



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK
Committee of the Whole Meeting
John Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
Thursday, May 14, 2026
Directly Following the Annual Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Porreca.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Business Operations; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Parks & Facilities; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement; Joe Lilly, Program Manager; Megan Ulczak, Arts, Active Adults-Senior Program Supervisor; Nelson Acevedo, Director of Parks and Facilities; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory; Roger Oney, Supervisor Parks and Facilities; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT - Elsworth Carman, Executive Director OPPL.

III. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Legislative Conference Update – Executive Director Arnold shared that three staff members along with a Board member attended the Legislative Conference in Springfield. The conference was filled with valuable information including that they are gathering information on tax dollars collected and then given to Park Districts, approximately \$2.88 is put back into the community; we are looking forward to see how our comparison ends up. A discussion took place there regarding HB3907 which would require all our programming to go through licensing, but it was being fought as Park Districts are not childcare, we hold recreational programs. The Board questioned the ebikes in parks and were told the legislature for regulating ebikes, scooters, electronic mini vehicles (Barbie Jeep, etc.) is going through the committee. Lurie Hospital was there and told of the increased head injuries they were seeing in youth due to those new vehicles. The Executive Director confirmed that she would keep them apprised as these important items move forward. **No action required by the Board at this time.**
- B. Review of Ethics Ordinance – Executive Director Arnold noted that the Park District is required to review the Ethics Ordinance on a continuing basis. The ordinance was last updated in 2015. At this time, there are no updates to the policy that are needed as there have been no legal changes since the last update. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the May Regular Board Meeting.**

- C. 2026 IGA Parking Agreement PDOP|VOP – Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the Park District is required to review the Parking Agreement every five years. The only update to the IGA is the PDOP used to have 40 spaces in the parking garage of OPRFHS, now it has been brought down to 20. The Board asked the effects of the change and were informed as the use of the spots is only after 4pm or on weekends for staff, the new amount won't affect our use. This may also be brought to the Board in the future should the garage change ownership from the VOP. **This item will be brought before the Board on the consent agenda at the May Regular Board Meeting.**

VI. RECREATION AND FACILITY PROGRAM COMMITTEE – None

- A. Senior Programming Philosophy – A Service Philosophy For Adults 50+ presentation was shown including: Defining Our Older (Active) Adults, How We Got Here, How We Are Tracking, and Where We're Going by Maureen McCarthy, Joe Lilly, and Megan Ulczak. Megan began by informing the Board that most of our programming have an element with seniors. When looking at the comprehensive strategy we needed to look at assigning a senior philosophy, what the definition is and how we are categorizing it. Discussion took place on how to get the seniors involved and continuity, which is great if we can get them to engage prior to retirement, then they will most likely stick around. Definitely social belonging is a huge part of maintaining the numbers. We also have increased numbers by all the multi-generational offerings which include building a skill they have and keeping physical. We went from just trips and lunches to now providing language, writing groups, weaving, stained glass, and lapidary with over 500 members. The Board discussed the highlights and numbers shown in the report. PDOP is looking to engage more males as that is the lowest demographic and hope more tech heavy programming will work. The Board thanked them for the deep dive into the numbers and the report/discussion. **No action required by the Board at this time.**

V. PARKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- A. Parks and Facility Annual Report – Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that this is the first year the Parks and Facility Report is being presented. Bill Hamilton began by stating the capital aspects help to maintain the longevity and maximum life of the equipment; how we add, repair, and the day-to-day use is all recorded. He stated that things are becoming more sophisticated with the technology; it's become a larger tool used to not only maintain the equipment side but for the facilities to also be used for efficiency and cost effectiveness. The department has very technological staff and Maintain X has done a great job of engaging everyone and we are seeing the results. He then showed a snapshot of what is happening in the department in 2026 and planned for 2027. Nelson Acevedo went through our portfolio. He shared our GIS program which had usually just mapped trees but is now tagged to everything we own; a geo location is recorded for all our property from trees to benches, playground equipment, and also includes vehicles, mowers, etc. The noting of items of concerns (trip hazards, broken swings, graffiti, etc.) is quickly noted and added to staff's To-Do lists and quickly completed. Nelson went on to explain that all of our facility's blueprints are now uploaded to Maintain X and the manuals of systems we use such as Pelican, Musco, basecamp and more are all in one place that staff can find. Maintain X tracks work orders and can do multiple reports on items as well as time spent in each park, ordering of supplies, etc. So far 30 residents had sent in work orders through the system, and 6,800 orders have been put into the system overall. The Board thanked staff for the comprehensive report and discussion took place on challenges they have seen and overcome. **No action required by the Board at this time.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

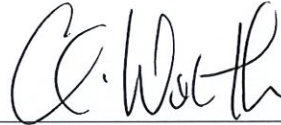
VII. CLOSED SESSION – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:01pm, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4:0.



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners



President
Board of Park Commissioners

June 18, 2026

Date

June 18, 2026

Date

