



**PARK DISTRICT  
of OAK PARK**

**PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK  
Administration and Finance Committee  
Budget Session Meeting**

**Hedges Administrative Center  
218 Madison Street  
Oak Park, Illinois**

**Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:30pm**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

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

**Staff Present:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Finance Director; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources; Maureen McCarthy, Marketing & Customer Service Director; Susan Crane, Supervisor of Operations and Special Events - Cheney Mansion; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory Operations; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

**II. Public Comment**

Kitty

Conklin – Moved here in 2005, voted yes to the referendum in 2005, and uses the Parks a lot but stated she is at her limit with taxes as a citizen of Oak Park. She asked the Board to really think before moving ahead with a Community Center in the current environment in Oak Park.

Marty Bernstein – a 25-year resident, his kids have gone through the schools and used the parks but now the taxes are out of control. It needs to stop right now. Taxes are making him leave his home. IGOV isn't doing anything, all the Boards need to start fighting for lower taxes. "Anything you are hearing me say which is causing me to leave, is making others leave and who will buy these houses?" he asked. "Everything that you say is an investment won't be because there will be no one here to see it."

Bruce Kleinman – Has been here since 1983. Over the years many of the taxing bodies spoke about the side effects seen exponentially. He asked where the financing for the cost of the CRC is coming from? He went on to say that all the Oak Park Boards feel that everyone has money but that this is not Beverly Hills; and that a revolution is coming with the residents and they will stop everything trying to move forward in Oak Park.

**III. Budget Parameters**

Kyle Cratty, the Director of Finance, informed the Board that this year the Park District will be increasing the tax levy 3.6% for the 2018 Tax Levy. The District is subject to the property tax extension limitation law (PTELL) which caps the levy for 2018 at 2.1%. The District is increasing

the levy 3.6% to ensure the District receives the full 2.1%. The Board discussed in length the affects to the Park District down the line should the full limit not be taken. They were reminded of the increasing minimum wage and other rising costs including their desire to keep the parks up to the level that they currently are at.

**IV. Budget Discussions**

The Board discussed in length the affects to the Park District down the line should the full limit not be taken. They were reminded of the increasing minimum wage and other rising costs including their desire to keep the parks up to the level that they currently are at. Additionally, discussion took place with regards to the Harlem/Garfield TIF, and the PDOP taxing impact compared to other Oak Park taxing bodies.

Corporate Administration's 2019 budget was presented including discussion on the Strategic Goals and Administration budget including IT's fiscal savings. The Conservatory budget was presented including the addition of a new full-time staff member. The Parks and Planning discussed their upcoming projects and the grants they received. Cheney Mansion was presented and their plans to continue to grow their wedding and other rentals was discussed. Kyle presented, and general discussion took place on, the IMRF budget, Liability and Audit budgets including new safety trainings, along with the Museum Fund for Cheney Mansion and Pleasant Home, Special Recreation, Health Insurance, and Capital Projects.

**V. New Business**

None

**VI. Closed Session**

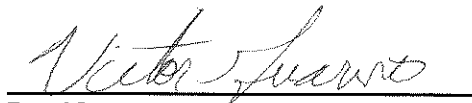
None

**VII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Wick and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to adjourn the meeting at 9:42pm. **Motion carried in a voice vote.**



**Secretary**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**



**President**  
**Board of Park Commissioners**

**October 18, 2018**  
**Date**

**October 18, 2018**  
**Date**