



**Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street, Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 7:30pm**

Minutes

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Worley-Hood, Wollmuth, Porreca, Wick, and President Lentz.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Travis Stephen, Sports Field Manager; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory Operations; Kayla Knazze, Recreation Fellow; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Joan Fiscella, League of Women Voters.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Porreca and seconded by Commissioner Wick to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of October, 2019; approval of minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting, October 3, 2019, Budget Meeting, October 10, 2019, Budget Meeting October 17, 2019, and the Regular Board Meeting, October 24, 2019; approval of the Administrative Policy Manual (Including Personnel, Administrative, Board Policies); approval of the Safety Manual; approval of the Crisis Manual; approval of the Environmental Policy; approval of the 2020 Committee and Board Meeting Calendar; approval of the LAPD Annual Meeting Credentials Certificate; and approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Oak Park for the “Gate” art sculpture. **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 that she was meeting with donors individually and with the Foundation members for the CRC; the Foundation is finalizing a video for the CRC which Roy Phifer and David Kindler, both past Board Members, are working on; a community meeting will be held at Cheney Mansion, February 6, for the CRC which Mary Jo Schuler will be attending. We attended the PDRMA Risk Management Institute where we received two safety awards for a flashing light for our alley entrance and collapsible dollies in our utility trucks. The holiday lights are going up around the parks and will be up until February 29. The outdoor rink structures are going up with the boards and the liners following dependent on the temperatures, their opening and closing will be on our website as well as with flags at each rink. We also attended the Legal Symposium where there was much talk about legislative changes with marijuana and reasonable suspicion trainings. The PACT agreements will be coming to the Board at the December COW.

B. Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information): The Board discussed the pullout of programs for active adults and scholarships.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None

B. Parks and Planning Committee - None

C. Administration and Finance Committee - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Internal Landscaping Update

Travis reminded the Board this was the 5th year for this update and feels that they have improved each year, even with this being the wettest spring in 123 years on record. They were busy aerating, overseeding, edging trees 6" and under and that have a memorial plaque, and mowing all the parks weekly. The battery powered lawn equipment has made a huge difference and is extremely quiet. Next year there are hopes to purchase more including battery powered chain saws. Patti said they are catching their stride in the 5th year, with all their natural areas and putting in place their best horticultural practices. They have changed out all the annuals to native perennials and have been changing areas and beds to add color and depth so it is just not beds of mulch. They continue to do prescribed burns and revamped the Dole property, behind the Prairie Center, and at Rehm around the VOP's compost area. They have been looking at outside areas for staff and volunteers as it is has been difficult to find the interest they used to get. They have partnered with OPRF for student volunteers and have had a really strong start this summer with staff from there. The Board thanked them for all their work and discussed the good experience with the student from OPRF, the bioswale construction, education videos of the burns, and the appreciation of AYSO on the fields. **No motion was needed by the Board.**

VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

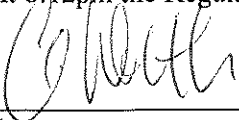
- **Commissioner Wollmuth** – Attended the Foundation meeting and they are very excited and energized working on the CRC project. He also attended the AYSO Board Meeting and he just wanted to say that they are doing a wonderful job and really working hard for those families involved to make it a fair and enjoyable experience.
- **Commissioner Worley-Hood** – Attended the ESAC meeting which he always enjoys hearing their projects for sustainability. He also attended the Pleasant Home Foundation meeting and said that they are struggling and have had to dip into funds set aside for restoration and have not been able to put any funds aside for the restoration fund.
- **Commissioner Porreca** – Attended the WSSRA Board Meeting and they had the most successful Falling from the Stars event to-date! WSSRA also approved their budget for the year-end. She also attended the IGOV meeting where the discussion of the legalization of marijuana was discussed and it came out that a lot of people do not understand the laws within the legalization of it and she suggested that maybe a FAQ sheet be put out to the whole community on the laws around it.
- **Commissioner Wick** – Also attended the IGOV meeting and said that the tax forum at IGOV has been moved to February 1, and hopes to have all the taxing bodies present for it. They will also have a sustainability forum in May. He attended the FOPCON meeting and stated it was very constructive and they are a very passionate group and then reminded the Board to try and take a program at the Park District that might be out of their comfort zone.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – Informed the Board that she had received an email from a resident who was a bird watcher at Taylor Park and had identified 86 different species of birds at that park and just wanted to remind the Board that not only do we affect the residents but all the other little critters and birds that visit our parks. She also had met with a business owner who expressed their pleasure with the pop-up bike program that ran this summer and was wondering about possible sponsorships with it. She also attended the IAPD Best of the Best awards and for the 4th year in a row the Park District of Oak Park received an award for sustainability showing that we are being recognized as a leader in this area. She has received an

email from NRPA to see if there might be a possibility of the sustainability program session that we put on at the conference last year working at the NRPA conference in 2020.

IX. CLOSED SESSION - None

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

December 19, 2019

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

December 19, 2019

Date

