



**PARK DISTRICT**  
of OAK PARK

**Park District of Oak Park  
Committee of the Whole  
Hedges Administrative Center  
Oak Park, Illinois  
Thursday, September 6, 2018**

**Minutes**

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

**I. Roll Call**

**Present:** Commissioners Lentz, Porreca, Wick, and President Guarino. Commissioner Aeschleman was absent.

**Park District Staff present:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Revenue Services; Diane Stanke, Director of Marketing and Customer Service; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

**Others Present:** Igor Studenkov, Wednesday Journal, and residents.

**II. Public Comment**

Art Souder – 27-year resident, asking the Board for dedicated pickle ball courts. He informed the board that pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in the nation, 10% annually. He explained that River Forest has dedicated platform tennis and that pickle ball courts are less money to dedicate than building platform tennis courts. He believes that our CIP says there are a surplus of three tennis courts in our system and he would like to repurpose them for pickle ball courts.

David Welch – A River Forest resident who has helped in developing the OP/RF Pickle Ball Club. He wanted to state that he is thankful for the pickle ball lines that the Park District has put down but there simply still is not enough with the continued growth of pickle ball.

Joanne Libfeld – A resident for 38 years and has played tennis most of those years but the tennis craze has died down and pickle ball has picked up. It is an intergenerational sport, kids can play with grandparents and parents can play with kids. If there were dedicated pickle ball courts, the Park District could hold lessons, clinics, and tournaments; it would be a win-win situation. Pickle ball is a sport where lasting friendships occur, it is the easiest way to make new friends as active adults.

Judy Sepsey – She is a 30-year resident. She retired three years ago and was volunteering at the food pantry and met a pickle ball player who invited her to play. Since then she has become an avid player and has seen it grow from a church gymnasium to the three marked courts in Oak Park. She is happy with what the Park District has done for pickle ball but there are so many players that more space is needed and she asked if we would consider using Rehm just for pickle ball.

John Wallis – Lived in Oak Park since 1983; just started playing pickle ball and stated it is a great community and that this is the perfect chance for the Park District to make it what the Park District wants it to be. This is a sport that active adults can still play!

Jose Sosa – Worked at the high school for 35 years and is now a USA ambassador for the western suburb travel pickle ball as well as running the website Play Pickle Ball Have Fun. The growth of the sport is

astronomical he stated, a lot of communities have dedicated courts; demand is there. He stated it would be recognized as a true sport if courts were dedicated to it. Using the courts lined on a tennis court he explained, "There are certain shots that cannot be made due to the lines put on a tennis court compared to a regulated pickle ball court."

President Guarino thanked them all for coming and stating their cause and that the District is going through its planning process the next couple of weeks and will keep these comments in mind.

### **III. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None**

### **IV. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee**

#### **A. 99-Year Lease For Stevenson Park**

The Board was reminded of the history of the lease and that we had been working with the VOP to get a new one updated. The VOP was requiring storage space at Stevenson for mulch, that the Village Manager be allowed to comment on plans that would affect the reservoir, and finally, that the Park District would be responsible for the replacement of the park should it be disturbed by any work done on the reservoir. The Board discussed the Villages requirements and other spaces that could store the mulch without using part of Stevenson Park. They all agreed that an agreement needed to be reached so the lease could be signed which would allow the Park District to go for the OSLAD grant. **This will be brought before the Board for approval at the September Regular Board Meeting under the consent agenda.**

### **V. Administration and Finance Committee**

#### **A. OSLAD Grant Authorization**

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that the Park District would be putting in an application for an OSLAD Grant for Stevenson Park, pending the Lease for Stevenson Park, and was looking for the Board's approval of the resolution. The Board discussed other Park possibilities to move forward with if the Village did not sign the Stevenson Lease. **This will come before the Board on the regular agenda at the September Regular Board Meeting.**

#### **B. D97 Carroll Park Intergovernmental Agreement**

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the upcoming construction to Lincoln School. D97 was requesting the use of the flex space during construction for staging with a trailer and materials. If approved, it allowed for a portion of the playground to remain open for use of students and the community. The Board agreed this was a great collaboration. **This will be brought before the Board for approval at September Regular Board Meeting under the consent agenda.**

#### **C. Draft 2018 Tax Levy**

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board they must approve a property tax levy ordinance annually which provides operating funds for the next year's operations. The Property Tax Extension Lamination Law (PTELL) limits the dollar amount of the tax levy increase to an amount no greater than the consumer price index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less. The 2018 tax year levy PTELL limit is 2.1%. The District's draft tax levy amount is 3.6% or 1.5% more than the PTELL limit of 2.1 % for 2018. The county clerk will adjust the dollar amount levied to the PTELL limit once the EAV has been determined in mid-2019. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

#### **D. ADA Plan Review**

The Board was apprised of the history of the ADA plan for the District and that it had been approved in April of 2013. The Board discussed the many improvements that had been made to every one of our parks and the work ahead needed. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

**E. NRPA Conference Update**

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board the NRPA conference which runs from September 25-27, will have key staff attending as well as Commissioners Lentz and Wick. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

**F. Community Service Award Nominations Gathered**

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board it is the time of the year to gather nominees to award their service to the community. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

**VI. New Business** - None

**VII. Closed Session** – None

**VIII. Adjournment**

At 8:26p.m. a voice vote was taken to adjourn the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried in a voice vote.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

**October 18, 2018**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**President**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

**October 18, 2018**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

