



Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole
Hedges Administrative Center
Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, October 3, 2019

Minutes

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

I. Roll Call

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

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Illiana De La Rosa, Finance Manager; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture & Conservatory Operaitons; Kayla Knazze, Recreation Fellow; Susan Curtain, Parks and Planning Assistant; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Joan Fiscella, League of Women Voters; Mary Kay Minaghan and Heather Guido, FOPCON; and Igor Studenkov, Wednesday Journal Reporter.

II. Public Comment

Haviva Siegel – Stated she was here to speak on her upcoming meeting with Jan and Maureen on October 11, and to make sure the PDOP understands that inclusion is not the same as accessibility. She wants to present some ideas and tips in general and is frustrated about the Park District’s master plans and the lack of communication of the plans and construction. She stated the Rehm tennis courts began construction but she had no communication regarding this beginning. She is requesting that communication be better especially with the homes that flank the parks and allow more input on the 2005 master plans.

Laura Johnson – Is a southwest Oak Park mom of two young boys. She is a pediatric Physical Therapist and has many clients and neighbors and pre-school parents who use the parks and wanted to ask the Board why we are systematically stripping the parks natural green spaces, bushes and trees, and putting down cement and rubberized surfaces. She asked if we are best meeting the needs of participants of the parks while using the tax payer dollars?

Laura Stamp – Is a member of the Park District Citizens Committee and is currently the Chair of that committee and was there to remind the community that there is involvement in the planning. The PDCC and the PDOP spend a lot of time trying to reach out to people, finding people to talk to on what’s going on, plans, and to reach out. There are many ways to give your input in such as the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee who are tasked with increasing the natural environments and plantings in the parks among many other committees. She stated the Park District is open and transparent and has numerous opportunities for involvement. Recently the PDCC worked on the signs in the parks, the Equity Policy, which addresses age, disability, gender, etc., and how they are addressed in the parks.

Melissa Rivera Pierda - Has twin three year old boys. She is limited in the parks that she can take them to because it is very difficult to watch them and wrangle them in as they are full of energy and needs the parks completely enclosed. The Wenonah Tot Lot is a park that she frequents often and is one of the few with sand boxes. Her boys can spend hours playing in the sand but when she saw the proposed plan she

is glad that there are swings going in but is extremely upset that one of the few sand areas left in Oak Park is being eliminated.

III. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

A. Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education Agreement

Maureen McCarthy spoke to the Board regarding the benefits of the past year received with the collaboration between the Park District and the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care & Education including: new parenting resource programs, early detection screenings, hearing testing, and trainings for staff. The Board stated it was a good partnership. **This item will be brought to the Board for approval at the October Regular Board Meeting under the regular agenda.**

IV. Parks and Planning Committee

A. Professional Services Wenonah and Randolph Parks – Contract Approval

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that both Wenonah and Randolph Parks were slated to be renovated in 2020. Altamanu, Inc. updated both Randolph and Wenonah Master Plans in 2018. In Randolph Park the west side's current feature includes an age-appropriate playground area. The east portion is a passive area, with benches and chess tables, a drinking fountain, and bicycle rack. Updates to this area will include new multi-generational equipment, playground mounds and fitness equipment. In Wenonah Park renovations will include new swings and rolling hills. Updates to this area will include new swings and a rolling hill. **This item will be brought to the Board for approval at the October Regular Board Meeting under the regular agenda.**

B. Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee Application – Gordon Waldron

The Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee is actively looking for members. Gordon Waldron submitted an application to join the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee. He attended a meeting and expressed a desire to join the committee. He has a lot of experience that will benefit the committee. **This item will be brought to the Board for approval at the October Regular Board Meeting under the consent agenda.**

V. Administration and Finance Committee

A. 2019-2021 Audit Engagement Letter

The Board was reminded that we have used Lauterbach and Amen as auditors for the past three years. The Park District has been pleased with the quality of their work. Based on price, qualifications, quality of work, and experience with Park Districts, Lauterbach and Amen are being recommended for the upcoming auditing services for 2019-2021. The Board confirmed the working relationship for the past three years. **This item will be brought to the Board at the December Board Meetings for approval under the regular agenda.**

B. Copier Lease Agreement

The PDOP's copier agreement is about to expire. Staff reviewed the Park District's copying and printing needs and priced leases as well as purchasing of new machines. Staff found the cost of leasing machines which includes maintenance and flat rate usage to be the cheaper option. As a member of US Communities, pricing we receive has already been competitively bid assuring we are getting the lowest price. Impact Network was the vendor providing the best equipment and service at the lowest cost. Staff are recommending Impact Network with a three-year contract with two separate one-year renewals. The new pricing should save the Park District \$400 per quarter. **This item will be brought to the Board at the October Regular Board Meetings for approval under the regular agenda.**

C. EL Stop Name Change Discussion – FOPCON*

FOPCON Board members Mary Kay Minaghan and Heather Guido appraised the Board of FOPCON's desire to rename the East Avenue exit on the Oak Park Avenue Stop on the Blue Line to the Oak Park Conservatory stop. With this change they hope to get more visibility and have

the Conservatory be more of a destination stop. For this to happen, the Board would need to pass the attached resolution. The Board all agreed this would be a good way to bring in more visitors to the Conservatory. **This item will be brought to the Board at the October Regular Board Meetings for approval under the consent agenda.**

D. Budget Meetings Update

The Board were reminded of the two upcoming Budget Meetings scheduled on Thursday, October 10, 2019 and Thursday, October 17, 2019. Once the meetings are completed the Budget will be made available for the public for 30 days. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

E. IAPD Legal Symposium Update

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board of the IAPD Legal Symposium which is scheduled for November 14, and Commissioners Lentz and Wick will be attending with a few key staff. Information will be brought back and shared with Board and staff afterwards. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

C. Community Service Award Nominations Update

The Board discussed possible nominations for the upcoming Community Service Awards and they confirmed who would be the 2019 PDOP's Community Service Award nominees. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

VI. New Business

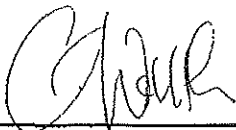
1. Oak Park Conservatory Greenhouse Repairs

Due to the vehicle/light pole accident that occurred, the glass must be repaired in the green house. Staff have been in touch with a contractor who has experience with historical preservation. This work has to be done immediately to diminish damage to the plants. The Board agreed it is good to have a company that has worked with this area previously. The Board also discussed the damage to the plants and general area. **This item will be brought to the Board at the October Regular Board Meetings for approval under the regular agenda.**

VII. Closed Session - None

VIII. Adjournment

At 8:30p.m. a voice vote was taken to adjourn the Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried in a voice vote.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

November 21, 2019

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

November 21, 2019

Date

