



**Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole
Zoom Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 2021**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm with a roll call vote 5:0.

I. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Worley-Hood, Wollmuth and President Lentz. Commissioners Porreca and Wick attended virtually.

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director, attended in person; and Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Diane Stanke, Director of Marketing and Customer Service; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Paula Bickel, Director of Human Resources; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant, attended virtually.

Others Present: None.

II. Public Comment

III. Administration and Finance Committee

A. Park District Citizen Committee Update

Laura Stamp, PDCC Chair, informed the Board that this year was very different for the PDCC as they were not involved with as many programs as they usually were due to the pandemic. She went on to say the members of the committee were very impressed with the efforts of the District to engage the residents through child care, virtual programming, and encouraging people to be outside with the scavenger hunts held. The PDCC is currently down two members and they are having discussions on how to get more equity on their committee including parents of younger children, members of color, and different groups not currently involved. Members are looking forward to attending more events again this year and to be more actively participating. Commissioner Wollmuth thanked them for being the ‘ears to the ground’ for the District and that it was great to hear what the residents are saying with the PDCC passing it along and Commissioner Worley-Hood thanked them for all their work they did on helping select the registration system and the Amilia roll-out. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

B. 2020 Performance Measures Review

Greg Stopka, Strategy & Innovation Manager, reminded the Board why we do Mpower which shows key focuses including: to demonstrate progress, determine effectiveness, communicate priorities, compare present to the past and future performance, direction to allocate resources, transparency and accountability. Greg went on to explain that staff meet regularly to look at both positive and negative data trends and have discussions regarding actions that can take place to improve the data. As the District looks at pass sales and program registration numbers, they will be used as a bench marks for when we move forward to climb out of the past year’s Covid numbers due to no pool sales and the refunds and cancellations of programs. To help in this process, pool passes from 2020 have been transferred to 2021, \$500,000 in credits were issued rather than refunds, and virtual and 1:1 programming was created where they could. Although household participation was down as well as passes and rentals, the PDOP has shown a decrease

in heating, electricity, and HVAC costs; not just from Covid closures but as far back as 2016, with beginning of our solar panel installations. Commissioner Porreca stated that this pandemic really separated organizations on how they respond to crisis; not only did we not abandon our strategic plan but we still met many of our goals and she really appreciates how focused the District remained and the tracking we did. Commissioner Lentz was impressed with all the completed goals we accomplished and is hoping some of our flexibility shows in our Gold Medal application. Commissioner Worley-Hood stated how we use this data is really great as it shows how we are constantly evaluating the information and he confirmed it is on the website. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

III. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

A. Cheney Mansion Annual Operations Report

Susan Crane, Historic Homes and Special Event Manager, stated that Covid had a direct effect on their rentals but they were lucky that most weddings rebooked and they did not have a lot of cancellations. The one positive from the past year she felt, was the Petite Wedding Package that Marketing developed which really helped in August, September, and October. This summer a teen's camp was hosted at Cheney and the teens loved being at the mansion; they were very engaged and the camp really helped that group during the pandemic. The long partnership with the Symphony of Oak Park River Forest was taken advantage of and had a huge success with their series at Cheney Mansion; they are now recording a series at Pleasant Home which will bring eyes to that building. Cheney Mansion also continued relationships with different partnerships including Beyond Hunger and the One Film Festival with the movie A Most Beautiful Thing. The mansion was able to be highlighted through the Infant Welfare Society in their virtual house tour and now there is video for future marketing use as well. December the mansion held Santa events outside with heaters and fire pits and added some new events including virtual story time with Santa; the zoom was full and gave some feeling of Christmas to those children who had been unable to get out. She has been getting a lot of inquiries, some of which are the moving of past weddings and also the taking on of Pleasant Home. Pleasant Home has been a very quick turn-around, to move over there, the moving of the furniture; people are excited about it! Staff are working on an event with the Historical Society, partnering with the Recreation Team for programming, and are looking forward to being open for the free days. We are also planning with the maintenance team for protecting Pleasant Home during the installation of the geothermal. The Board discussed the enforcing the safety protocol during events there. Executive Director Arnold also mentioned the opening up of the back gate area off the alley that was repaired with staff which the neighbors and our caterers will greatly appreciate. **No action is needed by the Board on this item.**

IV. Parks and Planning Committee - None

VI. New Business

The Board thanked Diane Stanke, Director of Marketing and Customer Service, for her service during the past almost twenty years and wished her well. Commissioner Lentz shared that her favorite memory of Diane was the look on her face when her name was called as the recipient of the Community Impact Award at the IAPD/IPRA Conference and said she didn't think that she had seen anyone more surprised than Diane and went on to say that she would miss her! Commissioner Worley-Hood said that he had gotten to know Diane with their work in the Parks Foundation and appreciates everything she did there and within the Park District over the years. Commissioner Wollmuth said that he had gotten to know Diane through his work on the GAC over ten years ago and how great it was to always have someone there with a positive attitude that was solutions oriented who didn't see hurdles but was always looking forward and seeing how things could get done; it was a pleasure working with her and wished her the best. Commissioner Wick remembered the times that he had gotten to know Diane at the NRPA conferences and their shared love of running, their half marathon they ran in Busse Woods along with how he's enjoyed talking to Diane at the information table outside of the FLW races each year. Commissioner Porreca worked with Diane over ten years with their time together on the PDCC and she is

jealous of Diane being able to be a full-time grandmother and that she knows she'll enjoy every minute of it! Diane thanked the Board and went on to say that it was a pleasure and a privilege to work in an organization that is led by people who are so selfless, that care about the community, make decisions with the community in mind, and with what's best for our community. She went on to say that it was also a pleasure because of how well our Board works together and the respect they show one another which allows so much good to get done.

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

At 8:31p.m. a roll call vote was taken to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting. **Motion carried in a roll call vote 5:0.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

March 18, 2021
Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

March 18, 2021
Date