



**Park District of Oak Park  
Regular Board Meeting  
Oak Park Conservatory  
615 Garfield Street, Oak Park, Illinois  
Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 7:30pm**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm.

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

**Park District Staff Present:** Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Kyle Cratty, Director of Finance; Diane Stanke, Director of Marketing and Customer Service; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent Revenue Facilities; Chris Lindgren, Asst. Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance; Mitch Bowlin, Finance Manager; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

**Others Present:** Joan Fiscella, League of Women Voters, and residents.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**III. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Peggy McGrath, 222 N. Marion – Stated she was representing a lot of people and wanted to bring the carcinogens in artificial turf to the Board's attention. She brought a petition asking that the Park District refrain from any further installations of artificial turf in Oak Park until it is proven safe.

Mary Erkins, 219 Washington Blvd. – Wanted to know if the Park District was aware of the research done on artificial turf and its dangers. She then asked why we were considering synthetic turf when Oak Park is trying to be the "greenest" community in the nation.

Darla Patterson, 313 S. Elmwood – Stated she is a sports enthusiast and has worked out on the turf at Ridgeland, doing sit-ups and running on it and said the amount of heat emitting from it was detrimental. She understands the community wanting more playing time but it is unhealthy. The water and heat does not absorb and the turf omits it back into the air and the more areas we put synthetic turf in, the more hot pockets will be around Oak Park. "Thought needs to be put towards this in the future."

Steve Gillman, 121 S. Wesley – Stated he is the President of the Edge soccer group. They have almost 700 players breaking out into 45 teams; fields to play on are their biggest challenge. He has information from an Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher on goal keepers, the supposed group at the greatest risk, which showed this risk was tenuous and is not significant. He went on to say the Park District does a great job of allocating all weather fields but they would like to see the Park District expand the fields like the current RCRC field.

Barbara Mullarkey, 2045 Elmwood – Stated she is the Oak Park Environmental Network Spokesperson and would like to present the Board with a FOIA and went on to ask out loud the twelve questions listed in the FOIA to the Board.

#### **IV. PUBLIC HEARING – Statutory Budget & Appropriation**

##### **Public Hearing – Statutory Budget & Appropriation**

##### **Discussion of Statutory Budget & Appropriation**

Executive Director Arnold stated that the Budget and Appropriation Hearing had been published in the November 19, Wednesday Journal. Two budget meetings were held where the Board discussed each section of the budget. The Budget and Appropriation Ordinance sets the legal spending authority for the District. This upcoming year the District will be looking at three one million dollar budgets. There was an overall fund balance of 31%. There were no public comments.

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Guarino 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; Board Minutes from the Continued Board Meeting October 2, 2014; Committee of the Whole Meeting October 2, 2014; Budget Session October 9, 2014; Regular Board Meeting October 23, 2014; Special Meeting – Joint Assembly, October 25, 2014; 2014 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Ordinance 2014-11-02 for 2011 Bond; 2014 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Ordinance 2014-11-03 for 2012 Bond; 2014 Tax Year Levy – Abatement Ordinance 2014-11-04 for 2013; Village of Oak Park/Park District of Oak Park Arboretum Agreement; **Working Budget/Department Goals**; 2015 Committee and Board Meeting Calendar; Bi-Annual Review and Release of Executive Session Minutes from February 20, 2014, March 6 and 20, 2014, April 3 and 17, 2014, May 15, 2014, June 5, 2014, and September 11, 2014; IAPD Credentials; the Park District Citizens Committee Appointment – Susan Cicelsky; and Disposal of Surplus Property Ordinance 2014-11-6. **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 on the staff settling into their temporary offices, on the upcoming master plan reviews and Board members assigned, the reuse of the tree trunks that were cut down at Austin Gardens as seating at the proposed East Garden at the Conservatory, Austin Gardens' continued meetings working on getting the budget in line, RCRC's programs and uses including the 550 tweens and teens attending the cosmic skate, outdoor ice rinks going up around the village, the IPRA Conference, PACT Agreements coming in December and the Calvacade of Pride Awards received this evening for RCRC Signage and Cheney Mansion.

**B. Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information):** Mitch Bowlin, Finance Manager-RCRC, presented current updates to the Board on staff and ongoing projects and achievements.

**C. Revenue/Expense Status Report – None**

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None**

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

**C. Administration and Finance Committee**

1. **Tax Levy Ordinance 2014-11-01 for 2014\***

**Commissioner Guarino moved and Commissioner Lentz seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the 2014 Tax Levy Ordinance 2014-11-01 in the amount of \$8,907,611. A Tax Levy Hearing was held during the November 6, Committee of the Whole Meeting; no members of the public appeared for public comment. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board the District's Tax Levy amount is 1.36% more than the PTELL limit of 1.5% for 2014 and of the numerous meetings it has been discussed with the Board. The motion passed by a voice vote 4:0.**

2. **Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2014-11-05\***  
**Commissioner Guarino moved and Commissioner Wick seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 2014-11-05 that has been available for public review.** The Budget and Appropriation Ordinance has been available to the public for past 30 days after being discussed thoroughly at two budget meetings. The hearing was held at the beginning of this meeting with no public comment. Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the budget and appropriation ordinance is 15% higher than the working budget to provide staff flexibility between lines, however staff from a fund standpoint works off the working budget. Upon adoption, it will be filed with the County Clerk. **The motion passed by a voice vote 4:0.**
  
3. **D97 Intergovernmental Agreement\***  
**Commissioner Guarino moved and Commissioner Wick seconded the Park Board of Commissioners approve the D97/PDOP Intergovernmental Agreement – Sports Field Maintenance for shared use of facilities and cooperative planning.** Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of D97's request for field maintenance in their athletic fields. One full-time and one part-time staff member would be hired and paid for by D97. The Board questioned if we would be allowed use of the machinery outside of the times of the agreement and were assured that the District will use it in our parks and that the maintenance of the machine will be split 50/50. **The motion passed by a voice vote 4:0.**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS** – None

**VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

- **Commissioner Aeschleman** – Attended the IGOV meeting where President Anan made the comment of needing a general 10% cut in all governmental entities. The consensus at the IGOV meeting was that that was not realistic nor appropriate. He also has attended three pool committee meetings and said they have come up with three options as of November 1, and explained them; no consensus was shown by the committees towards any one option.
- **Commissioner Guarino** – Was compelled to mention the comments made by the VOP in the newspapers and stated he is shocked by the misinformation and comments made.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – Handed out benefit information for the Oak Park Festival Theatre on December 6, being held in efforts to bring down their debt which they hope to be out of next year. She went on to state how wonderful it was to have a live theatre in Oak Park for the residents.
- **Commissioner Wick** – Proud of the Park District Leadership and Board for doing their due diligence, vetting their decisions out, and coming to the right decision and he is very dismayed by the misinformation coming out. He stated, "We have done the right thing," and is glad that the Park District is standing its ground.
- **Commissioner Bullock** – Absent.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:19pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned. **The motion passed with a voice vote.**

  
 Secretary  
 Board of Park Commissioners

December 18, 2014  
 Date

  
 President  
 Board of Park Commissioners

December 20, 2014  
 Date