

## **Park District of Oak Park**

Park District of Oak Park Board information:  
Regular Board Meeting, October 22, 2015  
Joan Fiscella, Observer

[www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org)  
[www.pdop.org/about/park-board/](http://www.pdop.org/about/park-board/)

The meeting was held at the Hedges Administrative Center.

Present: Commissioners Paul Aeschleman (President); Victor Guarino (Vice President); Sandy Lentz (Secretary); Kassie Porecca, David Wick (Treasurer). Executive Director Jan Arnold.

President Aeschleman opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda:** The Board approved the agenda.

**Visitor/Public Comments:** None.

**Consent Agenda** – Commissioner Wick

The Commissioners approved the Consent Agenda, which included Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of September; Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes September 3, 2015; Special Board Meeting Minutes September 3, 2015; Regular Board Meeting Minutes, September 22, 2015; and Ordinance for Disposal 2015-10-01.

### **Staff Reports:**

Executive Director's Report.

Work on Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center is progressing, including insulation and walls. Geothermal work is beginning. A Brookdale resident is donating \$1,000 toward tagging trees.

The middle school project is behind schedule due to difficulty in securing a subcontractor.

### **Old Business:**

Recreation and Facility Program Committee: None

Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee.

Custodial Bid Awards: The Park Board of Commissioners accepted and approved the bid from Crystal Maintenance of Mount Prospect, IL, for Section I and Section III of the contract for a combined yearly cost of \$32,820.00, and also accepted and approved the bid from Eco Clean of Elmhurst, IL, for Section II for a yearly cost of \$25,680.00; totaling a yearly cost of \$58,500.

Administration and Finance Committee:

The Park Board of Commissioners approved the Park District of Oak Park and Austin Gardens Fund Agreement with the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation. (Until now the annual distribution has gone into a special fund; now the full transfer will be made.)

## **New Business:**

### **PlanIt Green Report Card**

The report shows progress of River Forest and Oak Park toward sustainability goals. The Trends and Metrics section shows areas of goals, such as energy, transportation, education, waste, etc. For example, energy efficiency goals have been exceeded by both communities; waste goals overall have been met. Progress depends greatly on collaboration.

### **IAPD membership**

The Park District uses its membership in Illinois Association of Park Districts, for instance attending the recent legal symposium. O P Park District is reconsidering its membership, in the light of some districts withdrawing.

### **IDOT Noise Wall Update**

IDOT has selected a preferred option; it had a meeting Oct 28, 5:3-7:30 pm at the Carleton in Oak Park. Residents and institutions with direct impact from the walls and from noise will be eligible to vote yes or no on the walls.

## **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Porreca: She attended the District 97 reception for Superintendent Dr. Kelly, the West Suburban Special Recreation Association meeting, and a WSSR fund raiser.

Commissioner Wick spoke positively about the Frank Lloyd Wright Race.

Commissioner Lenz: Lenz also spoke positively about the FLW day; she attended the AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) annual meeting. A question came up about how playing space was allocated.

Commissioner Guarino: Volunteered at the Frank Lloyd Wright Race; he said it was well done.

President Aeschleman: Noted that parking was a problem for the Frank Lloyd Wright Race, due to another event. He heard that others have commented on parking space issues around a baseball event.

**Executive Session:** None

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

## **Park District of Oak Park**

Park District of Oak Park Board information:

November 19, 2015

Joan Fiscella, Observer

[www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org)  
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The meeting was held at the Hedges Administrative Center.

Present: Commissioners Paul Aeschleman (President); Victor Guarino (Vice President); Sandy Lentz (Secretary); Kassie Porecca, David Wick (Treasurer). Executive Director Jan Arnold.

President Aeschleman opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda:** The Board approved the agenda.

