



**Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:30pm**

Minutes

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory Operations; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Marilyn Cantisano, League of Women Voters; Chris Wollmuth, GAC; Ellen Kuner, FOPCON; Marianne Birko, Executive Director WSSRA; and Cathy Morgan and her son Eddy.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of February, 2016; approval of minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting February 4, 2016, and the Regular Board Meeting February 18, 2016; approval of the Austin Gardens Master Plan; and approval of the Executive Director's Contract. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, updated the Board on the construction at the AGEEC; the Arbor Day joint celebration and the 50 students from Julian Middle School who will work with arborists to tag the trees with tree tags created displaying the type of leaves on the tree when it is not dormant; Representative Lilly will be on hand to plant two trees donated by the village. Mills Park art in the park is being planned with 12 pieces of art that will be placed around Mills Park for residents to enjoy; Maureen McCarthy will be on the selection committee for the art pieces. The egg hunt will take place at Taylor Park this Saturday; and controlled burns will be taking place at both Austin Gardens and Lindberg Park, the boy scouts will be delivering fliers with the information to residents within a two block radius.

B. Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information) – Written Report Included in Board Packet.

C. Revenue/Expense Status Report – No questions asked.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – None

B. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee

1. Professional Services – Building Assessments

Commissioner Guarino moved and Commissioner Wick seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve a contract with Walter Daniels Construction Company, Inc., of Chicago, IL, for an amount not to exceed \$27,130.40, for the Professional Services – Building Assessments. The Board was reminded of the information discussed at the COW Meeting. A consultant is to be hired to create a baseline for assessment of conditions; a tool similar to the Park Report Card is being developed for their use. The Board discussed previous information obtained on the buildings and the sharing of the information versus gathering new information. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

C. Administration and Finance Committee – None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. WSSRA Annual Report

Marianne Birko, Executive Director WSSRA, began by explaining the start of WSSRA and a brief history as its 40th anniversary is coming up. Marianne highlighted the eleven partners, individuals using WSSRA, and the programs. She then went on to name the Top 10 Reasons why WSSRA is the best including scholarships, fundraisers, donations, employment of youth, volunteers and events. Then Ms. Cathy Morgan and her son Eddy talked to the board about the impact WSSRA has had on her family and Eddy. Eddy spoke of his accomplishments and sports and activities he participated in and counted his medals he had received. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

2. Greening Advisory Committee (GAC) Annual Update

Chris Wollmuth, GAC Chair, informed the Board of their broadening of the GAC participants with their knowledge level. They had a great success with their 0 waste events which both the VOP and Seven Generations partnered with. They have done study gardens to study different methods of weed control, expanded their partnerships with staff, were involved with the gathering of information for reusing of the splash pads' water. They were involved in the choice of Nike Grind on the middle school fields. They currently are one person short of their full committee. The Board discussed the possibility of moving the meetings to evenings to gather more interest for the committee as well as went more into depth on the study gardens. The Board thanked Chris and the GAC for their work. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

3. Friends of Oak Park Conservatory (FOPCON) Update

Ellen Kuner, President of FOPCON, informed the Board of the great year they had with the Conservatory staff along with the success of their Toddler Exploration Time, special events, their accumulation of volunteer hours equaling 3.5 employees a savings for the PDOP, the new shed in the Elsa Jacobsen garden, Kidsfest, and garden hosts on weekends. They will be hosting their 35th anniversary on September 10, all are welcome to come and help celebrate. The Board thanked Ellen for all of the Friends' efforts. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

4. Oak Park Conservatory Operations Annual Report

Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations, began by reminding the Board that she had been in her position one full year and that the staff was becoming a team and connecting with other departments. They are trying to generate revenue with new programming, the bulb sale, winter green sale as well as new items in the gift shop. Special events are being planned including Kidsfest, Fallfest, and Fright Night. The building of relationships between other conservatories and the University of Chicago and the botanical gardens are also taking place. Construction last year cost them their rentals and they are working on how to bring it back in line; -hours of operation are being reevaluated. They are

working on opening up the conservatory to new audiences. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Guarino** – Stated how great it was to see everyone out on the fields. Baseball tryouts are currently going on.
- **Commissioner Wick** – Is looking forward to the new season. A lot of programming for spring and summer are beginning or going to begin and all the different options contribute to the residents' happiness.
- **Commissioner Porreca** – Attended the WSSRA banquet for volunteers, it was a very nice event. The PDOP is their biggest partner.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – Said it was great to see Festival Theatre working hard on their financials; they have hired a Managing Director.
- **Commissioner Aeschleman** – Enjoyed the tour of the AGEEC and stated it was great to see people back out on the fields playing ball and said hopefully with the mild winter the cleanup was able to start early.

X. CLOSED SESSION

At 8:46pm Commissioner Wick moved and Commissioner Lentz 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 9:26pm a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Guarino to adjourn the Executive Session. **The motion passed a voice vote of 5:0.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

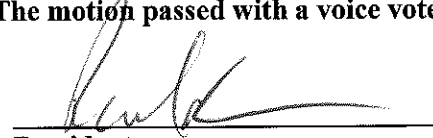
At 9:26pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

March 17, 2016

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

March 17, 2016

Date

