

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

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Minutes

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

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; Nelson Acevedo, Director of Parks & Facilities; Maureen McCarthy, Deputy Director of Recreation; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC – None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Onayemi and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of April 2026; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from April 2, 2026, and Regular Board Meeting from April 16, 2026; review of Ethics Ordinance 2015-05-01; approval of 2026 IGA Parking Agreement PDOP|VOP; and approval of Disposal Ordinance 2026-05-15. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0.**

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 reminded the Board that tomorrow, May 22, the ribbon cutting for Rehm Pool followed by swimming from 5-7pm for staff and their families will take place with Senator Harmon, Representative Lilly, along with PDCC members in attendance. On Saturday, May 23, the ribbon cutting will take place at Andersen Park; everything is looking great! Water spray pads will be opened on Saturday after the ribbon cutting. Rhem and RCRC pools are filled and memorial weekend all splash pads will be open until the end of September. Day in our Village is scheduled on June 6 and if any of the Board members are free, let her know as it is a great opportunity to talk to the community. Finally, the Board Retreat is scheduled for June 16 from 10am-3pm. Discussions on branding, program pricing, tax and revenue allocations, and 2027 budget guidelines are on the agenda.

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. PDOP Branding Guidelines – Anne Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement, presented the Board with ‘homework’ to look over prior to the discussion at the Board Retreat regarding branding. She then went on to share that the PDOP Brand Style Guide was developed in 2014 making it 11 years old which include logo rules, colors, fonts, and more. We will be looking at how our branding makes residents feel when they see it and think of us, what we should identify. We will be looking at the Why, which every organization should do as the ‘Why’ is very impactful. Brand standards will be discussed with staff prior to the retreat asking their thoughts on the Why we exist and how we get through the day-to-day. The Board commented that looking how we fit with our peer agencies is something to think about; roles, guiding star, values, etc. **No action is needed by the Board at this time.**

B. Parks and Planning Committee

1. Conservatory Master Plan Update – Executive Director Arnold shared that she and Chris Wollmuth along with Patti Staley were in attendance at the Conservatory Master Plan update with approximately 30 people in attendance including PDCC and FOPCON members. It was revised in 2008 and 2014 with a focus on an adjacent home purchase which unfortunately the PDOP had not been notified of when it sold, so this will no longer be a priority. The master plan include ADA concerns which is challenging due to its historic component as well as artwork, the fountain in the court yard, the glass glazing, and lighting. Costs will be put together and then brought to the Board. The Board discussed the safety glass that has been replacing the original glass. **No action is needed by the Board at this time.**

C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None

D. VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Commissioner Worley-Hood missed the IGOV meeting and has not heard anything from the affiliates which he feels is a good start this season.

Commissioner Lentz: Commissioner Lentz shared that Festival Theater has started planning their summer season and have gone back to two plays which you can now buy as a bundle, and you can use the tickets at any time. She feels it is a great approach which doesn’t tie you to any particular night. She also mentioned how green all the parks are now.

President Porreca: Absent.

Commissioner Onayemi: Commissioner Onayemi gave an IGOV update stating the meeting began with an update regarding West Suburban Hospital, there were no immediate concerns for the PDOP regarding this. D97’s new superintendent will be starting in September. D200 had their graduation and are gearing up for the 3rd phase of construction which includes their performing arts. The Library is reexamining their Master Facility Plan and will be putting it out to the public. The Township Meeting had over 500 people attend their meeting which caused them to reschedule it to a larger space. The VOP are looking to have a discussion on referendums in the fall, and they are also looking at a variable water rate.



President Wollmuth: President Wollmuth responded to the Oak Park Public Library’s request for office hours with each entities boards attending saying he felt it would be little bit of a duplicate as they make time at two meetings a month, at master planning meetings, at the PDCC meetings, etc., for public input but stated they will stay tuned and see how this idea ends up.

IX. CLOSED SESSION – None

X. ADJOURNED

At 7:48pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi to adjourn. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.

Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

June 18, 2026
Date

President
Board of Park Commissioners

June 18, 2026
Date

