



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

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Minutes

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

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

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

**Others Present:** Marianne Birko with WSSRA.

**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 February 2026; approval of the Minutes from the Continued Regular Board Meeting and the Committee of the Whole Meeting from February 5, 2026, and Regular Board Meeting from February 19, 2026; and approval of the Disposal Ordinance 2026-03-13. **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 highlighted that the Annual Ice Show will take place tomorrow through Sunday, and everyone is very excited. The old playground feature has been picked up by Kids Around The World at Longfellow and we are working with the VOP on permits for the pickleball courts fence and new plans for their placement. Field Center is continuing with Ram Earth but won't be completed until September now, staff are working on after school options. We continue to work with IDPH for Rehm Pool's opening license. There is a grand opening for the pool scheduled at 4pm on May 22 followed by staff and their guests being offered the opportunity to enjoy the pool. Andersen Park's grand opening will be scheduled on Saturday, May 23.



- B. **Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
- C. **Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee**

1. WSSRA Annual Report Update – Marianne Birko from WSSRA provided the Board with an annual update. This summer WSSRA will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. In 2025 they welcomed the Village of River Grove to the WSSRA cooperative association. She noted the total number of programs offered in Oak Park continues to grow, including gymnastics, swimming, ice rink activities, Parent Date Night, junior chefs, Zumba and Boxability. Additionally, Marianne discussed their budget and an increase of shares by 4%, their fundraising efforts hosting six events including a bocce tournament, 24th Annual Derby Gala, a bowling night, and a casino night with proceeds going toward programs and expenses. Staffing challenges continue to improve but are a constant so they continue with their recruitment. Marianne mentioned that Oak Park families have expressed high satisfaction with the programs and extended her gratitude to Executive Director Arnold, the Board, and the staff for their ongoing support and also congratulated the Park District on the Gold Medal. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

1. 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. As you were reminded at the Scholarship Report in January, the PDOP|D97 Camp IGA was first created last year to align with their childcare discount lunch program for grades 1-5. Camp registration has taken place but a few spots in each camp were left open to allow for those families and Scott Sekulich to work out what is needed and for planning. The Board discussed the number of families returning and were told it currently was similar numbers. The Board was told that Scott does a great job with stragglers and then after a month, March 1, the lists are opened back up to hit waitlists. Motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.***

**B. Parks and Planning Committee**

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. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the information brought to them at their last meeting that they have been active in the area for a number of years, they provide the tracking of volunteer hours and training, and there is no cost to the Park District. The Board re-confirmed that the pruning would take place on the ground and would be in supervised groups. Motion was made by Commissioner Worley-Hood and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.***

**C. Administration and Finance Committee**



1. Election/Referendum Results Update

Executive Director Arnold stated that we have all seen the emails/articles with the results of the pool referendum with the majority of the voting (11,972) 'no' to 3,731 'in favor' of a new indoor aquatics center at Ridgeland Common. We will move forward with the future long-term improvements of Ridgeland common slated to start in 2031-32 unless it fails prior to that. She appreciated the turnout for the vote as with the cost of operating an indoor pool, we wanted to let the community know that cost and let them decide. As we stated in the Wednesday Journal, the most fiscally responsible opportunity was presented and though many were sad of the location, it was the fiscally prudent choice and we will continue with our strategic plan.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS** – None

**VIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Lentz:** Commissioner Lentz stated she was pleased with the fact that the referendum was run the way it was run and that the community had the opportunity to vote on it. And, with the voting results so strong, we can move forward clearly versus if it had been a close vote. She went on to say staff did an amazing job putting it all together and we can look for changes in 2031-32 for the RCRC pool. She also wanted to thank Don Nekrosis for his kind note thanking the PDOP he had sent which stressed how valuable he sees what the PDOP has done. She finished by informing everyone that FOPCON has been busy with their plants and order forms would be coming out soon.

**Commissioner Onayemi:** Commissioner Onayemi stated that, "Success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan" and that it was a successful campaign it was just sad that some individuals declared a war. There were many opportunities for questions, and he feels the presentations were done well. The votes were clear and so he feels it was a success.

**Commissioner Wollmuth:** Commissioner Wollmuth thanked Jan and staff for their efforts throughout the entire process and that it proved the value of a democratic process by putting it to the people and we heard them; now we do not have that nagging worry if we have looked at every option. He stated he is excited for all the other things on the docket and all the other wonderful things we do.

**Commissioner Worley-Hood:** Commissioner Worley-Hood noted staff stayed focused and were not drawn into the negativity in the community. He feels it wasn't necessarily directed much at the PDOP but more at a fear of it passing and they were looking for any way to stop it. He finished by saying the PDOP was purely positive, and we asked, and we got an answer, and can move forward.

**President Porreca:** President Porreca stated, "We asked and the mission was accomplished." She wanted to commend Jan and the staff, from our website, FAQs, messaging, pivoting when new questions came up, the information sessions and presentations, there was nothing but professionalism on how to make a choice and the voters have spoken and it was clear; she couldn't be more delighted. There is no ambiguity, it was very decisive. She also mentioned that LaShawn Ford as well as other candidates benefited with the large turnout in Oak Park. She went on saying that it is always disappointing when people turn negative and turn to personal attacks, sadly there are strong feelings now about our country and some are in a negative mistrustful space with government where nothing is taken at face value.



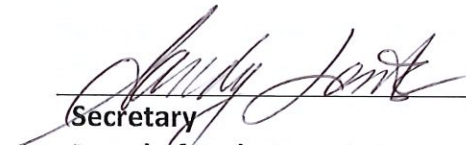
**IX. CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:44pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Wollmuth to convene into closed session for the discussion of performance of a specific employee of the Park District. **The motion was passed with a roll call vote of 4:0.**

At 8:29pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi to adjourn the Closed Session and to resume the Regular Board Meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:29pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Lentz 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

April 16, 2026  
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Date

  
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President  
Board of Park Commissioners

April 16, 2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date