



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

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Minutes

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

Absent:

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

Others Present: Tawa Mitchell with the Parks Foundation, and a resident.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that an agenda change was needed to take place as the PDCC Update scheduled this evening has been moved to the May Committee of the Whole Meeting. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0**

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC –

Dan Stark, a long time village resident, wanted to come in and ask the Board how the pool referendum even got to be a referendum as it showed such opposition from the start and that it was not even a close vote when it was finally voted on. He went on to say the final vote wasn't reflective just about the getting rid of RCRC but more about the wastefulness of the taxpayers money, how this Board wastes money and allows money to be wasted and word is getting out. Information retained by him through FOIAs show more than \$100,000 dollars being wasted on the renderings, planning, people, marketing, for this indoor pool referendum that was voted down 4-1. He ended by saying, "This Board constantly shows a lack of concern for our tax dollars, and it needs to stop."

Tawa Mitchell has lived in Oak Park since 2014, and she wanted to express special commendation to the PDOP Board as well as the Executive Director for all they do and to share that she has



experienced nothing but professionalism from this Park District and staff and feels informed as a villager and is proud to live here with the collective leadership. Tawa went on to share how her family has benefited not only from email blasts, the website, but always getting answers when asked. She mentioned that she and her family were very interested in the indoor pool for many reasons she won't get into now but also as her husband is a triathlete and was looking for a year round place to continue to pursue their endeavor. So she thanked the Board for all the work they put into the pool referendum and their everyday work.

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 March 2026; approval of the Minutes from the Continued Regular Board Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meeting from March 5, 2026, and Regular Board Meeting from March 19, 2026; acceptance of Park Foundation Gift of the art sculpture "Safe Haven" by Schencheng Xu; acceptance of Executive Director Arnold's Review and Contract Extension; approval of D200 IGA Facilities; and, approval of FOPCON | PDOP Agreement. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

V. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Executive Director's Report** – In addition to the Executive Director's Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold noted the Legislative Conference which will take place on May 5-6 and informed the Board there are a lot of items in front of the Senate including the unhoused, licensing of the reaction programs, usage of electronic bikes and motorized activities in parks, plus more. The spring tour is planned for Thursday, May 14, 5pm-6:30pm and will include Rehm pool, Pleasant Home, and the Field Center. One of the Board mentioned that an ebike accident had been witnessed and they were concerned about them in our parks. The Board were informed that while electronic vehicles are not allowed in the parks currently, regular bikes are allowed as that would be very hard to enforce if they were not allowed. Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that she would bring back what was said at the legislative conference to them.
- B. Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.
- C. Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Administration and Finance Committee

1. Parks Foundation Annual Update – Tawa Mitchell provided the Board with an update on the Parks Foundation. She informed them of items they have been working on including the CRC capital campaign, the newly donated art sculpture they purchased for \$9,000 that will now be located at Longfellow Park, and they are in the process of working on the afterschool program grant. They also are continuing to raise funds for scholarships for equitable access to the park district programs for all. Tawa mentioned they are always looking for people to join the Parks Foundation, people who are passionate about our village, our parks, and those who can think expansively on how to bring in funds. She



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

commended the Board saying, “not every Park District has a charitable arm that we do, and she continually hears appreciation from a diverse array of people about the scholarships that they received allowing them to participate in programming.” The Board thanked her for the work the Parks Foundation does and for the sculpture which encapsulates all that we do; it is a great addition to our park. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

2. Maverick Vehicle Purchases Approval

Commissioner Wollmuth - *I move that the Board approve the purchase of two Ford Maverick Hybrid XL AWD vehicles from Ziegler Ford for the combined purchase price of \$65,889.26 and grant Executive Director Arnold authorization to sign contracts for them.* Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the information presented to them at the COW meeting to purchase two hybrid vehicles in place for the one electric vehicle that was budgeted for. Since the last meeting upon reaching out to the dealership, there was a slight difference in pricing going up \$889.26 as the vehicles we originally looked at had been sold and the new vehicles that we could purchase had this increase. The Board confirmed this number would remain solid and was told we would be calling the dealership to confirm the sale directly following the meeting. The Board requested the mileage of the vehicles that were being replaced and were told it would be sent to them. All agreed these hybrid vehicles make sense and should improve our fleet/system.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wollmuth and seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

1. 2026 Performance Measures 1st Quarter Review – Ann Marie Buczek introduced Cara Bryan, Data Insights Analyst, was providing updates for the Performance Measures moving forward and briefly reminded the Board of the history and timeline of past staff and information on this report. Cara explained that with our technology the deep dive that can be looked into for different areas to help with strategy and better decision making. She then gave a tour of charts she had created in empower and showed them the breakout abilities including how past information was lumped together but how easy the metrics can now be broken down by: invoice dates, sale dates, for registration overlaps to compare information across seasons as well as building space being used and the percentage of time, cancellations, etc. Cara stressed how the cancellations are watched and can grow to popular programs and are encouraged for creativity to keep the Park District programming growing and fresh. The Board thanked her for the vast information. **No Board action is needed on this item.**

B. **Parks and Planning Committee** – None

C. **Recreation and Facility Program Committee** – None

D. **VII. NEW BUSINESS** – None

VIII. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Onayemi: Commissioner Onayemi updated the Board on the IGOV meeting where a presentation was given on the Fridge Project and how it has been taken over by the community and the complications of that and who is sponsoring the overseeing and capabilities of the project. Five locations had been chosen, funding was discussed, and discussion on how it should be taken care of. The IGOV website is up now up at the Library and information is looking to be put into it along with links to all the entities. And he finished with a brief update on each entity they gave at the meeting.

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Commissioner Worley-Hood will attend the FOPCON meeting on Monday and mentioned that everything was open now and the fields are being well used.

Commissioner Lentz: Wanted to remind staff as we are getting ready for Day In Our Village to pay attention to whatever handouts we create so that we don't create too much waste, so we align with our mission. The plant sale is live on FOPCON's website for everyone and the plants looked great, adding it is a great way to support the Conservatory.

Commissioner Wollmuth: Commissioner Wollmuth was unable to attend the last IGOV meeting.

President Porreca: President Porreca and Executive Director Arnold attended the COG meeting via Zoom, and she brought up the interference and unfounded negative comments regarding the pool referendum from other government entities and the disappointment as we have said from day one that we are neutral and that going to referendum was asked for by the community survey; and it is now answered. It is done, there will not be any looking elsewhere. She then mentioned the Gary Cuneen one view was very nice.

IX. CLOSED SESSION – None

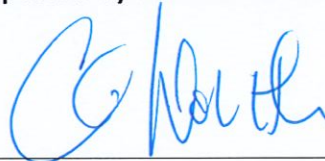
X. ADJOURNED REGULAR BOARD MEETING

At 7:49pm, 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.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

May 21, 2026
Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

May 21, 2026
Date