



**Park District of Oak Park  
Regular Board Meeting  
Hedges Administrative Center  
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois  
Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 7:30pm**

**Minutes**

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

**I. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioners Aeschleman, Lentz, Wick, and President Bullock. Commissioner Guarino arrived at 7:31pm.

**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; Helen Vogel, Cheney Mansion Supervisor; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

**Others Present:** Daniel Grove, Tod Stanten and Neelay Bhatt, PDOP Survey Consultants; 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**

Robert Kleps – 142 S. Kenilworth Avenue – Thanked the Board for reconsidering the Carroll Park plan and comments from the Community Meeting and left materials and suggestions for consideration for use of the space in the future.

**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 March; Committee of the Whole minutes, March 6, 2014, Ridgeland Common Recreation Complex Tour minutes, March 8, 2014, Regular Board minutes, March 20, 2014, Executive Session minutes, March 6 and 20, 2014; the Fox Master Plan – Phase II; Longfellow Master Plan – Phase II; and the Executive Director's Contract. **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, security measures being taken on-site, the moving of the memorial stone in front of RCRC, conditions of the sports fields and use, the timeline for the partnership with the VOP for the repair of the water reservoir at Stevenson Park and the upcoming renovation, the dog park and monitoring of its use in conjunction with the planned opening of an off-leash area in the Forest Preserve's Miller Meadow.

**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. Professional Services for Fox and Longfellow Parks – Phase II\***

Commissioner Aeschleman moved and Commissioner Wick seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve authorization to engage Planning Resources Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, for \$27,970 to create project bid specifications consistent with the approved master plans for Longfellow Park and Fox Park and to provide oversight of Phase II construction at both Longfellow Park and Fox Park. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the master plan reviews for Phase II of Fox and Longfellow Parks, funds and their approval of the plans in the 2014 CIP. The two projects were bid together for savings. PRI's professional services and oversight for the two projects totaled \$27,970. The Board was happy with the cost savings for bidding the two projects together. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

### **C. Administration and Finance Committee - None**

#### **1. Naming of the Oak Park Conservatory's East Garden\***

Commissioner Aeschleman moved and Commissioner Lentz seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the honorary naming of the East Avenue Garden/Fourth Showroom the Elsie Jacobsen Discovery Garden. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that FOPCON had requested the East Garden be named after Elsie Jacobsen and be called the Elsie Jacobsen Discovery Garden as previously discussed at the April COW Meeting. Executive Director Arnold went on to inform the Board of the extensive community work that Ms. Jacobsen accomplished along with being recognized by the Park District with a Community Service Award and the Illinois State House when they lowered their flag to half-mast when she passed away. Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that Ms. Jacobsen fit the criteria of the policy for naming a park. The Board all agreed with naming the East Garden the Elsie Jacobsen Discovery Garden. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

#### **2. Community Survey Questions\***

Tod Stanten, Daniel Grove, and Neelay Bhatt reviewed the Community Survey with the Board and answered questions and concerns to move forward with a final product. No motion is required by the Board.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### **1. Cheney Mansion Operations Report – 2013**

Helen Vogel, Cheney Mansion Supervisor, began by addressing changes with her position from last year as well as the upcoming construction on the Cheney Mansion Greenhouse. She then discussed Cheney Mansion's rentals, revenues, expenditures, staff's work, bookings, programming, walk-in Wednesdays, special events, preferred caterers, what's ahead for the mansion, and marketing. No action is needed by the Board on this item.

## VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Aeschleman** – noted how nice it was to see the RCRC sports field in constant use. He has heard a lot of positive comments and that everyone is appreciating it.
- **Commissioner Guarino** – wanted to reiterate how great it is to see the use of the RCRC field. He questioned the few times he has seen the lights on with no teams present and wanted to make sure that the PDOP worked with the affiliates on the use of the lights.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – was present in LaGrange when the PDOP received the \$400,000 grant for Maple Park. It was a wonderful event and was it was great to share with our colleagues. The

Pleasant Home Foundation held their meeting and showed the new summer dining porch. The renovation is fantastic and the Parks Foundation is looking at ways to fund art in the PDOP.

- **Commissioner Wick** – voiced concern with trespassing at RCRC while the construction is taking place and wanted confirmation that it was being addressed.
- **Commissioner Bullock** – stated how wonderful the RCRC dog park and synthetic turf field opening was and that it was great news for the PDOP - receiving the OSLAD grant awarded to Maple Park.

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:23pm Commissioner Aeschleman moved and Commissioner Wick seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners convene into closed session for the 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 8:43pm 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 8:43pm 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