



**Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 7:30pm**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Aeschleman, Guarino, Lentz, and Wick. President Bullock arrived at 7:35pm.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Revenue Services; Poppy Vogel, Cheney Mansion Supervisor; and M.E. Kennedy, Recreation Department Assistant.

Others Present: Joan Fiscella, League of Women Voters, and residents.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda. **The motion was passed by a voice vote.**

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Sullivan – 825 Home Avenue – Stated that he is here representing the 1,500 children who participate in OPYBS, and that he cedes the remainder of his three minutes to Brian Endless.

Brian Endless – 1272 N. Columbian Avenue – Representing OPYB/S – Stated that he has been involved for three years in the permitting process, and that it has shown some advances during the past two years, but that he was disappointed at the first and second drafts for this year's spring/summer permits. He is concerned about hours going down over time and wants to ask the Board for help; saying that OPYB/S teams can barely play with the number of hours they are currently allotted. Oak Park fields have not been sufficient for more than five years, and they have been pushed "significantly outside of Oak Park" and as tax payers we want our kids to play in Oak Park. He feels that the Park District should not be expanding its own programs when we do not have the available field space, calling it "bad public policy" to create new programs instead of using space for existing groups. He wants to change the permitting process, where requests are submitted earlier and the process includes consultations prior to the initial permits being released. Regarding RCRC, he felt a lot of concern but it has since been fixed. He also said he wanted to address two myths: 1) that their participation numbers are down and 2) that three hours per player is realistic stating that they would actually like to grow their program (Fall Ball, etc.) and they need closer to five hours per person in order to have a season. He wants the Board to reconsider the PACT program.

Gary Nieslawski – 1025 Home Avenue – Representing OPYB/S – Stated that the reason RCRC is important to them is that it contains the only two fields in the Village that will accommodate 11 and 12 year olds as age-appropriate fields. These groups and their highly successful summer travel league (Eagles) "can't be competitive if they can't practice."

Robert Kleps – 142 S. Kenilworth Avenue – Thanked the Board for reconsidering the Carroll Park plan and left materials and suggestions for consideration.

Jeff Arnold – 547 Forest Avenue – Representing OPYB/S – As the father of three boys, he noted that it is difficult for parents to get all their children to each team's practice when they have to travel outside of Oak Park due to lack of field space here. He believes we should be keeping everything here in the community, as families end up eating meals and spending free time in other areas when their events take place outside of Oak Park; this time could be spent here and would benefit the local community.

Jared Koulire – 625 S. Oak Park Avenue – Representing OPYBS - Stated that it is important to introduce his young son to the community through baseball.

Beth Vogt – 829 Wenonah Avenue – Representing OPYBS - Stated that though the softball leagues are not competitive like their baseball counterparts, participation is a great learning experience for the girls.

Kim Frost – 1141 S. Grove Avenue – Thanked the Board for reconsidering the Carroll Park batting cages. Noise, has prompted neighbors in the past to call the police regarding that green space.

Andrew Reynolds – 625 S. Lombard Avenue – Representing OPYBS – Stated that he is a t-ball coach for the Pintos League and noted the many beautiful nights for family picnics in Oak Park after their games. They would like to expand these kinds of events here in the community.

Tom Kindler – 813 Clinton Avenue – Representing AYSO – Stated that he supports all that OPYB/S representatives said and added from the soccer perspective, their teams are in good shape for spring; fall is the season that is challenging for them. They also sometimes must go outside of Oak Park in order to find adequate field space. He agrees that earlier permitting may be helpful.

President Bullock thanked everyone and said that the Board fully understands the lack of space and the issues it brings. She assured attendees that the Park District would be in touch.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Guarino and seconded by Commissioner Wick to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Cash Status Report and Warrants and Bills for the month of February, 2014; Park Board minutes from the February 6, 2014, Committee of the Whole Meetings, February 20, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, Executive Session Minutes from February 20, 2014, and the Revised FOIA Rules and Forms – Resolution 2014-03-01. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, updated the Board on construction progress at RCRC, athletic field conditions and plans on their opening for play as well as alternatives in the interim (e.g. space at D97 schools and on PDOP tennis courts), the Longfellow Master Plan review, and an upcoming volunteer cleanup day at Longfellow. She also informed the Board on coverage at the Park District during her absence.

B. Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information): Helen Vogel, Cheney Mansion Supervisor, presented current updates to the Board on staff and ongoing projects and achievements.

C. Revenue/Expense Status Report – None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – None

B. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee

1. Cheney Mansion Greenhouse Contract*

Commissioner Aeschleman moved and Commissioner Lentz seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve a contract with ATP, from Northfield, IL, in the amount of \$403,000 for the renovation of the Cheney Mansion Greenhouse. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the history of the greenhouse project as well as the many discussions that have taken place at Board Meetings as well. The bid was published in January and the lowest responsible bidder was ATP. After reducing the scope of the project (removing floor in-floor heating) and using SRA funds, the project is now within budget. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.

2. Carroll Master Plan*

A) Commissioner Aeschleman moved and Commissioner Wick seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve Phase II of the Carroll Park Master Plan; and

B) Approve authorization to engage Altamanu Inc., Chicago, Illinois, for \$74, 993.98 to create project bid specifications consistent with the approved master plan and to provide oversight of Carroll Park Phase II construction. Executive Director Arnold noted that Altamanu Inc. was hired in 2005 to create the Carroll Park Master Plan and that Phase I improvements were completed in 2006. Altamanu Inc. was engaged to assist in facilitating the master plan review and community meeting. From the community meeting, a children's discovery area which D97 supports and concerns about batting cages locations for which the Board has since begun looking at other potential locations in south-side parks. Discussion took place on the open "flex space" or possible other use. The motions passed with a roll call vote of 4:1. Commissioner Aeschleman voted nay.

C. Administration and Finance Committee - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Aeschleman** – Would like to spend more time talking about PACT, suggesting that the Board should look more at the historical data when scheduling for the current season.
- **Commissioner Guarino** – Agrees with Commissioner Aeschleman about the PACT program, revisiting the program and determining how to better allocate the fields. He also noted that basketball practice at the D97 schools was pushed back so that OPYBS could use the gym space, reminding everyone that the basketball families are taxpayers, too.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – Stated that no matter what the project is, things can be better. She quoted the adage "the definition of a good settlement is that everyone is equally unhappy" and suggested that perhaps the solution is to put everyone in a room together so that all can work to get through the process. She hopes for mutual knowledge and respect.
- **Commissioner Wick** – Is thrilled to see so many people from the community showing support of their organization. He also commented that he loves the new Ridgeland Common facility and how everything is coming together.

- **Commissioner Bullock** – Is looking forward to working together toward a resolution to the issues raised.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:46pm Commissioner Lentz moved and Commissioner Guarino seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners convene into closed session for the discussion of appointment, employment, or performance of a specific employee of the District or discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Park District. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

At 9:45pm a motion was made by Commissioner Guarino and seconded by Commissioner Wick to adjourn the Executive Session. **The motion passed a voice vote of 5:0.**

X. ADJOURN MEETING

At 9:45pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned by voice vote. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**


Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

May 15, 2014
Date


President
Board of Park Commissioners

May 15, 2014
Date