and between PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK, a special purpose government located in Cook County, Illinois, Openlands, (OPENLANDS), an Illinois not-for-profit land conservation organization, and leadership members of West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter (TKS), (Parties) upon the following terms and conditions. This MOA, signed PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK, TKS, and OPENLANDS, acknowledges that each signatory is committed to the Chapter elements listed below.

### **Overview**

*Openlands is expanding its TreeKeepers® program through Openlands TreeKeepers® Chapters allowing the use of the name and registered trademark, program best practices and models, and coordination of TreeKeepers and their local park district. TreeKeeper Chapters aims to increase local public involvement in long-term tree stewardship through community, tree care events, and education. Chapter members will work with the park district to identify local concerns, decide priorities, advocate tree preservation and tree care, promote education in the community, and organize workdays.*

The goals are to develop a Chapter that results in:

- a significant and sustained increase in engagement with park districts and municipalities (measured, for example, by number of volunteers, number of volunteer hours; number of trees mulched, pruned, etc.)
- TreeKeeper Chapters becoming leaders in diverse tree stewardship activities in their communities.

### **Openlands' Intention for West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter operating in Oak Park:**

Openlands has created and taught the Openlands TreeKeepers program since 1991 through which it has trained over 2,000 people to become citizen stewards of the urban forest. Openlands believes that trees can be the entryway to connect people to a long-term passion for the environment. This connection leads to stewards advancing their studies of trees and the environment, leadership in the communities where they live by engaging their fellow neighbors in hands-on work and education and using their skills to advocate for trees with their local governments.

### **PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK Intention for West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter**

The PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK plants trees each year on parkland and hopes to work with residents to care for new and existing trees. By partnering with Openlands and offering support to TKS, PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK intends to serve as a critical link fostering leadership to sustain the Park District's trees by supporting TKs development as tree experts, stewards, and advocates.

## **TKS Intention for West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter activities with PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK**

The TKS are leading on-the-ground stewardship and advocacy to improve the vitality and sustainability of their Park District's trees. By offering opportunities for education, coordinated events with PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK, and stewardship, TKS will be able to serve as a critical link fostering leadership to sustain the region's trees and educate their fellow citizens.

### **Duration**

This MOA shall govern the parties from [DESIRED DATES OF TERM, TYPICALLY 3-YEAR INTERVALS] and may be extended upon written agreement by the representative of both parties

### **Termination**

Failure to comply with this MOA will result in termination of the Openlands West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter program with PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK and TKS. In addition, either party may terminate the MOA upon 30-days written notice.

### **Funding**

Each party shall be responsible for its own expenses.

### **Responsibilities and Obligations**

#### OPENLANDS' Role:

- Share the current toolkit for TreeKeeper Chapters.
- Openlands will help support outreach with West Cook TreeKeepers by providing information about TKS in the TreeKeepers Newsletters.
- Openlands will work with TKS and PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK on Openlands Volunteer Management Software (CERVIS) to create events, register volunteers, and track their hours.
- Reconnect with TKS and PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK at an appropriate number of meetings per year to review the plans, best practices, potential grants, and any changes to the Chapter and this agreement.

#### PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK Role: As a supporting partner of West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter, PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK will:

- Permit TreeKeepers to steward trees and lead volunteers in public spaces; activities including mulching, pruning, planting, inventorying, and other activities as appropriate.
- Support TreeKeepers activities with mulch, tools, and facilities as appropriate.
- Help support outreach and information about the TKS Chapter on PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK 's website and social media as appropriate.
- When referring to Openlands TreeKeepers or TreeKeepers in any public relations and/or documentation or materials, TreeKeepers will need to be referenced at least once with the name "Openlands TreeKeepers®" with the Registered trademark symbol.
- PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK does not have the authority to share the

Openlands TreeKeepers name and materials with any organization that is not also a supporting partner of Openlands' TreeKeepers without Openlands prior written approval.

TKS Role: As a supporting partner of West Cook TreeKeepers Chapter, TKS will:


- Inform Openlands of general activities and events for Openlands to promote and support.
- Plan events based on guidance received from PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK.
- Share TKS cumulative volunteer hours and number of events on a monthly basis and/ or through CERVIS.
- When referring to Openlands TreeKeepers or TreeKeepers in any public relations and/or documentation or materials, TreeKeepers will need to be referenced at least once with the name "Openlands TreeKeepers®" with the Registered trademark symbol.
- TKS does not have the authority to share the Openlands TreeKeepers name and materials with any organization that is not also a supporting partner of Openlands' TreeKeepers without Openlands' prior written approval.

**Notice**

Any notice given by either party to the other pursuant to the provisions of this MOA is deemed to have been given when deposited in the U.S. Mail addressed to the other party at the address stated below or at such other address as each may designate by written notice to the other This MOA supersedes all prior or contemporaneous offers, negotiations and agreements (whether oral or written) between the Parties.

**AGREED AND ACCEPTED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Park District of Oak Park, Executive Director, Jan Arnold

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Openlands Director of Forestry, Tom Ebeling

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2/19/2026  
West Cook Certified TreeKeeper, Laura Derks Date