PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

Park District of Oak Park
Regular Park Board Meeting
John Hedges Administrative Center
218 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

I. ROLL CALL
Present: Commissioners Lentz, Onayemi, Porreca, Worley-Hood, and President Wollmuth.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties & Planning; Nelson Acevedo, Director of Parks and Facilities; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Melissa Penny, Marketing Supervisor; Roger Oney, Parks & Facilities Supervisor; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC – None.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Commissioner Onayemi and seconded by Commissioner Porreca to approve the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of July 2026; approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting from July 16, 2026, and Closed Session Minutes from July 26, 2026. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. **Executive Director's Report** – In addition to the Executive Director's Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold noted the lifeguards received their third overall exceeds for the season for the Ellis evaluations, the pools are now open for reduced hours, and will be finishing up on Monday, September 7. There are two movies in the park left, A Minecraft Movie on August 21, and Michael scheduled on September 18, and the final concert will be on August 30. The Frank Lloyd Wright Races early bird registration just opened and this year every participant will receive a medal; we will also be selling prior years' gear, and once again, we are looking for volunteers so spread the word. Nicor gas has been turned off in the old Field Center and now we just need to get ComEd in. A possible date for the ribbon cutting will be November 14. Longfellow basketball courts will be closed August 24-September 21 for the new court coating and backboards; with the ribbon cutting taking place on October 3.

B. **Updates and Information** – Written report included in the Board Packet.

C. **Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No comments.

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VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Administration and Finance Committee

1. PDOP Brand Standards

Commissioner Onayemi: I move that the Board give consensus on the updated PDOP Brand Standards.

Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, wanted to share the results of their work on the updated Brand Standards. About 350 surveys went out to full-time and part-time staff, then analysis of the feedback was consolidated and used in this process. The received feedback included many stories of impacts staff have seen and been a part of which caused many to feel pride while serving in their positions. Also noted was our expanded role in the community and the need of continued work to remove barriers to our identity, affordability, accessible spaces, and services. The Brand Standards are a living document for staff but will not be shared outside of staff. The Board expressed how great it was to hear the shared stories. They also discussed the survey responses and how their participation in this Brand Standards process can help younger, first time staff to have conversations and see their roles in the District and the community. They were very pleased to be a part of this process and see the presentation.

The Board gave consensus to move forward with the Brand Standards.

2. Website Update

Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, began by reminding the Board the Department of Justice mandated all government websites meet the accessibility standards (WCAG2.1 AA). The PDOP budgeted in 2026 for these updates with completion planned in spring of 2027. Staff beat this deadline with completion this year, though the deadline was recently moved back to 2028 by the DOJ. Looking at the changes, the PDOP felt it was a more cost effective opportunity and would be a smoother process, to redesign our website allowing us to make enhancements and meet some past concerns from the old website. Through biannual communication surveys, focus groups, and PDCC feedback, the top areas of improvements included: personalized browsing experience and easier navigation. Ann Marie shared a live feed of the new website explaining to them that final tweaks were still taking place. Staff will be introduced to it at the All Staff Meeting on September 3. The Board felt that the team did their due diligence for this project and appreciated that staff were always exceeding the expectations and went on to say the new website is going to be a great investment for our community. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

3. POL.A.01.07 - Elections Approval

Commissioner Onayemi: I move that the Board approve the policy POL.A.01.07 - Elections.

The Board was reminded that in the past the VOP had executed the PDOP's elections. As of 2026, the PDOP was fully responsible for collecting petitions and candidates' filings. Therefore, the PDOP created an Elections Policy with guidelines to follow per the Park District Code (70 ILCS1205/) ensuring all candidates are treated equally and within the legal parameters. The election petitioning will be beginning August 25 for the April 6, 2027, election. The Board Secretary is noted in the code as the person to accept petitions; as our Board Secretary is not available to sit in the lobby for a full week due to their job, the Executive Director or Executive Assistant will accept the filings. The Board confirmed the website was up and running with the information and then discussed the options of the Board Secretary's availability for receiving the candidates paperwork and/or other options.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

B. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – None

C. **Parks and Planning Committee**

1. Purchase of Zamboni Approval

   Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Board approve the purchase with Sourcewell for a Zamboni Electric 552 ice resurfacing machine through Zamboni Corporation in an amount not to exceed $171,224.60 and give approval for the Executive Director Arnold to sign the purchase agreement.

   The Zamboni is budgeted in 2027 but due to the two months lead time, staff is requesting to purchase now and pay the required 25% deposit. Delivery of the Zamboni would be in summer of 2027. As you remember, Sourcewell is a joint purchase agreement so public bidding has already occurred. The PDOP will dispose of the propane Zamboni next year once the new one is received.

   Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

2. Cheney Mansion Lead Abatement Work

   Commissioner Worley-Hood: I move that the Board approve *the lead abatement expenditure authorized by Executive Director Arnold for Cheney Mansion with Celtic Environmental for $36,835.*

   Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board the geothermal project is underway at Cheney Mansion and concern was raised that there might be both lead and asbestos where the installation of pipe was being installed. After testing for both, lead was found in the paint. The PDOP received a quote from Celtic Environment, a company we've worked with before, in the amount of $36,825 for abatement. To keep the project moving forward, she authorized the amount with the emergency purchasing authority and was seeking Board approval for this authorization. The abatement was started on Monday using a safe approach to take out the sections. The Board knew of Celtic Environment and were pleased with their work.

   Motion was seconded by Commissioner Onayemi. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Onayemi: IGOV was looking for consensus for backpay for the administrative support of presentations, scheduling, setting up, etc. and each entity would receive a bill of $300 for each year it had not been collected as well as the current year. The Board asked that this be an agenda item for September to gather consensus. Also, in IGOV, the October 17 presentation location is still to be determined but will focus on the process of municipal referendums to educate the community. D200 is having their project's open house on October 3, and the VOP is looking at one-two hearings for the public regarding the zoning proposal.

Commissioner Porreca: Has not attended a Festival Theater meeting due to their summer schedule but was able to attend The Importance of Being Earnest performance and it had a full audience, and they put on a great show!

Commissioner Lentz: Also attended The Importance of Being Earnest as well as Hamlet earlier this summer and went on to say Festival Theatre is a great asset to the community. She also has driven by the rammed earth construction and thought the colors of the walls were beautiful.

Commissioner Worley-Hood: Stated that the FOPCON meeting was good and he appreciated their presentation.

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President Wollmuth: Commented that FOPCON agreed to raise $150K for the glazing project at the Conservatory and he will be responding with a letter for them to strive towards the full $200K request.

X. CLOSED SESSION – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:31pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

September 17, 2026
Date

President
Board of Park Commissioners

September 17, 2026
Date