**Visitor/Public Comments:** None

**Consent Agenda** – Commissioner Guarino

The Commissioners approved the Consent Agenda, which included Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of October; Board Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting October 1, 2015; Fall Park Tour October 3, 2015; Budget Session Meetings October 8, 2015 and October 15, 2015; Regular Board Meeting October 22, 2015; 2015 Tax Year Levy—Abatement Ordinance 2015-11-02 for 2011 Bond; 2015 Tax year Levy—Abatement Ordinance 2015-11-03 for 2012 Bond; 2015 Tax Year Levy—Abatement Ordinance 2015-11-04 for 2013; Bond Approve Working Budget—Department Goals; 2016 Committee and Board Meeting Calendar; Approve and Release Bi-Annual Executive Session Minutes; IAPD Credentials; Park District Citizen Committee Appointments—Carrie Gallagher and Eugene Jung.

Information as part of the public hearing on the Park District budget for 2016. There will be a 2.85% increase; 52% will come from taxes; 48% will come from earned revenue. The goal is to reach 50% earned revenue and 50% taxes.

### **Staff Reports:**

#### A. Executive Director's Report.

In preparation for the arrival of snow, staff have gone through training. No plows will be used on grass.

Work continues on the new building in Austin Gardens.

The lights at Julian Middle School are working; other work there continues: fencing, sod, financing for security netting due next week.

Brook Middle school: the entrance is to be poured; new netting installed.

The RFP for the study of feasibility for a community recreation center went out during the week. Bids are due December 8. A consultant will be sought. The proposed logo will go out to the public on December 4.

#### B. Updates and Information from Staff – Chad Drufke

After the first of the year, although updates and information from staff will be provided, staff will no longer attend the Park District monthly meeting to present

highlights. To appear and speak for a few minutes does not seem to be a good use of their time.

The Conservatory Green House has gotten use: rental a week earlier; decorating for the holidays, staff pot luck.

### **Old Business:**

**Recreation and Facility Program Committee** None

**Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee.** None

**Administration and Finance Committee:**

The Commissioners voted to approve the 2015 Tax Levy Ordinance 2015-11-01 in the amount of \$9,078,447. The 1.3% increase is to account for higher demand of services.

The Park Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2015-11-05 that has been available for public review. The 15% increase is to prepare for expected increases.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) Season Review**

Tom Kindler, Regional Commissioner of the AYSO, reported. During spring of this year there were 991 participants in AYO, which was 19% higher than 2014 and 2010. The organization does expect participation to level out. This group partners with Elmwood Park and River Forest, as well as 17 other teams. It has continued with its VIP Program (for special needs participants, this year 40 children). It also has continued training referees and coaches. Referees are primarily young people, and they are paid; the adults are volunteers. It runs clinics for participants. It is in Partnership with Field of Dreams (Uganda) and provides clothing; this year it is recycling equipment. This year the continued training for participants and their parents has led to few complaints. Training includes incorporating US Soccer guidelines, e.g. regarding "head ball" use.

AYSO worked with the Park District this year to improve drainage at Julian and Brooks school fields. It is also working to improve attendance.

#### **2. OPYB/S Season Review (Oak Park Youth Baseball and Softball)**

Tim Ferraro, Director of Community Relations, reported that OPYBS added a team, leading to two traveling teams. Among the partnerships, OPYBS partners with the Chicago White Sox for clinics. The group does need more umpires, and they are optimistic about next year.

Victor Guarino noted the improvement he has seen in the last 15 years, both in terms of creative and competitive aspects. Paul Aeschleman concurred.

## **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Wick: Said that it is important to be aware of attacks in Oak Park and of possible issues. He also likes the idea of continuing the pumpkin smash, but would like to connect it with a food donation, e.g., with the Girl Scouts.

Commissioner Lentz: Mentioned the Festival Theatre's Midwinter Tales on December 5. A program will be given at Grace Episcopal Church, followed by a reception.

Commissioner Guarino: Noted that the playing fields have gotten better. He has seen numerous kids out at the Commons now that the lights are on.

President Aeschleman: Kudos to the Park District for avoiding snow fencing, for sharing playing fields, etc. He also thanked the representatives for their reports on AYSO and OPYBS.

**Executive Session** None

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.