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, July 16, 2026

Minutes

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Worley-Hood.

Park District Staff Present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Properties & Planning; Nelson Acevedo, Director of Parks and Facilities; Ann Marie Buczek, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement; Cara Bryan, Data Insights Analyst; Roger Oney, Parks and Facilities, and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Cheryl Potts, Executive Director, Community Mental Health Board Executive Director.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0

III. VISITOR/PUBLIC – None.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Commissioner Onayemi and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to approve the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of July 2026; approval of the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting from June 4, 2025, Board retreat from June 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting from June 18, 2026; and Disposal Ordinance 2026-07-10.
The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0.

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. **Executive Director's Report** – In addition to the Executive Director Report (which is included in the Board Packet), Executive Director Arnold gave kudos to the staff that diligently built the dragon and mythical creatures parade float for the 4th of July parade, it was wonderful and the community really enjoyed it. Next year the theme is going to be farm animals. Camps are up and running and RCRC's pool has been at approximately 25% capacity and Rehm has typically been at 50-60% capacity. The movies and concerts in the park are going well and finally, the fall program guide will be sent out next weekend.

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

C. **Revenue/Expense Status Reports** – No questions asked.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Recreation and Facility Program Committee**

1. Cheryl Potts Annual Board Update - Community Mental Health Board – Cheryl Potts began by stating that it's been another fantastic year partnering with the Park District of Oak Park and the CRC staff. She went on to say the intent when they moved in was working with after school programming and to provide general education with community engagement. Their first year went from ten educational sessions to nineteen held this year of which all were nearly full. They strive to bring new partners in for a variety of substance and neurodiversity education. One thing they've learned is after a full day in school, just lecturing at kids does not work, there needs to be creativity with them for engagement. One of their sessions brought all different items for attendees to make/build their own stress relief kits and another session worked with the attendees' gaming brains for an escape room using educational questions on drugs and responses to get clues to escape. They hosted sixteen events targeting adults with 206 adults attending. They've provided health support for families, children, and mental wellness of the parents. All the mental health first aid trainings are free. Goals continue to be how to figure out making housing more accessible with disabilities. She commended the staff's relationship they have with the regular residents who show up at CRC and their ability to deescalate situations has been noticed and is wonderful. The Board were impressed by the stories Cheryl shared and thanked her and the Community Mental Health Board for all they do. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

B. **Administration and Finance Committee**

1. 2025 Performance Measure 2nd Quarter Review – Cara Bryan, Data Insights Analyst, reminded the Board that managers met once a quarter to look at the Mpower performance tracking system and then information is shared with the Board. This evening, Cara showed the Board comparisons of annual pass sales and active memberships, and punch pass sales (ice hockey, ice skating, indoor playground, and fitness). She shared the breakdown of age representation and the growing increases of adult programming with the Life Long memberships as well as CRC fitness memberships. Finishing her presentation, she showed the tracking of the volunteer hours which is tied into our strategic initiative for Financial Strength. Discussion took place on the volunteers. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

C. **Parks and Planning Committee** –

1. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2027-2031 Approval
   Commissioner Lentz: I move that the Board approve the 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan.
   The Board was reminded of the review of the Capital Improve Plan (CIP) which was reviewed at the Board Retreat. They were reminded again of the key items looking to be completed in 2027 including: an OSLAD application for Barrie Park, the Conservatory,

the ADA bathroom at Pleasant Home, Dole Center, and Stevenson Park. The Board were reminded that these improvements and our CIP is planning the reinvesting in our District. The Board thanked staff for the planning ahead and the planning of costs to keep our facilities in working order, which is good stewardship for the future projects planned in the budget. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Porreca. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0.**

2. Vehicle Sharing IGA
   Commissioner Lentz: I move that the Board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Shared Vehicles PDOP|VOP.
   Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of past intergovernmental agreements that we have with the Village. She continued stating we have shared vehicles for many years and decided for best practices, we would formalize each vehicle shared with this intergovernmental agreement. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Porreca. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Engagement of Construction Manager Pleasant Home
   Commissioner Porreca: I move that the Board approve the engagement of Tim Kelly of Kelly Build, Oak Park, IL, to serve as Construction Manager in the amount not to exceed $60,000 and give authority to the Executive Director to execute the contract.
   After conversations with the task force regarding the ADA toilet project, it was decided that getting a general manager made more sense. Tim Kelly has served in this role with the Austin Gardens build and as he started out as a life guard, he certainly has worn many hats for the Park District. His services along with the project are within the budget $400,000. With it being a historical building, he will provide the respect for the work it needs. The Board agreed as it is such a small project we would not get the quality people coming in to bid that would be needed for the historical property; making this the most effective way. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lentz. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 4:0.**

IX. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Porreca: Attended the verbal stating of the Declaration of Independence by the Historical Society on July 8. It was mentioned that it was started simultaneously in three chosen cities across the United States and began at the exact same minute the Declaration of Independence was read in 1776 on July 8 by the founders! She met the new D97 superintendent Dr. Bresnahan, and since the last meeting. Kassie also stated how she appreciates the District's 10 year plan for upkeep and growth and how it is not necessary to go to a Referendum as an emergency fix for growth and upkeep if you plan far enough ahead with conscious planning. She appreciates the work the Board is putting in annually with the CIP and planning, so it is not 'kicked down the road' for future Boards. She feels it is an exemplary quality and forward vision.

Commissioner Onayemi: Jim Taglia brought up the proposed tiered water rates at the IGOV meeting as he wanted to reach out to everybody and ask how that might impact each entity. He was appreciative of the responses he received advocating for good stewardship and acknowledged it is all coming out of the same pockets. Commissioner Onayemi stressed that yes,

we have to be financially responsible, but we are a non-for-profit with the responsibility of making the parks look great and we shouldn't be squeezed.

Commissioner Lentz: Attended the garden walk and got to see United Lutheran's amazing native garden across the north face of their building which is open to the community, with benches to sit and enjoy all the greenery and flowers. Her granddaughter enjoyed the new amenities at Rehm Pool, and she attended Festival Theatre for The Importance of Being Earnest performance and enjoyed the new sound system and lights and Festival Theatre enthusiastically thanked the Park District during the break recognizing our partnership with them.

President Wollmuth: Thanked staff for speaking at the Finance Committee on behalf of the Park Board as it was important to talk to the Village prior to them making a decision so they would be aware of impacts to the District. He was attending the FOPCON meeting and would talk with them regarding partnering for the capital campaign for the Conservatory. He also agreed with Commissioner Porreca regarding the planning vs. emergency use of referendums and is pleased with staff's and the District's efforts.

X. CLOSED SESSION

At 7:42pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Porreca and seconded by Commissioner Lentz to convene into closed session for the discussion of pending, probable, or imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the District. **The motion was passed with a roll call vote of 4:0.**

At 7:58pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Lentz and seconded by Commissioner Onayemi to adjourn the Closed Session and to resume the Regular Board Meeting. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4:0.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:58pm, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned. **The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4:0.**

Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

August 20, 2026
Date

President
Board of Park Commissioners

August 20, 2026
Date