



**Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Oak Park Conservatory
615 Garfield Street
Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, April 9, 2015**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

I. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Aeschleman, Guarino, Lentz, Wick and President Bullock.

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Diane Stanke, Director of Marketing and Customer Service; Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Revenue Services; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Chris Lindgren, Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Beth Cheng and Ellen Kuner, FOPCON; and Josephine Bellalta and John MacManus, Altamanus.

II. Public Comment

III. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

A. Art Advisory Committee's Presentation of Art Selection for GRC

Patrick Dahlstrom and Maureen McCarthy presented a model of the artwork chosen by the AAC from the call out for proposals from across the country which received 16 responses. Texas artist Brent Baggett's proposal was chosen as they felt it captured the movement that represented the GRC. A small scale model of the artwork was shown along with mock drawings of the piece at the GRC. This information was shared to the Parks Foundation at their meeting on April 8, where they approved fundraising for the \$30,000 needed for the artwork, dependent upon the PDOP's Board's approval. The Board discussed the following: the artwork's material, size, maintenance, moving costs, anchoring, the possibility of children climbing it, and the timeline. The Board gave consensus for the Park Foundation to move forward with fundraising and confirmed that once the funds were met, it would be brought back to the Board for contract approval. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

IV. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee

A. Oak Park Conservatory Annual Report

Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations, began by reminding the Board that 2014 had been a transitional year with Henrietta Yardley retiring at the end of 2013 and Scott Stewart's year as Conservatory Manager through 2014. Patti discussed from the Annual Report: visitors, revenue, programs, staff, plants including the placement of more perennials, events, FOPCON volunteers, and the Elsie Jacobsen garden. She also spoke of the new responsibilities of the Conservatory staff of taking over of Cheney Mansion's gardens along with all of the park beds' maintenance and care. The Board questioned the savings of bringing the park care in-house versus contracted and were informed the decision was made for the quality of our parks and the Board also discussed the gift shop and its marketing. The Board asked for future budget reports to show separation of Conservatory expenses versus park landscape expenses. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

B. FOPCON's Annual Report

Ellen Kuner, President of FOPCON, informed the Board of all that the Friends were involved with at the Conservatory including their events, volunteers, tours, docents, cross promoting and working with D97 and D200 to bring classes and students into the Conservatory. She showed the Board activities made and provided by the Friends including: explorer's backpacks, scavenger game cards, and scratch and feel scavenger cards. The Friends are very excited for the start of the Elsie Jacobsen garden which they presented a \$100,000 check for and the additional space for programming and natural area it's providing. The Board thanked Ellen for all of the Friends efforts. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

C. Barrie Park Master Plan Update

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the three focus groups held, two community meetings and two surveys seeking feedback from the community. John MacManus, Altamanu, ran through a Powerpoint of the main results derived from the meetings and surveys including: entrances, the park's center, connectivity between the park and center, the retaining wall, athletic fields, the sled hill, playground, landscaping, drainage, sidewalks and ADA updates. The Board discussed many of the Powerpoint issues in depth, additionally the reservoir and PDOP's lease for Barrie Park. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

D. Middle School Fields Project Update

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the remaining funds have been secured and that two community meetings had been planned. Boy Scouts are handing out the community meeting information around a two block radius of each of the schools over the weekend. The Board questioned how the lights are being marketed, to make sure that the community will know the dimensions of the light fixtures and the times they would be running. The Board also suggested contacting the Irving School PTO to possibly show up at the meetings to explain the positive experience of turf being placed at Irving School. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

V. Administration and Finance Committee

A. Agreement with Service Employees International Union Update

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the last bargaining agreement was signed between the PDOP and SEIU in April 2012, and will expire in April 2016. A new contract will be negotiated over the next months to accommodate any changes during the budgeting process. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

B. Bi-Annual Executive Session Minutes Review and Release

Bi-annually the Executive Session minutes are to be reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act. Once reviewed, released minutes will be available for public viewing. The Board was informed of the meeting dates of the Executive Session minutes continuing to be held and the Executive Session minutes to be released upon their review by the Board Secretary, Executive Director, and PDOP attorney. **This will come before the Board at the March Regular Board Meeting under the consent agenda.**

C. Performance Measures

Bobbi Nance, Project Manager, ran through the progress for the first quarter. She also explained how the staff has begun to embrace the measures and that the information is being placed on our web page for transparency. Bobbi briefly discussed the following: the micro-main, progress of goals, cancellations, and performance. The Board questioned accident/incidents and how they are cited and were informed that we follow PDRMA's guidelines. The Board thanked Bobbi. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

D. PDOP Report Card

Bobbi Nance, Project Manager, first explained that this is the PDOP's first report card. During the process to create it and her searches of other Park District's report cards to model the PDOP's after, she was only able to locate one other in the United States and that was run through a not-for-profit evaluating parks in New York. She stated the PDOP should be proud of our scores as overall we received good grades on our parks for the parameters that we are in. The Board discussed the parking grade and areas in need of improving. The Board thanked Bobbi for her work and stated that it was good to see the grades and to be in the forefront of how we look at our District. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

E. Park District of Oak Park's 103rd Birthday Update

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that on April 2, it was the Park District's 103rd Birthday. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

F. Consolidated Election Park Board Update

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the election for our three Board seats took place on Tuesday, April 7. The certification of the results will not take place until the end of April but the current results show the incumbents Vic Guarino and Paul Aeschleman having retained their positions and Kassie Porreca as the new Board Member. The April Board Meeting will be continued to the May 7, COW where the Oath of Office will be given for the Board members to be inducted. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

VI. New Business - None

VII. Executive Session

At 9:30pm Commissioner Guarino moved and Commissioner Wick 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 Park District. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

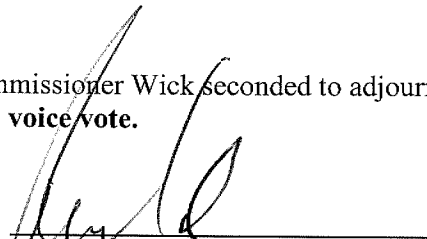
At 10:14pm a motion was made by Commissioner Guarino and seconded by Commissioner Wick to adjourn the Executive Session. **The motion passed a voice vote of 5:0.**

VIII. Adjournment

At 10:14p.m. Commissioner Guarino motioned and Commissioner Wick seconded to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. **Motion carried in a voice vote.**


Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

May 21, 2015
Date


President
Board of Park Commissioners

May 21, 2015
Date