



**PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK**

**Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
Held as Zoom Meeting**

Thursday, February 18, 2021

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, attended in person and Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Jamie Lapke, Program and Operations Manager – GRC; Chad Drufke, Program Manager; Mike Loszach, Program Manager; Kayla Fauria, Aquatic & Rink Program Manager; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant, attended virtually.

Others Present: None.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes to the Agenda. **The motion was passed by a roll call vote 5:0.**

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Porreca 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 January, 2021; approve minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting January 14, 2021, the Regular Board Meeting January 21, 2021; and approve the Disposal List 2021-02-01. **The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5:0.**

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Jan Arnold, Executive Director, informed the Board that staff had been very busy with snow removal the past month; kudos to the Special Facilities team and the Parks and Planning team for all their hard work. The outdoor ice rink has been open and is being enjoyed by residents. The Barrie sled hill continues to be very active and the Wednesday Journal will be doing an article on the new sled lending library which is also getting a lot of mention on the Oak Park Parent's Facebook page. The spring brochure will be distributed on March 5, showing a combination of our day camps and spring programs with registration starting on March 13. In the past, staff have been at the first day of registration to answer questions but this year a zoom meetings prior to registration will be held for information. Customer service will begin in person at RCRC on March 13; as a reminder, customer service now falls under Special Facilities. Customer service will only be in person at RCRC for the time being until the demand increases and shows the need for additional coverage. The 2022-2024 Strategic Plan will be kicked off in April and will be handled internally this year; in the past, it has been handled both in-house and outsourced. The Board asked what the approach to the Strategic Plan would be with the pandemic and Executive Director Arnold responded there would be three main components to the plan: first, the CRC with how we get there/how we get it open/how we run it; second, looking from a diversity, equity, and inclusivity standpoint in how we utilize our community as a whole moving forward, and finally third, sustainability.

B. Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information) – Written Report Included in Board Packet.

C. Revenue/Expense Status Report – No questions asked.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee - None

B. Parks and Planning Committee - None

C. Administration and Finance Committee - None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Recreation Department Report

Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation, introduced the 2020 Comprehensive Program Participation Report stating the report was used to look at what went well and what did not, trends, and where we should focus our attention. Chad Drufke, Program Manager, reviewed programs in wellness and martial arts; where we were heading before Covid and changes made as we moved forward including many programs being offered in multi-platforms including virtually, in-person, and also outside when/where we could as well as new offerings. A vast amount of youth and adult sports were being offered before and slowly have been rebuilt where they could after the shutdown; moving forward, we are looking to partner and expand as much as we can. Mike Loszach, Program Manager, began by saying how strong the teens started out; they had a very successful E-sports tournament with 24 participants just prior to the shutdown. The Safe Sitter classes were able to be held virtually as well as many of our fine arts programming. Chad informed the Board of the dance program of the Nutcracker which was able to tape individual dancers in their pieces and make a complete recital in a video form. Circus has a new home in Carroll Center with a brand new parent/tot circus program which filled up and an adult's aerial class which filled up as well. Mike informed the Board that preschool was offered in-person this fall but also had a virtual option as well. A virtual preschool open house, with over 50 in attendance took place last week and is available on YouTube so residents can still get the information; this fall a Spanish speaking preschool will be offered. Archery did very well throughout the year and nature programming will be phased in as we move forward. Clubhouse after school programming ran this fall along with the virtual learning from D97. We had over 130 students at our high point and connected with over 30 students that qualified for free/reduced lunch. Summer camps were realigned to meet state guidelines and every available space was used of the Park District. The Active Adult passes were extended for the times that the District was closed, many of their popular classes when we were open were able to run with reduced numbers. The Board thanked staff for their ability to adapt and be creative and are looking forward to the upcoming year. Executive Director Arnold also reminded the Board that full-time recreation staff worked in other departments helping with pool clean up/maintenance, maintenance in our parks, the Conservatory, and the gymnastics center. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

2. Annual Special Facilities Report

Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Special Facilities, stated that up until March, programs were running strong and the ice show was about to run with tickets selling but ended up having to be cancelled. Kayla Fauria, Program Manager, said they had recruited lifeguards from five high schools and were looking at possibly their strongest pool season yet when the District shut down occurred and then the subsequent realization that the pools were not opening. Learn to Swim was able to run at OPRF and a virtual lifeguard training program was created that now has three levels. The RCRC camps this summer went really well; everyone had a good time and every space at RCRC was used, even the pool deck. Public Skate times were shortened to allow for more people to attend when allowed. Hockey increased from previous years where it had shown a decline, we are grateful for all the volunteer coaches and there was great success with our 1:1 sessions. Jamie Lapke, Program and Operations Manager – GRC, stated when they closed March 13, they were not able to open until July 6, when classes for ages six and up ran but in smaller class sizes. Preschool playtime and open gym were a challenge as well as how to run the drop-ins programs; eventually an on-line preregistration through their account in Amilia was put in place and allowed staff to pull up an attendance sheet. This is going very well and a plan we will use moving forward. For the first time ever, summer camp was held at the GRC and utilized every space in the facility as well as the parking lot and even the barricades were used for badminton. Both 1:1 lessons and competitive and recreational gymnasts had use of the GRC from September 4, through the end of the year, in varying amounts following guidelines. An eye ball hunt on Halloween event was held that many families participated in. The boy's annual invite in January, for the 2nd year, took place at Triton College and was a huge success. Dog parks were one of the first amenities we could reopen and all were really happy to get in there, it was very easy to communicate with them as they are members in the system.

Bill also stated that they were able to get many facility improvements and repairs done as well as pool repairs; some using in-house staff saving the District money versus using outside services. The Board confirmed cleaning protocols at the GRC and thanked the team for their adherence to the safety protocols and let them know that they have the Board's support on this. Discussion took place on the slow rebuild to most of the programs, most likely through to 2024, to get us back to the numbers in 2019. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

3. Annual Report

Executive Director Arnold stated that while we didn't have a typical year, she is proud of the District's successes that are shown in the annual report including: our partnerships, green initiatives, programming, and the Community Recreation Center and how the Board continues to have a vision of how we can continue to move forward. The Board felt it was easy to read and understand and it is a very positive report despite the past year, showing what we did do, learned, and how we are moving forward. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS – None

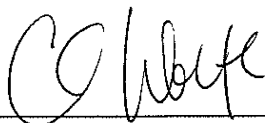
VIII. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

- **Commissioner Wollmuth** – Attended the AYSO Board Meeting last week where they discussed whether to have a spring season and if they did, what type of season would it be. No decision was made but they are leaning towards doing something as they know how beneficial it is to the community.
- **Commissioner Worley-Hood** – Thanked everyone for their reports on the past year.
- **Commissioner Porreca** – Also wanted to thank the staff for their reports and said again, as said in the past, that crisis and stress really show where an organization can shine and where weak spots are and she thinks that we are going to come out of this pandemic stronger and more agile and the reports tonight just reinforce that. She went on to say that her and her family really have enjoyed the changes to customer service that has come from the pandemic throughout businesses in town and that the Park District is doing innovative customer service as well and it continues to be an opportunity to do more for people and bring these innovations forward as the Park District continues to open up.
- **Commissioner Wick** – Stated FOPCON met on Monday and had some great reports, donations are up as well as membership. They are looking to invest \$65,000 into the Community Foundation and with all their donations, they are changing their donation wall and the parameters of the donation wall. He mentioned again that he feels we need to eliminate the printed brochure. Executive Director Arnold reminded him that we have not printed a brochure since spring of last year and do not plan to print the summer brochure but informed him that the District has received calls asking when the printed brochure will be back. He also said that he and Sandy have been asked to fill out an activist tool kit Q&A which will be put out to the general public by the Village.
- **Commissioner Lentz** – Explained further that the questionnaire is directed to all the candidates that are running in the April election. She then stated again, that the annual report looked great.

IX. CLOSED SESSION - None

X. CONTINUE MEETING TO MARCH 4, 2021

At 8:59pm the Regular Board meeting was adjourned. **The motion passed with a roll call vote 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

March 18, 2021

Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

March 18, 2021

Date